



WHEN DID YOU STOP DANCING?

DANCE

Elena Bajo

When did you stop dancing?

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presents

STENCILS

a group exhibition in the streets of Quito, Ecuador

Starting November 7th, 2019

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When did you Stop Dancing?

"In many shamanic societies, if you came to a medicine person complaining of being disheartened, dispirited, or depressed, they would ask one of four questions. When did you stop dancing? When did you stop singing? When did you stop being enchanted by stories? When did you stop finding comfort in the sweet territory of silence?" --Angeles Arrien, author of "The Four-Fold Way & Signs of Life".

I have previously used this quote in the video *The owl of Minerva only flies at Dusk (Urania's Mirror)* an interdisciplinary project that investigates environmental, social and political impact that economies of exploitation, in specific the transnational corporations doing business with eolic energy, "green grabbing", have on the land and communities of the Zapotec communities in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in Oaxaca State, Mexico. This research reflects on the exhausted conditions of the present in which local natural resources, human and animal rights are 'owned' by multinational corporations, neoliberal governments and organized crime. Considering the ancient and contemporary cosmology of the Zapotec in Oaxaca ("The People of the Clouds") and their strategies and commitment to resist the threats to their territory *The owl of Minerva only flies at Dusk (Urania's Mirror)* presents original footage (I've shot footage with a drone-camera in the Windmills of Juchitan, Istmo de Tehuantepec, Oaxaca, Mexico) and animation, as an analogy of how cosmological knowledge relates to nature, where natural goods (and common goods), earth, air, fire, animals, plants, are extensions of People themselves and any damage to these elements is a direct damage to People's lives and a crime to their community. It includes a dystopic narrative, in which a divergent group of femme radical drone blowers, from the PIA, (Peripheral Intelligence Agency) in their role of new cosmic shamans, use their power to take over some parts of the system, and deliver "blows" of powdered customized hallucinogenic drugs, (that will be prescribed and administered into the patient, generated through data, code, and algorithms reversal hacking, to get users into altered states of mind that allow them to unclutter and "dissentangle the future" as per Franco "Bifo" Berardi, explains the transition from Resistance into Disentanglement and points at "...the spell of semiocapitalism (financial abstraction, specters of the mediascape) captures the social body and delivers it over to the economic code, where experience is subjected to the power of simulation and standardization. But I also wish to search for and to imagine possible lines of escape. These can only be found in those places of the unconscious where the multilayered spell of semiocapital is ripped apart in order for a creative unconscious to resurface". A musical sound component synchronizes the body's vibration to that of the Earth's frequency.

<https://vimeo.com/259844408>