

THERE I GO, DRAGGED BY THE RIVER



Impossibility is not a definitive concept: it bumps into the limits of whatever we call reality. It can easily go beyond any fiction. It keeps browsing through the ambiguities and distortions of the scientific reports. It gets lost inside the vastness of faith, as well as in the traps of human perception. It is barely significant when compared to miracles. It shows no consideration for the supremacy of the eye. It does not define any truth. Today, the only thing I can say is that whatever is possible to me right now corresponds merely to a tiny fraction of a Whole. And as for this Whole, I don't even know how far it can reach. Sometimes I wonder if to affirm the total impossibility of anything would not be to restrict the infinite to a human, anthropocentric interpretation. Impossibility is a riddle. Something that points out to different answers for an ever bigger number of questions. There will always be something to unveil. Something undefined. Hidden. Unfinished. Half done.

In the short story *The third bank of the river*, by João Guimarães Rosa, published in Brazil in 1962, a father forsakes his family and everything he owns in order to live by himself. In his solitude, he decides to build a small canoe in order to live in the middle of a river. A large, speechless, deep river. During all his life, he keeps desiring to inhabit that space, rowing up, down and beyond the river. The entire short story is poetically recounted by his son, who keeps trying to make sense of his father's mysterious choice. Our father never came back. He had never gone anywhere.

In 1975, in the second action of his trilogy 'In search of the Miraculous', the artist Bas Jan Ader attempted to cross the Atlantic Ocean from the USA Western Coast until England, riding alone on board of a small sailboat. While Ader disappeared in the sea, his boat was found 9 months later, floating almost vertically in the Irish coast. Somewhat closer. On April 20th, 2008, a Brazilian priest, guided by God's will, was lifted up to the sky by 1000 colourful helium-filled party balloons. Such a stunt became a target of endless audiovisual jokes. Homemade manipulated photographs and videos. Memes. There he is, the balloon priest, flying on a bike against an enormous full moon, just like Spielberg's ET. And there he is again, flying over the Eiffel Tower, the Great Wall of China or the Giza Pyramids. Flying around King Kong on the top of the Empire State Building. Crossing the skys on the bow of the Titanic. Invading the Star Wars intergalactic state. Humour. Irony. Sarcasm. Contradictions. Threats. Solitude. Renunciation. Magic. A set of general skills and practices whose objective is achieving extraordinary goals. Odd, phenomenal ones. Often with the help of natural and/or even supernatural forces.

Performance. Performance art. Verb. Action. To initiate, to undertake, to execute, to carry out a certain task or activity. A happening. An hybrid artistic category. Life. There is no such a thing as an appropriate setting for it to happen. It escapes whatever is conventional. It is at once concept, symbol, voice, body. Doubt. Critique. Risk. A dialogue with inanimate objects. Souls. Plants. It is a blender. Ephemeral in itself, it might replicate itself indefinitely through audio, snapshots or moving images. Text. Skin. Memory. A set of specific rules created for a pre established period of time. Its philosophy concerns both difference and contact. Counterculture. Restlessness. Dissidence. Subversive manifestations. Protest. Art Beyond Art. Apocalypse. When I was three years old, I was given a stone. A letter-stone. A pebble from the dark waters of Rio Doce, a river in Minas Gerais, Brazil, with a small hole in the middle. I keep this pebble in a box, together with another set of special stones. One of them was buried and unburied beside my father's body, soon after he died. There are also three other pebbles, shining in purple, lilac tones, collected by a friend of mine in the Gobi desert, in Mongolia, just before he passed away. Stones which affection turned precious. Stones from before and after. Silent guardians of the past. My three years old son collects small objects. Sticks, and pebbles and leaves. His collection items are spread in our home, all over the place. Each one of them has its own history, which is not always related to us. They store multiple narratives I would be unable to describe. Adventures related to weight, colours, textures and holes. Journeys. A geography of the unknown. A deep memory related to circumstances that came before us.

It can be odd to think about how objects travel through different places around the world. How stones are actually able to cross the ocean. Flying over mountains. Landing on the banks of the rivers. Hiding in our pockets. Perhaps you haven't noticed, but sticks do levitate. Of course it only happens whenever we are not looking.

