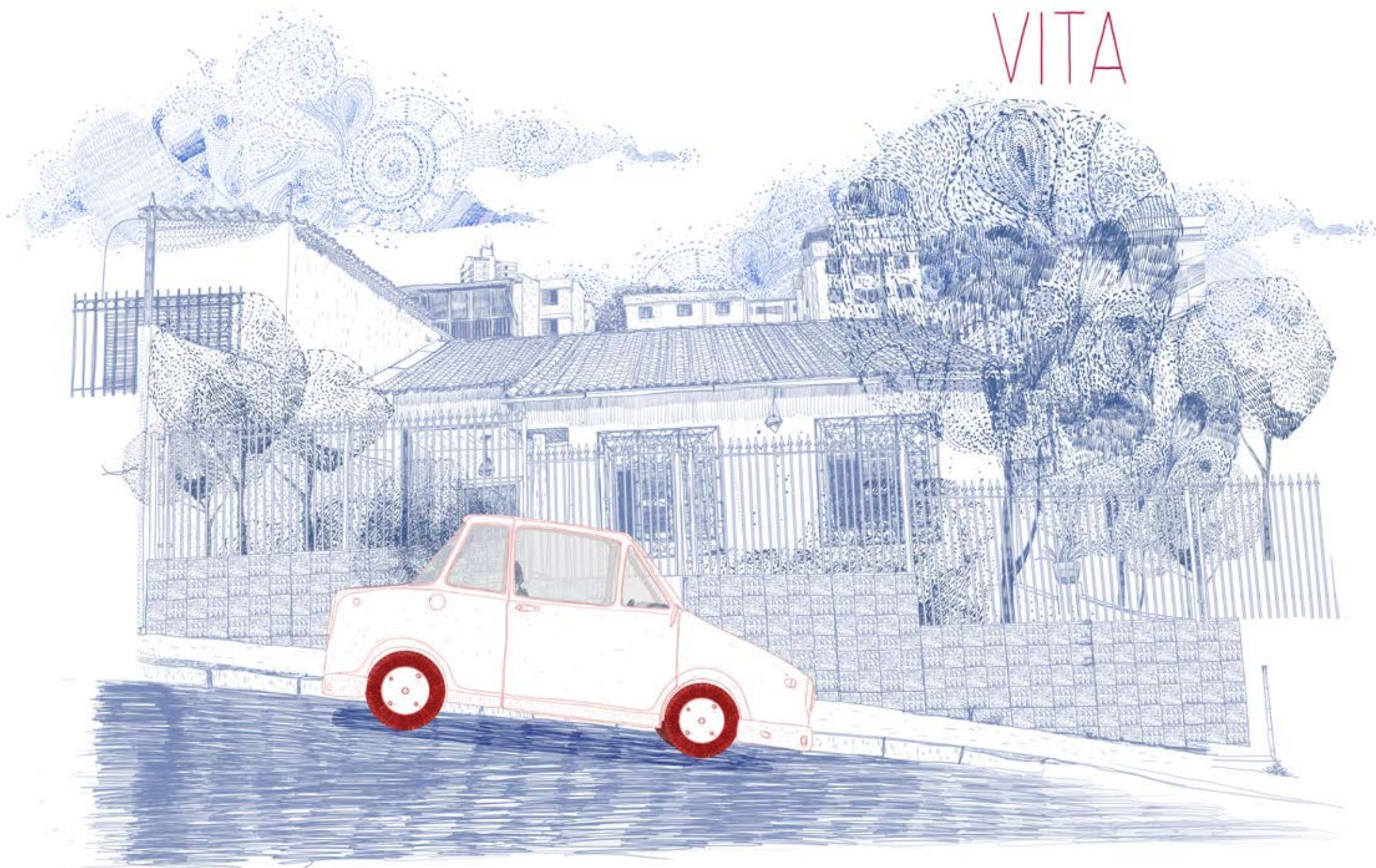


p r e s s   k i t

DONA  
BEATRIZ  
ÑSÍMBA  
VITA



directed and written by Catapreta

2023 | 20 minutes

COLOR | 2K

2048 × 858px (CinemaScope crop, ≈2.39:1 aspect ratio)

DCP/PRORES

### Synopsis:

"Dona Beatriz Nsîmba Vita" is a film loosely inspired by the life and legacy of the historical figure known as Kimpa Vita, a Congolese heroine from the 17th century. Set in the contemporary Brazilian city of Belo Horizonte, we meet a unique woman determined to fulfill the divine mission of creating her own people, using her unique ability to produce clones of herself in the kitchen of her house.

