

JARBAS LOPES AND KATERINA DIMITROVA THE BOOK AS EXPERIMENT: PAGE BY PAGE WITH KADÊ

KADÊ is a graphic project spearheaded by visual artists Jarbas Lopes and Katerina Dimitrova, based in the town of Maricá, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It is a physical space dedicated to experimentation in bookmaking.

Offset printing, serigraphy, typography, and manual bookbinding are integral to their process—an exploration of the conventional book form: the codex, the historical ancestor of the modern book, defined as a stack of pages bound along one edge. With the invention of the folio came the ensemble of pages that could be assembled and protected by a cover. Inspired by this architecture, artists over the centuries have produced volumes that expand and challenge our understanding of what a book can be. The book has been constantly reinvented since the historic avant-gardes, beginning with the French poet Stéphane Mallarmé and continuing through movements such as Dada, Concretism, and Fluxus. Photography, pop-up elements, double-page spreads, and the mobility of single pages have made the book form increasingly flexible and performative.

More recently, Lopes and Dimitrova have been delving into the rich legacy of Brazilian avant-garde poetry. They launched the first English translation of «Poetminus» («Poetamenos», 1953–1973) by Augusto de Campos, the legendary series of color poems that marked the beginning of the concrete poetry movement. Their most recent work includes the comics-inspired, optical poems of Zuca Sardan, a poet closely associated with the Brazilian counterculture of the early 1970s. The current exhibition in the Media Lounge presents

these two volumes alongside a selection of other works by Lopes and Dimitrova, including «The Cicloviaaérea Zines» (2003–2018), a collection of twelve zines featuring drawings, text and images by Lopes; and «The NZ Book» (2013), which contains a typographic impression of continuously changing, ever evolving and never repeating prints, created by the use of six-digit automatic numbering stamps. Also included in the exhibition is «UDeu\$ Catalog» (2015), a book-anthology of commercial pamphlets distributed in popular supermarkets. Randomly bound, the book assembles fragments of numbers, letters, and geometric shapes, forming a kind of industrial-economic novel published and distributed weekly around the world. While each of these books is a unique object, they also document artistic processes that unfold over extended periods of exploration and experimentation.

In addition to these books, the exhibition features two performance films centered on bookmaking practices. On the one hand, Jarbas Lopes and Katerina Dimitrova work with calculated geometric forms and colors, as well as fragments of found materials. On the other, they perform poetry and use writing in urban contexts, such as in «Humanity's Only TradDada Union» («Sindicato Único Dada Humanidade»), a proposal referencing Dadaism and contemporary socioeconomic issues. The videos highlight these overlapping graphic essays and poetic gestures. The Media Lounge also displays a selection of loose pages from their publications.

Chair of Art in Space and Time

Join us for the opening of an extended exhibition, including an artist talk, on **2 October at 18:00** at the exhibition space of the Chair of Art in Space and Time (HIL F 47).

Special thanks to KADÊ and Antonio Sergio Bessa.