

visible

Project author or developer:
Náístio Mosquito

Where:
AO / Angola / Kuito

Website:
nastiomosquito.com

“Hello, I’m here to tell you that Náístio Mosquito is dead.” Thus begins Mosquito’s video *The End of Náístio Mosquito*. Mosquito appears announcing his “own” death and introduces his alter ego Náístia, an alternative subject position within which his subjectivity can be reconsidered. He performs in front of a background projecting Web pages occasionally scrolling down to reveal written content, some projected on his body, and images of himself. Mosquito announces his death repeatedly throughout his performances; the more he dies, it seems, is the more he lives. Perhaps this frequency of the announcement suggests an afterlife, or Mosquito’s refusal to stay dead. Perhaps Mosquito is making attempts at being “post-human” as a way of mimicking the “postcolonial” conditions that in turn have ushered in new forms of subjugation. His “post” is like a ghost that comes back to haunt the very place it is said to have transcended. This becomes apparent when he reemerges to admit: “unfortunately I’m inside this body, and that’s a relationship you cannot run away from.” The performance of his own “murder” places him in a precarious zone of being and non-being, unfixed yet fixed, a zone that highlights his practice as operating within an intermediate position. Within this position he plays both victim and perpetrator by applying metaphors, narratives, and other interpretive linguistic modes, using them to help us make sense of the world around us. His practice as a whole is critiquing prevalent views of the African continent, dangerously historicized through a single lens as possessing the most terrible manifestations of human nature.