**TECHNICAL TEAM:**

Direction and Screenplay:  
CATAPRETA

Sound direction, Foley, 5.1 spatialization and mixing:  
DANIEL NUNES

Animation:  
CATAPRETA

Production and project management:  
MIRIAM ROLIM AND MOTRIX PRODUÇÕES

Art Direction, Illustration and Design:  
CATAPRETA

Audio description:::  
Script and voiceover:  
ANITA REZENDE

Consulting:  
ELIZABET SÁ

Editing:  
BIANCA DANTAS

DCP:  
LOURENÇO VELOSO



## CATAPRETA

[ LEONARDO CATA PRETA SOUZA ]

47 years old | Brazilian | black artist and activist

Catapreta is a Pixel Mason, a freelance professional in cinema, video, animation, and compulsive drawing. Graduated in Fine Arts (2000) and Cinema (2007) from the School of Fine Arts at EBA/UFG, with a technical degree in Graphic Design Communication from CECOTEG/SENAI (2001). Currently blending roles as a visual artist, animator, graffiti artist, and film director.

## filmography

### 1. Moradores do 304 (Dwellers of the 304)

15 min - 2007 | Age rating 12 years

Synopsis: A lonely writer is tormented by strange creatures in his apartment. Inspired by Carlos Drummond de Andrade's poem "Elegia 1938".

<https://vimeo.com/24318329>

### 2. O Céu No Andar de Baixo (The Sky Downstairs)

15 min - 2010 | Age rating 12 years

Synopsis: Since the age of 12, Francisco has been taking photographs of the sky. One day, something different appears in one of his photographs changing his routine.

<https://vimeo.com/53922189>

### 3. Vento Virado (Turned Wind)

21 min - 2013 | Age rating 12 years

Synopsis: When you lift a child above your head, it gets startled and its wind turns.

<https://vimeo.com/catapreta/ventovirado>

### 4. Entrada Pela Frente (Entrance Through The Front)

7 min - 2014 | Rated G

Synopsis: A woman between the camera and the church. Caught, filmed and happened by chance on the streets of Brasilia.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/12KTphXw2\\_@Jz@ckAYJjv0RPmUS-Ls2tC3/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/12KTphXw2_@Jz@ckAYJjv0RPmUS-Ls2tC3/view?usp=sharing)

### 5. CALMARIA (Calmness)

21 min - 2020 | Age rating 12 years

Synopsis: The streets are deserted, they flee in search of peace, but peace is our enemy

<https://vimeo.com/339401003>

### 6. Quarto do Desassossego (Room of Disquiet)

2 min - 2020 | Age rating 12 years

Synopsis: A woman leaning over the window, a man circling the room on a bicycle. Verses about loneliness in pairs and the processes of conflict between lucidity and psychic health of an isolated couple

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d50FdSmPPmAY0h37\\_8jKvHURB1NBIfS1/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d50FdSmPPmAY0h37_8jKvHURB1NBIfS1/view)

### 7. Ventilador de Duas Pás (Two-Blade Fan)

14 min - 2020 | Rated G

Synopsis: Two friends talk about the spiritual meaning in their lives.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1K2EusW4s7gLhBEWTnu6DBx-ZAD1s7uL-e/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1K2EusW4s7gLhBEWTnu6DBx-ZAD1s7uL-e/view?usp=share_link)

### 8. Órbita (Orbit)

4 min - 2021 | Age rating 12 years

Synopsis: It's quarantine, she in orbit, he on Earth...

