



■ The Gulbenkian Creativity and Artistic Creation Programme

In 2008, the last year of the Gulbenkian Creativity and Artistic Creation Programme (PGCCA), three intensive training courses were held, as well as the follow-ups to the second Theatre Direction Course and the Documentary Direction and Filmmaking Courses, and the continued promotion, both in Portugal and abroad, of the works created by the students under the scope of this programme.

	Amounts in euros
Subsidies and grants	139 973
Departmental activities	245 044
Total	524 156
Receipts	21 545

The second Photography Course took place from 11 February to 18 April. There were 91 applicants for the course, of whom 12 were chosen.

For ten weeks, the students were accompanied by the tutors Sérgio Mah and João Paulo Serafim and seven teachers, including artists and curators specialising in photography – Carol Squiers, Rosângela Rennó, Lynne Cohen, Timm Rautert, Horácio Fernández, Olivier Richon and David Campany. The variety of teaching and artistic styles and cultures made sure that the aim of providing a broad range of analysis and reflection on the use of photography in the context of contemporary visual arts was achieved.

From 19 April to 11 May, students prepared a sample exhibition of their work, structured according to some previously agreed basic principles: the non-existence of a theme; the works must be the result of an individual selection of what was produced during the course; all students would occupy the same exhibition area; all images were to be printed on an inkjet printer, without the addition of any other element (frames, supports, etc.). The exhibition was on public view from 12 May to 15 June in the Temporary Exhibition Gallery at the Foundation's headquarters – level 01.

The Interdisciplinary and Technological Performance Arts Course was held from 16 June to 23 August. This was open to artists from different areas. There were 62 applicants for the course, of whom 12 were chosen, although one of these students was forced to drop out for professional reasons shortly after the beginning of the course.

The course was a condensed version of the first semester of the postgraduate programme in Performance and Interactive Media Arts at Brooklyn College, City University of New York, designed by John Jannone. The course was lectured by Amnon Wolman, David Grubbs, Helen E. Richardson, Jennifer and Kevin McCoy, and Lynn M. Thomson, all teachers from that university.

The historical and theoretical study of improvisation, performance, and collaboration in the performing arts was an important component of this course, as well as the use of the Max/MSP/Jitter software. The course consisted of two modules of theoretical classes and supervised studio activities, each lasting four weeks, with a two-week gap in between, during which the participants were organised into groups and developed their work on an independent basis.

Three group creations were presented to the public on 23 August, in the Sala Polivalente of CAMJAP: one conceived by five students and the other two by groups of three students each.

As part of this course, two masterclasses were given by David Grubbs and Amnon Wolman, which were open to the general public.

As a complementary activity, the show *Glow*, by Gideon Obarzanek, which uses some of the technologies taught on the course, was presented on 29 and 30 August. The performance was given by the Australian company Chunky Move.

The Videoart Course, the last one in the programme, was held from 6 October to 12 December. There were 71 candidates from the fields of visual arts, cinema and video art, of whom 12 were chosen.

The course tutor was the artist Filipa César, while the lecturers were the video-artists and film directors Avi Mograbi, Chantal Akerman, Harun Farocki and Jean-Pierre Gorin, Madeleine Bernstorff, also a curator and writer, the film producer Colin MacCabe and the essayist Françoise Parfait. Except for Avi Mograbi and Chantal Akerman, all the other teachers are university lecturers. The course consisted of a series of workshops, alternating with periods devoted to the individual production of original works.

Twelve videos made by the students were shown in the Sala Polivalente of CAMJAP on 18 December.

In continuation of the programme's policy to provide students with appropriate professional conditions for their creation and production work, a competition was launched in 2007 for students taking the 2nd Theatre Direction Course to present projects of roughly 30 minutes each. Six proposals were financed and these were presented at three sessions on 29 and 31 January, and 2 February in the Sala Polivalente of CAMJAP.

A similar procedure was adopted for the Documentary Direction and Filmmaking Courses, with proposals being invited for the making of short films. Three documentaries and three fictional films were selected, which were co-produced with RTP2 and presented in the Main Auditorium on 13 December.

Both the follow-ups and the courses were accompanied, in their various phases, by the coordinators of the PGCCA.

In 2008, the tour of performances from the Choreography Course and its follow-up was continued, as well as of the follow-up to the 2nd Theatre Direction Course, an opera from the 2nd Opera Staging Course and films from all the Documentary Direction and Filmmaking Courses, the 3D Animation Cinema Course and the "making of's" of the Choreography Course and of the first editions of the Opera Staging, Photography and Filmmaking Courses, commissioned by the PGCCA from the filmmakers of the first edition of the Documentary Direction Course.

Also selected for competition at national and international festivals were films from the second Filmmaking Course, with the following prizes having been awarded to the following films: *Superfície*, by Rui Xavier, Special Mention of the International Jury of the Berlinale Shorts

Section – 58th International Film Festival, Berlin, and Prize for the Best Photography for a Portuguese Short Film awarded by Fujifilm/AIP at IndieLisboa 2008; *My Sugar*, by Joana Lima, Honourable Mention at the Festival Pontino del Cortometraggio, Latina, Rome – Official Competition.

Various films were also selected for competition in 2009 by different international film festivals.

The programme ended with the publication of a book with the following aims: *a)* to set up an archive of all the activities undertaken during the course of the PGCCA, listing all the participants – students, teachers, tutors, collaborators, schools, groups of artists, producers involved, and all those who, in one way or another, were involved in the courses and their complementary activities; *b)* reproduction of the literature used in each course at the time when it was held; *c)* listing the works that were produced during the courses and in their various follow-ups, and the circulation of these works in detail at national and international fora; *d)* quantitative information that is essential for a factual knowledge of the programme; *e)* a text summarising the programme and its assessment by the programme’s coordinators, and a foreword by the president of the Gulbenkian Foundation; *f)* finally, there is a series of texts providing a general assessment of the programme and its different sectors. These texts all make a highly positive assessment of the programme, as shown by the achievement of the objectives initially proposed, the appropriate adaptation of the methods, languages and technology to the present time and to the logic of the training provided, the human and artistic quality of the teachers and tutors, and the way in which the course proved fundamental for the professional realisation of those who attended it. As one of the students wrote: “These are the teachers I’ve been looking for all my life.”

✦ *O Destino do Senhor Sousa*, a film by João Constâncio. In the still photograph: Luís Miguel Cintra. Follow-up to the Documentary Direction and Filmmaking Courses.