TELEPATHY

Transmission of thoughts between two people. Being able to see what is going on far away. The breaking down of mental boundaries. Telepathy suggests the existence of a psychic connection between all human beings, perhaps similar to the non locality of the quantum systems. Even though the telepathic interaction between people might be ongoing in an unconscious level, it can only be noticed given special conditions. Psychokinesis, on the other hand, suggests an energetic connection between what is human and what is not human: an object, a machine, a plant, a stone, whatever. Things being propelled to movement by a given mental command. This is what psychokinesis means: nothing more than manipulating something over distance. It corresponds to an individual's capacity of moving, manipulating or shaking a given physical system using solely the mind, without any kind of bodily interaction.

On a practical level, the idea is to create a mental stimulus which provokes a physical reaction, by projecting a clear mental image. Ultimately, we should intentionally irradiate an intense desire for something to happen, regardless of its being completely implausible. After all, this is why we are here: to intensify our intimacy with everything that appears to be unlikely, illogical and uncertain. Minimalist actions and gestures which complement the stillness of the body are encouraged. The invitation is to slow down the speed of thought. Or rather, not to think about anything. Not to do anything. Effortlessly, sit down and write. Stand up slowly. Surrender to the flux of whatever surrounds you, preferring always not-to-choose. Refuse to make choices. Allow your own emptiness to come forth, formless. Not-knowing. Accept the temporary loss of whatever identity. Forget. Let it go. Become a channel. A hollow pipe. A hollow body. A hollow head. Don't restrict yourself. Say whatever you mean without filtering or editing it. Looking for spaces. So as not to suffocate.

Looking at the surroundings, facing the horizon. How much space do you occupy? What are your outlines? Leaving home. Dreaming about the blue colour of the sky, the green tones of the sea. Saying hello, goodbye, see you. Repeating, hello, goodbye, see you. Applying oil onto one's face, nape, hair. Entering abandoned places. Running. Listening to unknown voices talking on the phone. Making appointments you will not attend. Going further away. Walking. Looking at the people. Talking. I have been talking a lot lately, continuously. Perhaps my throat needed that deep cleanse. Massaging the feet before going to bed for seven consecutive days. Screaming. Coughing. Going to sleep, hoping to find the perfect word. Forgetting. I am afraid of being alone. Blank days. What to make of blank days? Painting. Listening to your own voice and not recognising who is speaking. Why do you tread pushing the ground in such an intense way as you walk? We are fluctuating bodies. Water. Water. Open. Everything is open. Silence. I keep looking at the screen, drawing imaginary geometries. Not a single word came out of my mouth. My fingers refuse to go searching for the letters. The eye escapes, facing the wall. I look at my small collection of useless objects. I give a mental command to try to make them move.

Free flow exercise [Basic]: **Wind. Wind. Wind.** 1. On a windy day, choose an isolated place outdoors and watch attentively something moving in the wind. 2. Keep standing, with the eyes open, and try not to move during the process. 3. To conclude, sit down in a calm place and write whatever comes

Uselessness. Mania. Obsession. Insane modes of existing. The head is one of the heavier parts of the body, normally corresponding to approximately 8% of our total body mass. Whenever we look downwards to check something in our smartphones, we apply a pressure of nearly 30 kilograms on our napes. Head on the clouds. The word head is often used to indicate priority, higher degree of importance, forefront, leadership. Ahead. Reason. Mask.

The metaphoric use of the word head derives from its being the uppermost part of the body. It is mostly through the head that we perceive our surroundings and connect the information gathered through our senses. It is the main center of cognitive functions. Heads come in different shapes. Headaches can affect different areas, due to different causes. Tensions. Migraines. Symptoms of sinusitis. Cephalgias. There he comes, gives him a head's start. Standing on one's head. Our Lady of the Head, the protector of the brain, of intelligence, wisdom, justice. Law. Reason. Parity. Correction. Rigour. Recently, the lack of medical oxygen in Manaus, Brazil, created a tragedy. Several Covid 19 patients died and hundreds of people who were in the ICU needed to be removed to other Brazilian states. Many people watched their relatives die from asphyxia. Trauma. Nightmare. Pain. Once again excavators carved out mass graves. Chock. Abandonment. Genocide. The federal government merely shook its head, denying any responsibility for what happened. Collapse. Denial. Burying one's head in the sand.