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1b8MmthUNskJT1afNGnEzY3WFC-MeRa3K5/view>

### 9. Silêncio de Ngoma (Silence of Ngoma)

2 min - 2021 | Rated G

Synopsis: A plea to Obaluaê.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-Sn-GpLzmFaISA24o8nuJc4kY-@Y@Y7T9/view>

### 10. Dona Beatriz Nsímba Vita (Ms. Beatriz Nsímba Vita)

20 min - 2023 | Age rating 12 years

Synopsis: "Ms. Beatriz Nsímba Vita" is a film loosely inspired by the life and legacy of the historical figure known as Kimpa Vita, a Congolese heroine from the 17th century. Set in the contemporary Brazilian city of Belo Horizonte, we meet a unique woman determined to fulfill the divine mission of creating her own people, using her unique ability to produce clones of herself in the kitchen of her house.

## Conceptual approach of the film

The short film is a free reinterpretation of the journey of DONA BEATRIZ NSIMBA VITA (Kimpa Vita), an African historical figure born in the Congo region who lived in the 17th century. DONA BEATRIZ NSIMBA VITA was a political and religious leader, recognized as a prophetess endowed with magical and supernatural powers, capable of performing miracles and extraordinary feats. DONA BEATRIZ NSIMBA VITA became a controversial and subversive personality, subsequently persecuted by the Catholic Church during the Portuguese occupation of the Congo. Our film, set in contemporary Brazil, presents in a dreamlike and fantastical manner a narrative that highlights the protagonist, DONA BEATRIZ NSIMBA VITA, engaged in the mission of leading her people in the face of symbolic threats that reflect issues such as the deterioration of Brazilian institutional democracy, driven by the rise of the far right to power, structural racism, social inequality, and historical conflicts in a society economically divided between the rich and the poor, whites and blacks.

DONA BEATRIZ NSIMBA VITA was initiated into the Kimpa, whose spiritual concepts have strong references in contemporary Brazilian Candomblé, especially in Candomblé Congo-Angola. The history of this character is crucial to understanding the relationships between traditional Central African spirituality and Candomblé Congo-Angola in Brazil, and consequently, the historical formation of the Brazilian people, mostly composed of blacks, descendants largely of brutally enslaved individuals during the colonial period.

DONA BEATRIZ NSIMBA VITA is interpreted in various ways in Afro-diasporic culture. However, there are scarce studies from a historical per-

