

BEATRIZ ALBUQUERQUE

Projecto: Trabalho de Graça

19 SEP – 25 OCT 2008

Beatriz Albuquerque (1978, Porto) is a Portuguese artist who lives and works between Porto and Chicago. With a bachelor degree in Fine Arts from the University of Porto (FBAUP) Portugal, she headed to Chicago in 2004 to integrate the Independent Performance Group created by Marina Abramovic. In 2006 she got her master degree in Fine Arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. It is in this city that Beatriz has developed an intense activity in the scope of the performance, which she often associates with video production. A multidisciplinary artist, her work also evolves photography and an object /pictorial production resultant of her performances actions. Her work has been presented in many expositions and international festivals such as the PAC/Edge Performance Festival, Chicago, 2005 – where she was awarded with the Distinction Prize Ambient Series -, and the Optic Festival, Gijón, 2007.

The ***Project: Work for Free*** that we present for the first time in Portugal, had begun in Chicago in February, 2005. Since then, it has been shown under the form of performance or documentation in different places and events in Chicago (USA) as well as in Lancaster (England) and Athens (Greece).

The proposal resides in the possibility of each visitor to order a free work of art to the artist, being able to choose among different media - painting, drawing, photography, performance, installation, video, digital art, "mail art" and others -, deciding all the characteristics of the work. Then a contract is firmned between Beatriz Albuquerque and the person who orders the artwork, specifying all conditions and lines of directions, safeguarding the physical and moral integrity of the artist.

Who orders the work only have to supply the artist with the necessary material to execute the piece (canvas, paper, ink, etc.) and wait for its conclusion. In some cases, the person can even follow the execution of the work.

The photographs and videos displayed at the gallery are the result of previous presentations of the *Project: Work for Free* in Chicago, consisting as a documentation of the performance. They allow the visitor to apprehend the environment and the people reactions in the North American context, a geographic and cultural reality that very much influenced the genesis of this artistic proposal.