In the future, you might be able to capture your thoughts. Whatever is in your mind might be shared with the entire world. Facebook revealed it has been working in a technology which would allow people to 'write' on the application with their minds. The device conceived by the technological lab of the social network aims to operate as a 'brain mouse' during situations of augmented reality. Being able to read an individual's mind is only the first step. Its goal is to be able to read the mind of thousands of people at the same time. It has been more than 100 years since investigations concerning telepathy began. At first, they were connected to the discovery of radio waves - a kind of electromagnetic radiation whose length is larger (while its frequency is smaller) than infrared radiation. Electrical currents oscillating in a given conductor at a fast pace. Antenna. At the time, science would consider it to be reasonable to think about telepathy as being akin to a sort of mental radiofonic operation, whose messages could be sent by an emitter to a receptor. A telepathic pair would then be formed by an emitter agent, the one who would send the information, and a receptor, who would be able to decode the answer. There are records of cases, though less common, of telepathy operating between more than two people.

Telepathic exercise [Beginner/Intermediate/Advanced]: **Mental Radio**. 1. Find a comfortable position/ 2. Release any tensions in your body/ 3. Let go of any worry or emotion/ 4. Remain confident, trying not to engage in any kind of inner monologue/ 5. Hold in your hands the object you wish to transmit / 6. With closed eyes, begin the transmission by softly touching the object/ 7. Visualise the face of the receptor as clearly as possible/ 8. Imagine that the receptor is, at first, looking at the object, and soon after, actually touching it/ Obs. in order to make the decoding process easier, it might be a good idea to inform the receptor about the exact time in which the exercise is going to be performed. Suggested duration: 1 hour, seven days in a row,

The same basic principles could be applied to either a Telepathic or a Psychokinetic training:

FAITH

Of course there is always the possibility that nothing happens, but the chances are higher if you really believe you are going to succeed. Don't doubt your own capacity, and stay open for the possibility of something mysterious actually taking place. Positive thoughts tend to encourage other positive thoughts to come forth, and the reverse is true for negative thinking. Keep in mind that you are very likely to need years of practice, not only weeks or months. For this reason, try not to feel anxious. Incorporate this training to your daily life, and focus on the practice, rather than on the results. Persistence is the key.

FOCUS

In order to be able to channel energy towards certain objects, your mind must be clear, free from distracting thoughts. The practice of meditation is one of the ways to develop a clear mind. It will allow you to slow down the hectic rhythm of your daily life, and find more free space to develop the potential of your mind. Set some time aside for yourself every day, 10 of 15 minutes of silence at least, and during this time try to keep the attention focused on your breath. Let all the unnecessary thoughts flow away from your mind-stream.

RELAXATION

Physical exercises might be important allies to help us get rid of the stress of our daily routine. Besides meditation, it is a good idea to practice some kind of physical exercise at least one hour a day. Another suggestion is to practice self massage with essential plant oils before going to sleep.

CONCENTRATION

Choose a single object to work with, so that you are able to cultivate some kind of intimacy with it. In order to be able to channel your energy towards any small object, you will need to concentrate as never before. For this reason, it is easier to start with light objects, such as a pencil or a match. Practice at least twice a day, visualising the object moving to the right, to the left, rolling, moving quickly, being pushed or pulled. Hint: do not start with metal or glass objects, since their level of heat is very low, which makes them harder to manipulate.

Psychokinetic exercise [Beginner]: **Pendulum.** 1. Create your own pendulum. You are going to need: a) a twig or wooden stick, b) a resistant piece of thread, and c) any object able to be attached to the thread easily. 2. Walk barefooted as slowly as possible in a calm, outdoors space. 3. With the arm slightly stretched, hold the pendulum with one of your hands, while watching attentively the subtle movements of the thread and the floating object. 3. Whenever you feel tired, alternate with the other hand, without interrupting the exercise. Suggested duration: 1 hour.



The starting point is not always up to us. We live in a constant interchange with what surrounds us. Our journey is not an individual one. It is crucial and necessary to create alliances with both human and non human entities. To find allies.