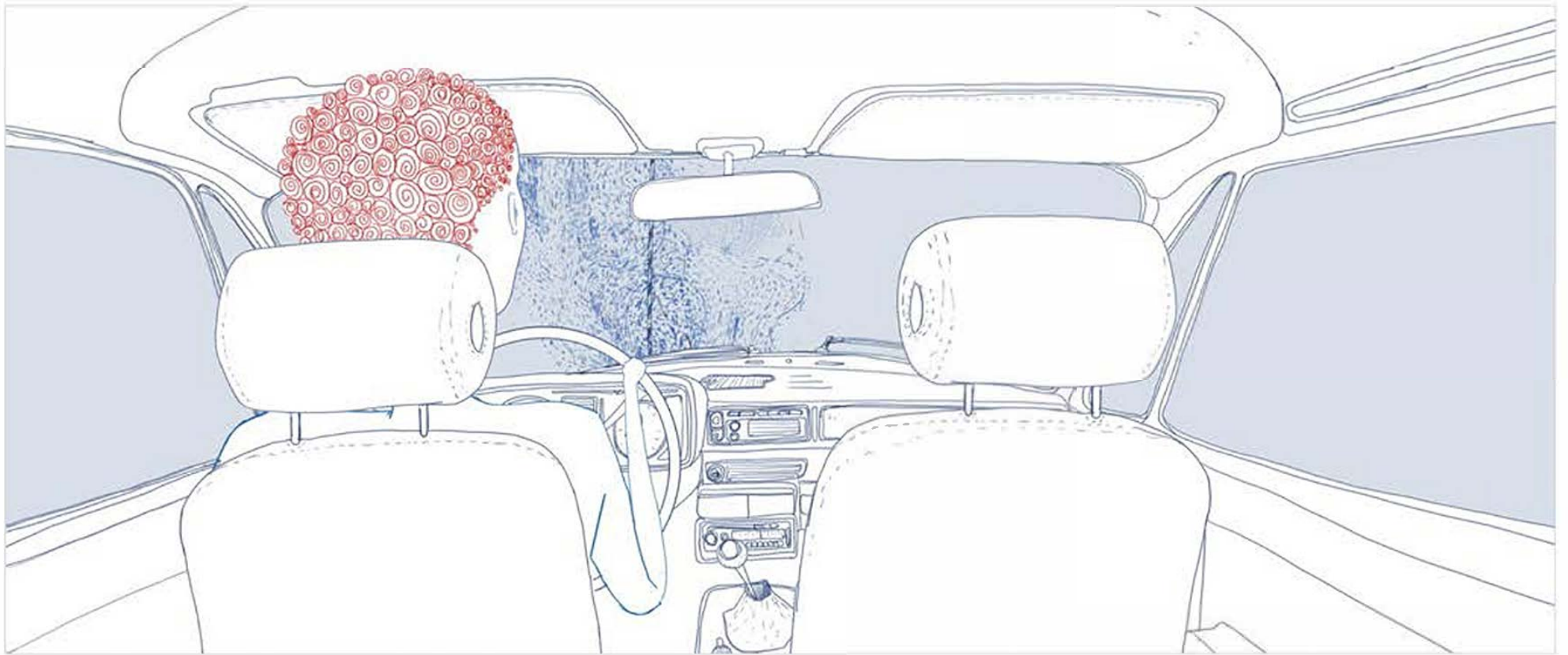
spective, grounded in documents and scientific methodology. The most widely circulated work globally is John Thornton's book, written in 1990. Thornton, a professor of African History at Boston University (Massachusetts, USA), is a world authority on Central African history.

