

Dance, death, eternity. butoh dance as death education in schools

Danza, muerte, eternidad. la danza butoh como educación sobre la muerte en la escuela

Damiano Fina¹; Ines Testoni²

¹www.damianofina.it/en; ²Università di Padova

¹info@damianofina.it; ²ines.testoni@unipd.it

LÍNEA TEMÁTICA: Investigación en Pedagogía de la Muerte y educación para la muerte

ABSTRACT: Butoh dance is an expressive practice that revalues the importance of dance in human existence as a precious moment of contact with one's inner world, with the outside world and with everything that lies beyond, capable of bringing new meanings to one's existence. It is a dance practice that is accessible to all, with no limits of age or mobility, based on mimesis, capable of activating profound processes of symbolic elaboration. In particular, butoh dance weaves a very interesting dialogue with the boundary space between life and death, creating the opportunity to take the time and space to dedicate to our dance and to give a *raison d'être* to our being here and now. In this sense, butoh dance can be useful in pedagogical and art therapy contexts to cross the ridge that separates the world of 'before' from the world of 'after', restructuring the air that looks like a Braque painting to make it breathable again.

For the purposes of promoting death education experiences in schools, it is considered particularly interesting to focus on the use of arts therapy and, in particular, butoh dance therapy in the classroom. Dealing with the topic of death and dying through the dancing body brings at least three advantages to school contexts: the promotion of the signification of death and dying not only from a theoretical point of view, but through a highly engaging embodied experience; the use of a butoh dance therapy methodology that is adapted to the different age groups of the classes and is accessible to all, without limitations of motor skills; the promotion of creativity in a context of freedom of expression that can sublimate the experiences of the individual and the group.

The presentation will outline the theoretical frame of reference of the research, consequently focusing on the description of the methodology, with the presentation of practical exercises and classroom experiences.