A huge amount of information is being stored in clouds in order to be processed by new digital applications in a nearby future. Neural networks based on artificial intelligence are already being developed. We are heading towards a body-machine that today is still hard to envision. The future of the future. I am in love with the earth, with the soil. With its colours, tonalities, and textures. Here on the island, multiple layers unfold. I keep wishing to bury both my arms everywhere. Landscapes. One of these days, I found a gap. The water opened a path through the mountains. The sea. The black sand. Kept wishing to create a work intertwining the geography of the land and my body's terrain. Playing with stones, making sounds and rustles. And yet I didn't let go of my wish to fly, in spite of the intense pull of the gravity. Journey to the center of the Earth. A starting point doesn't necessarily require a clear beginning and an end. Focusing on the middle, the medium. Freedom is not having to get anywhere. Yesterday I was listening to a song sung underwater. What does it mean, to start something? Where do we start from? What can we use to signal this starting movement? How to create strategies that allow us to remain constantly in the middle of the path? We are a continuum. There I go, dragged by the river. Again, again, and again. Attracted by inutilities. By whatever is unnecessary. Purposeless. Whatever is not of any use.

In the movie Nostalgia, by Andrei Tarkovsky, the main character attempts to cross an old empty swimming pool, carrying a lit candle. Whenever the wind blows the flame away, he returns to the point where he started, obeying strictly his own self-imposed rules. A mystic game. The more the time passes, the harder the mission proves to be. The desire to accomplish it, however, gets ever more piercing and insane. As if everything depended on the possibility of arriving at the other side. A ineffable test which refuses to obey causal relations, escaping the logical reasoning of the tangible reality. The breath of life blows out the candle. Memory and its timbre. A promise. From here, I can see your image. Your eyes, your steps. I can hear the tiredness of your breath. This is not the moment to give up. The more we remember, the more our memories start to interfere with each other. A network. Yes. The head keeps spinning. Some years ago, there were things I attempted to forget, so that I could have more free space available. I failed. Could forgetting be as essential as remembering? How to choose what to keep, what to let go of? Would memory be akin to an editing process?

Nothing that emerges in our mind is ever passive. There is a crucial difference between losing access to an information, and losing the information itself. A weak memory actually fails to recover information, rather than being unable to store it properly. Getting lost is not that easy. People whose autobiographical memory is too vast often show obsessive tendencies.

Telepathic modalities: 1. Conscious, involuntary telepathy. 2. Conscious, voluntary telepathy. 3. Unconscious, involuntary telepathy. 4. Experimental telepathy. Telepathy often manifests itself as a kind of premonition. Psychokinetic Modalities: 1. Conscious, involuntary psychokinesis. 2. Conscious, voluntary psychokinesis. 3. Unconscious, involuntary psychokinesis. 4. Experimental Psychokinesis Psychokinesis can often manifest itself by taking the form of casual accidents, such as objects breaking down mysteriously at home.

Psychokinetic Exercise [Beginning/Intermediate/Advanced]. ***Fiery Dance***. 1. Lighten up a candle. A flame can be surprisingly easy to manipulate, since it is an energy ball whose weight is close to nonexistent. 2. Observe the flame. 3. Clear your mind, letting the flame fully permeate your thoughts. 4. Keep concentrating on the flame, make it move to the right, to the left. Stretch it, lower it, make it brighter or dimmer - it should be able to dance according to your wishes. Hint: do this exercise whenever you feel tired of the effort and dedication required by other Psychokinesis exercises. Suggested duration: free.

[INTERRUPTION. THE WASHING MACHINE IS WHISTLING]

The last time I was in Brazil, I went to visit my grandmother from my mother’s side. Two days after I was gone, she turned 86 years old. I was wearing a mask, afraid that my presence could put her at risk. This strange ambiguity between the fear and the desire to be close to people set the tone for the entire trip. There were relatives, friends, I haven’t seen in a long time. We yearned to be close: yet how could we make peace with these feelings without hugging or touching each other? Unable to find its place, the body would follow one direction and the head, another. There were slips, broken rules, but apparently some choices were not available to me after almost two years of absence. During this short meeting, I seized the opportunity to ask my grandmother about her childhood. After a few minutes, she quickly jumped forward from her girlhood to the marriage with my grandfather, when she was 18 years old, to the challenges of the relationship, to the birth of her children, and so on.

The dynamic of the conversation naturally slid to topics about which I would not have dared to ask her beforehand. She jumped into her memories of her parents, my great-grandparents whom I never met. She described how it felt to lose her mother while she was still young. She would mention miracles. The long journey she undertook with her youngest daughter in her arms in order to meet her father for the last time, a few days before his death. He was not sick, nor there were any signs suggesting he would soon pass away. Nevertheless, moved by the command of an inner voice, she decided to simply leave her home and cross part of the state of Minas Gerais. Three days after her arrival, her father suddenly died.