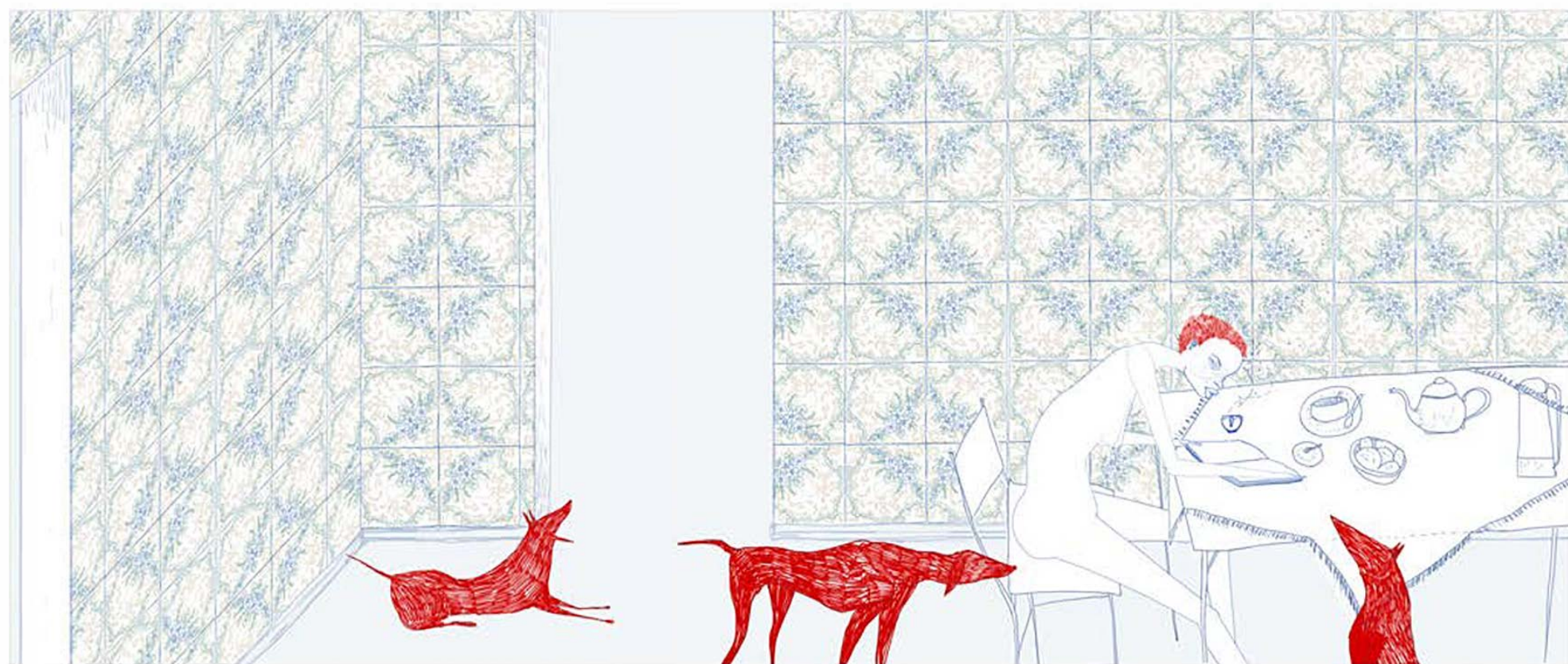
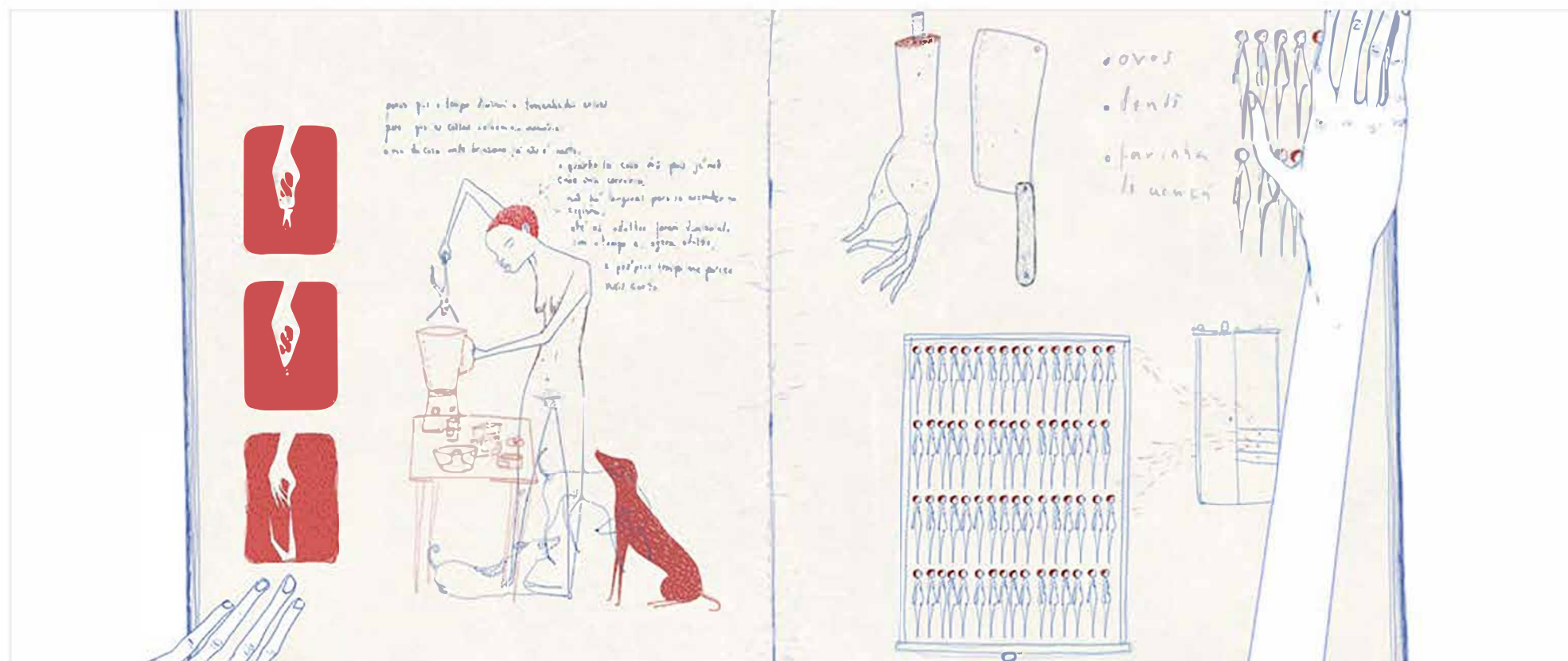
DONA BEATRIZ NSIMBA VITA is a significant example of female leadership in political and religious domains, as well as a central figure in understanding Central African spirituality. She demonstrates great skill in reconciling ancestral values with Christian symbols and ideals. Her legacy is impactful and present, both in Angola

