

# Nástio Mosquito

## *DAILY LOVEMAKING*

### 4 February – 19 April 2015

This is the first solo exhibition of work by Nástio Mosquito, emerging to be one of the most exciting artists of his generation.

Rooted in the broadcast industry, where he worked previously as director and cameraman, his practice is extraordinary for its energy, intelligence and wit. It is as funny as it is confrontational, as candid as it is ironic, satirical and cool. It embraces film and music, theatrical performance, video and installation, often requiring the collaboration of others, most notably Spanish artist Vic Pereiró. Often appearing in concerts and music festivals, Mosquito has also performed within the context of visual arts programmes – Biennale of Bordeaux (2009), Tate Modern (2012), Berardo Collection (2013) – whilst having a lively online presence.

Theatrically, Mosquito takes centre stage in his work. He often assumes roles, through mimicry, in order to express ideas occurring to him, not so much as his own cherished beliefs but rather observations on human folly manifested in modern life. The distance between his actual identity and such characterisations enables him to express himself variously as being transgressive, cool, cynical, profane and vulgar. “Nástia”, a know-it-all with a Russian accent – a monster engendered by the Cold War – epitomises this tendency, and often makes an appearance. At the heart of the exhibition is *Nástia’s Manifesto* (2008), a circular projection suspended just above the floor, based on the keywords “Hypocritical, Ironic and Do Not Give a Fuck”.

In a variety of ways Mosquito is an artist pointing us towards a future in which clear distinctions made between art forms, between popular culture and fine art, and the categorisation of cultural identities will have become either redundant or irrelevant. His self-awareness as someone in the art world sits alongside his concerns with African politics, especially those pertaining to Angola – as it deals with the legacy of a long and bloody civil war - sexual politics, rampant consumerism and other symptoms of globalisation.

The device of proclamation, of preaching or pedagogy, is deployed with ironic knowingness. In *3 Continents* (2010), for example, we encounter the kind of confidence that characterises the *nouveau riche* stumbling into situations they don’t really understand. *Acts* (2012), a more recent work by Nástio Mosquito and Vic Pereiró, is less narrative. In four parts, we see him in silhouette dramatically caught on screen, against backgrounds of vivid colours, performing covers of songs such as *I Shot the Sheriff*, *Purple Rain* and *Oh, Donna*,



**Ikon Gallery**

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interspersed by exhortations in Portuguese. These are combined with electronic drones and digital effects to conjure up a vision that is as weirdly ominous as it is abstract.

This exhibition is accompanied by a publication, with text by independent curator, writer and artist Gaby Ngcobo.

The exhibition is supported by Sindika Dokolo Foundation.

Ikon, in collaboration with Nuova Icona, is organising a project combining the artist's films and performances at the 56<sup>th</sup> Biennale di Venezia, taking place May-August 2015, at the Oratorio di San Ludovico, S. Basilio.

Nástio Mosquito was awarded the Future Generation Art Prize 2014. Recent exhibitions include *9 Artists*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2013); *Politics of Representation*, Tate Modern, London (2012); and 29th São Paulo Biennial, São Paulo (2010).

**Note to Editors:**

1. Please note elements of this exhibition contain adult content and parental guidance is advised.
2. Ikon is open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am - 6pm. Admission is free.
3. Ikon Gallery is supported using public funding from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council.
4. For more information and high-res images please contact Sophie Campos or Emma Gilhooly at Pelham Communications on 020 8969 3959 or email [sophie@pelhamcommunications.com](mailto:sophie@pelhamcommunications.com) or [emma@pelhamcommunications.com](mailto:emma@pelhamcommunications.com)

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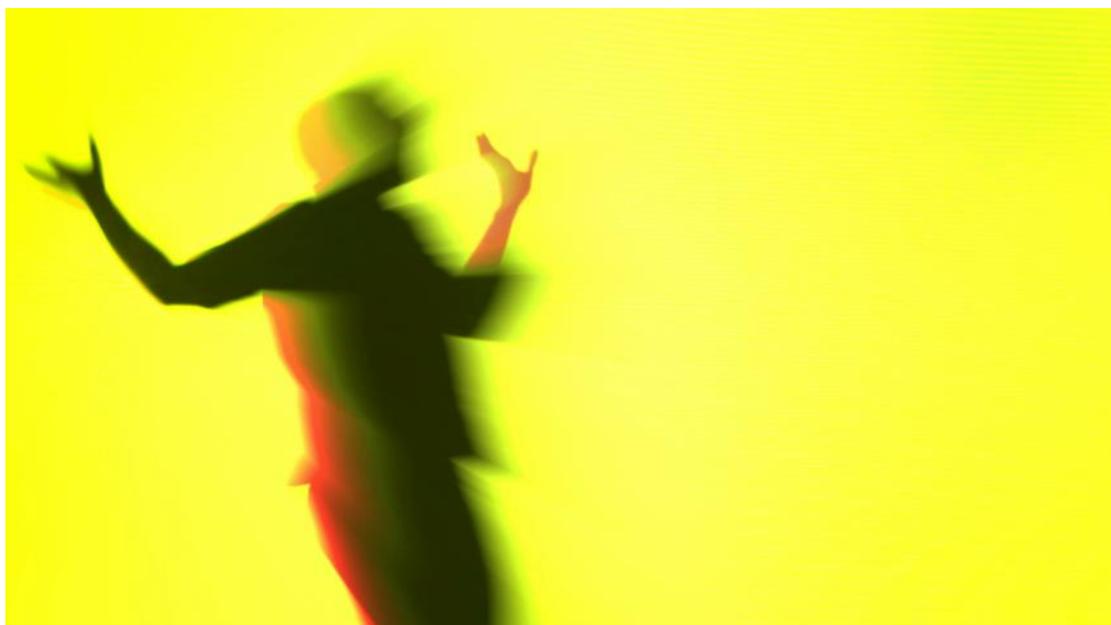
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Example images:



Nástio Mosquito, *3 Continents* (2010) Video, 7:45' Copyright Nástio Mosquito



*Acts* (2012), Video, 12:17'. Copyright Nastivicious