People are often afraid to fly. It brings anxiety, tachicardy, panic attacks. Statistic data, however, suggest the chance of surviving an air crash is close to 90%, especially in the case of passengers sitting in the rear seats. Some time ago, survivors from a plane crash who fell on the sea were photographed on top of the aircraft, waiting to be rescued. There are several factors which can lead to a plane crash. Human mistakes, the loss of a piece of the aircraft, birds. Accidents caused by collisions with birds are very common in aviation history. Strike bird.

In 2016, there were 1835 clashes between airplanes and birds in the UK only. Ironically, in 2019, a plane projected to resist a nuclear attack was knocked over by a bird during a test drive. The bird entered one of the turbines, resulting in something like an emergency. Nobody was hurt, and still the event was classified as an accident class A, the worst in the scale of air disasters. As a security measure, airports have been applying several strategies to prevent birds from getting close to the planes. Recordings with the sound of predators. Cannons producing high volume sounds and flashes of light. Monitoring drones. Mechanical falcons, and even real trained hunting falcons. All of these, however, tend to be solely short-term solutions, since the birds are believed to be particularly resilient, quickly adapting to new challenges.

Psychokinetic exercise [Beginner/Intermediate] ***Vital Perception*** 1. Flex and contract every muscle of one of your arms completely for 10 seconds, including your wrist. After this time, relax the arm completely and pay attention to the sensation of heat that spontaneously arises as a result. The heat is likely to start pulsing or give you a sensation similar to the feeling of an electrical current. The sensation following the muscular contraction is what we call energy. The final goal of this exercise is to be able to control this energy without the need to perform the contraction. The next step is to develop the ability to keep the energy emission stable. 2. *Cold*: Look for a cold environment in order to make this practice. Relax your body completely. You

The explanation for the flight of the birds resides in their bones and feathers. Their skeleton is hollow and very light. There are in between 1000 and 25000 feathers scattered all over their bodies. Their breathing is extremely effective. Their thumbs operate in a similar way to the flap function in the airplane's wings, since they are able to either increase or decrease the lifting forces which stabilise the flight and keep the birds in the air. Essentially, birds fly either by gliding or flapping their wings. Wing flapping is a more complex form of flight, and its mechanism is not the same in every species. They are able to create a space between the floor and their gliding body. Floating. Flatos. Breeze. Current. Blow. Zephyr. Hovering. Drifting. Gliding. Levitating.



In psychic phenomena, there is an intimate relationship between the human mind and the external world. Let's consider the levitation, levis. It is the process by which one is able to lift an object and keep it in a stable position, therefore counteracting the gravity, by exerting forces which do not require a direct contact with the object. It can be understood either as a result of supranatural processes, an accomplishment of an advanced level of yoga practice, or even achieved by experimental, scientific means. The levitation phenomena doesn't include the flight of insects, hummingbirds, helicopters, rockets or balloons because in all these cases the object makes use of its own forces to counteract gravity. Floating on the surface of liquids is also not considered to be levitation. The experience of floating on the water, however, can be extremely valid as a training. Water proves to be an extremely stimulating environment for the emergence of kinetic affection. It can be understood as a technology promoting subjective communication, able to encourage other kinds of social interaction in which human agency is not considered superior to the input of the other elements.

Lightning. Tower. A whirlwind enveloping one's body as a whole. The head is dizzy, the heart beats fast. Life, life, life. A potency. An act of surrender. A key. Releasing the weight, allowing the physical, mental and emotional body to enter a state of flow. Rediscovering the power of the small things. The grain of sand. Smallness. A body disappearing in the middle of a mountain. An ocean of loose words. Intention. Intuition. Eyes closed. Cutting the wind, tearing time and space with a sharp knife. No, we will never conform to impossibility.

Psychokinesis Exercise [Intermediate]. ***Rolling***. Duration: undetermined. Practice with a light object able to roll over a smooth and stable surface. 1. Start by nudging the chosen object slightly with your fingertip, so that it can move throughout the space. 2. Gradually, touch the object less and less, while attempting to pull it, push it and turn it around only with the strength of your intention. Tip: in this exercise, you might try to use one or both your hands to control the direction of the energy flow, but always avoid touching the object. Suggested duration: 1 hour, 7 consecutive days.