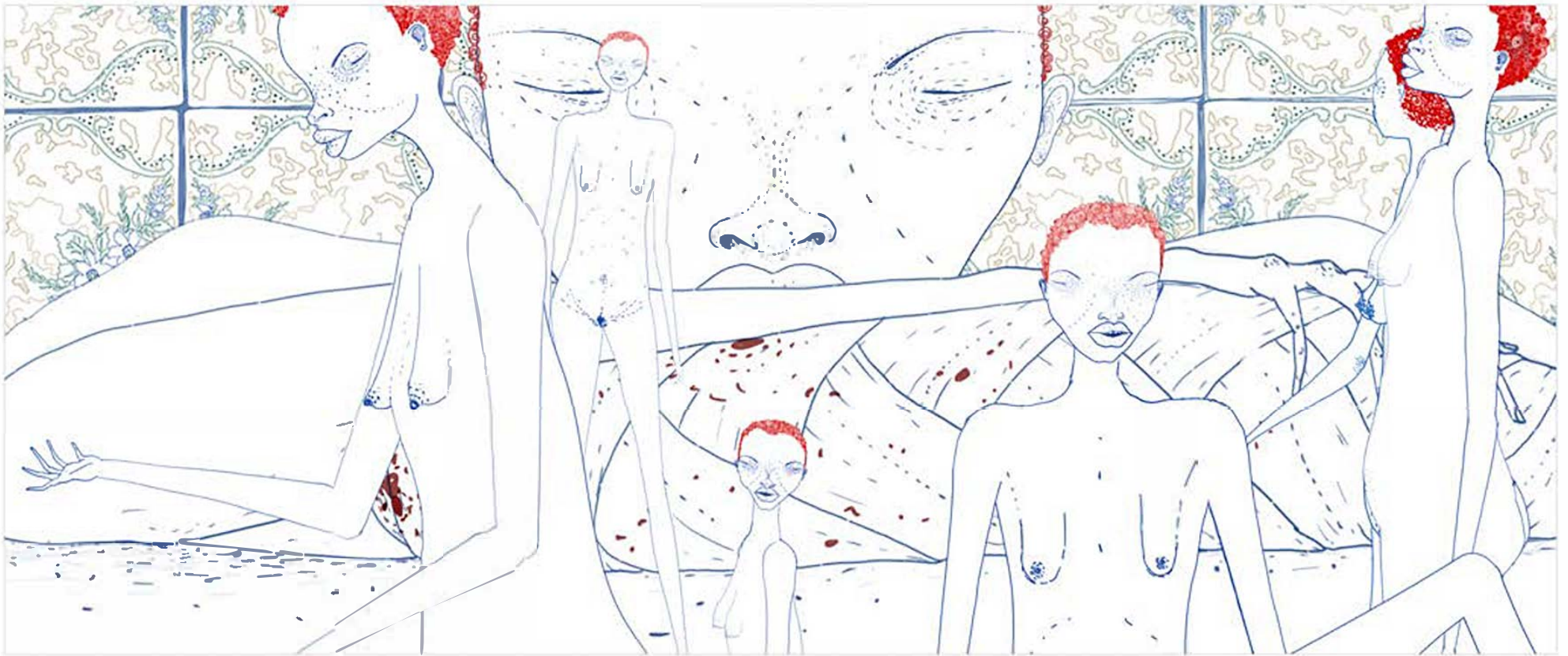
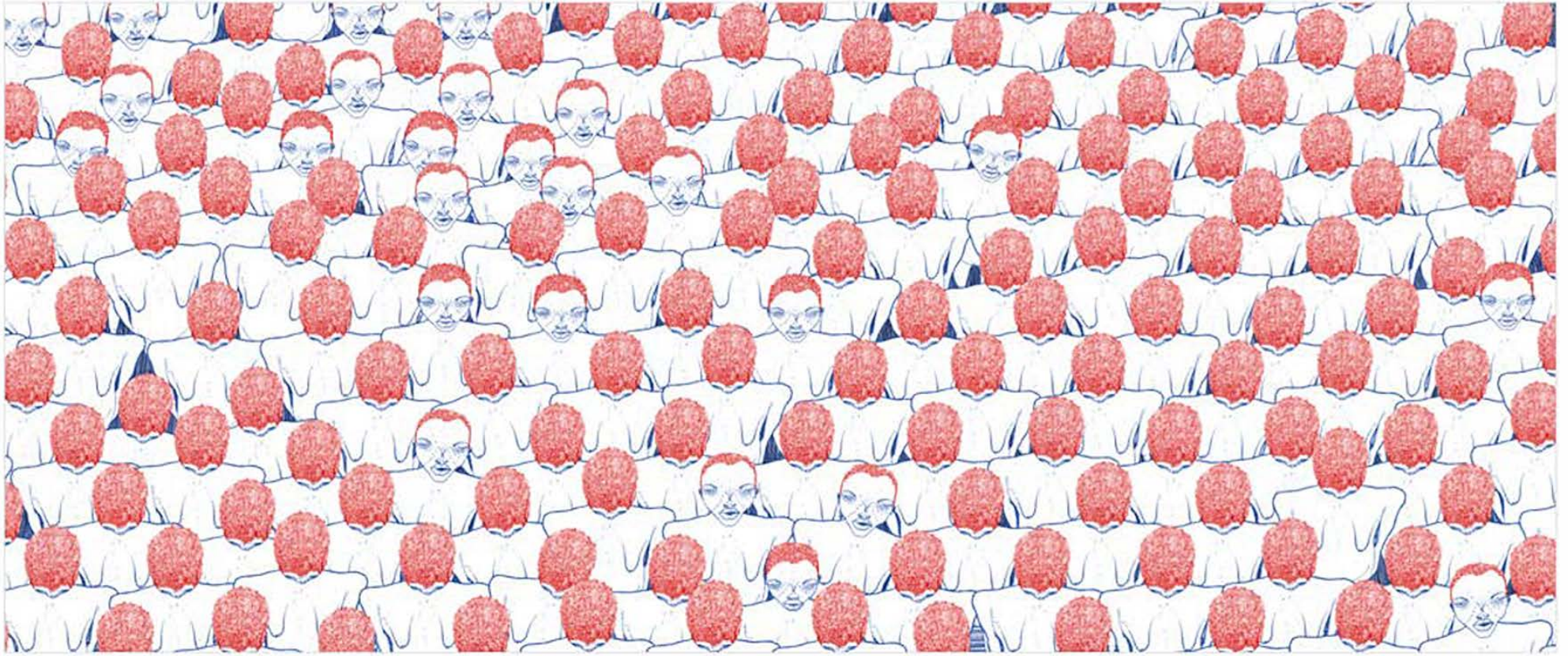
and in the Candomblé Congo-Angola, which keeps alive the same spiritual principles.