Time travel is made easier through dreams. Whenever you are able to realise you are dreaming in the middle of the dream, you are having a lucid dream. This lucid awareness allows you to control the architecture of the oneiric landscape, by making conscious choices and desires. It is by no means an innate knowledge, but rather an ability which might be developed through training. Remembering your dreams is one of the crucial steps when we are trying to develop lucidity in our dreams. Years ago, I dreamed I was taking part in a performance art event. The dream took place in a rural setting, an ancient farm with a large, half open terrace. Each one of us had committed to present an action in front of the others. It was not at all stressful, everything happened in a quite relaxed, friendly way. The performances should be improvised according to a word chosen by drawing lots. I picked up the word ‘river’. Soon after, without thinking too much, I lied down on the floor and stretched my body as much as I could, alternating between movements of expansion and contraction. I kept rolling and stretching from one side to the other for hours.

Psychokinetic exercise [Advanced]. **Levitation.** Yes, it’s time to try to levitate! Astral projection is another name for out of the body experiences. They demand a deep state of self hypnosis, and might take the practitioner to a very unique vibration. It is extremely hard to do. 1. Before standing up, as you wake up, imagine that you are moving only one arm or leg very slowly, without actually moving it, in order to have a partial out of the body experience. 2. Gradually, as you feel more familiar with this daily exercise, try to imagine your entire body is moving, wandering about different rooms in your house. Tip: So as not to get frustrated, you should start slowly and progress a bit further every day. Suggested duration: 1 hour, 21 consecutive

The groups of artists watching the presentation should give feedback in the form of a free flow text. Since I was curious, I read what was written about the action I did. The text drew a comparison between the rivers and the Mayan civilisation. Its title was ‘Maya-River’. Immediately I made a connection with my family name, Maia. The text brought up a series of questions concerning the relationship ancient civilisations developed with the oceans, rivers and water in general. Everything was very poetic. I woke up without fully awakening. I remained floating on the fresh waters, thinking about the waterfalls, the streams, the liquid movement of the rain, contemplating a glass of water.

Useless studies about unbelievable topics often open groundbreaking paths in both philosophy and science. One of the most rigorous studies about Psychokinesis was undertaken by the Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research program, in the period between 1979 and 2007. The final results pointed out that Psychokinesis did exist, but only on a minuscule scale. The relationship between body-mind-machine, mind-computer-interface. Currently, there are already medical researches working to prevent human beings from becoming obsolete. Artificial Intelligence. Nanotechnology. One of these days, we saw a group of people climbing down a mountain. We were on a desert beach, watching that image from upside down. It was a group of four men and two dogs. They were local people, who most likely left home in order to hunt wild rabbits. They were using big wooden rods (much longer than their bodies) in order to move forward in wide leaps. Tiny bodies were hopping down the valley. The mountain was formed by volcanic, porous rocks, full of cracks. In a few seconds, that appearance shifted the usual perspective through which I oriented my existence. I crouched, until I became insignificant. On one side there was the mountain, on the other side, the sea. And such a vastness of details. I was paralysed. I avoided moving, so as not to disrupt this feeling of relief. Somewhat closer, the dogs started barking.

There is one impossibility lying particularly close to us: the silence. In 1951, John Cage entered a soundproof chamber, in order to listen to silence itself. As he left the room, he told the engineer who accompanied him that all the time he kept hearing two insistent sounds: one higher, one lower. The technician explained that the high sound came from his own nervous system in action, whereas the lower one corresponded to his blood in circulation. As living beings, we cannot experience the absolute silence.

Only the brutal **SILENCINGS.**

Free exercise [Advanced]: **(Im)possible Performance.** 1. Research, plan, develop and exercise something you will never fully accomplish. 2. Some time later, forget about it. Suggested duration: two years.

I could bring up here the Flander’s mask. Tongue tied. An iron collar on the neck, with a tiny locking orifice. Pause. He said he would rather die than being a slave. On a blazing sunny day, he ran towards the river and threw himself into the water. Since he was witnessed by some people on a boat, he could be rescued from drowning.



BY RUBIANE MAIA