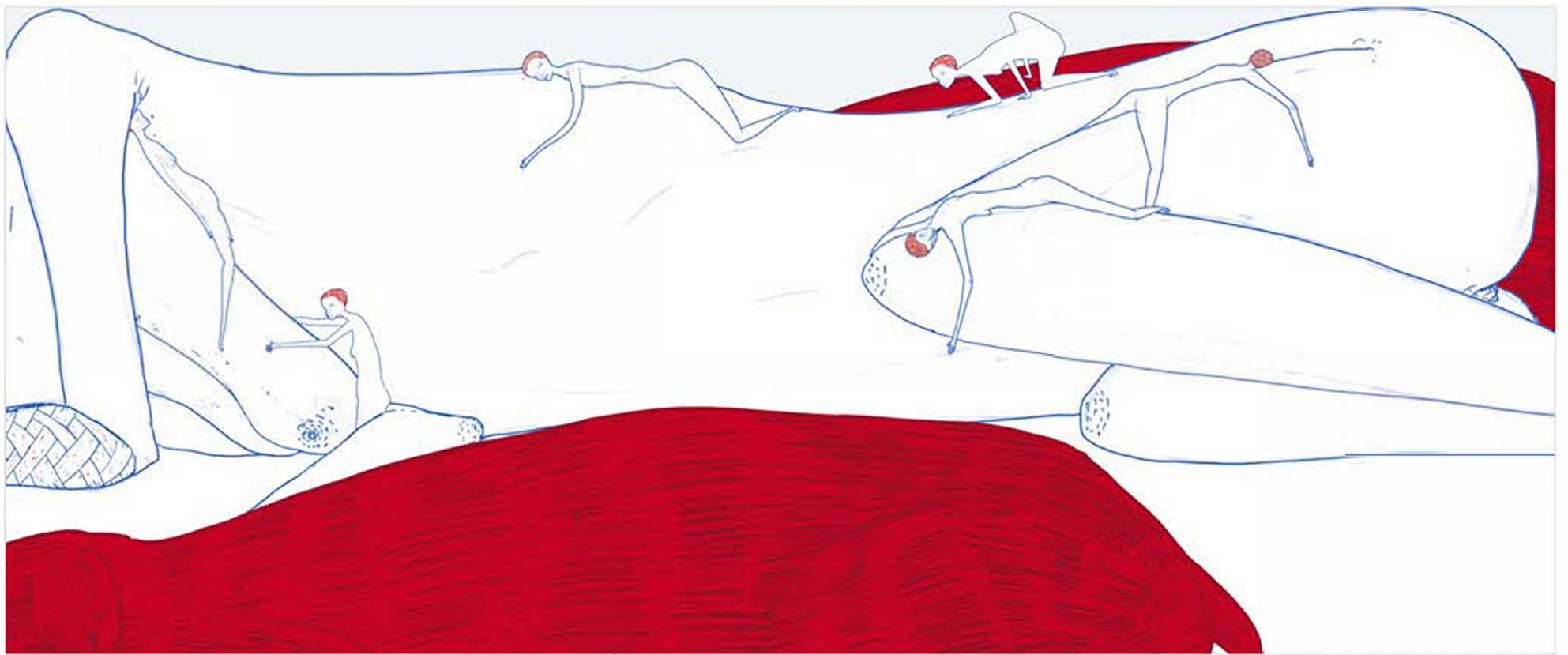
The film's title opts for a more traditional spelling of the character's name, "NSIMBA VITA" instead of "Kimpa Vita" as is more common. This linguistic choice is anchored in the original Kongo grammar.











THE CITY OF BELO HORIZONTE, THROUGH THE MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, PRESENTS:



# DONA BEATRIZ ÑSÍMBA VITA



DIRECTION AND SCRIPT:  
**CATAPRETA**

SOUND DIRECTION:  
**DANIEL NUNES**

PRODUCTION AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT:  
**MIRIAN ROLIM / MOTRIX PRODUÇÕES**



PROJECT NO.: 1226/2020  
BONA BEATRIZ ÑSÍMBA VITA



CULTURA



## CONTACT

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<https://www.instagram.com/catapreta/>

<http://www.youtube.com/@donabeatriznsimbavita>

<https://www.youtube.com/@catapretafilmes>

<https://vineo.com/catapreta>