



SYMBIOSIS

a circus diptych by Luuk Brantjes and Kolja Huneck

about the project

2 circus artists, 2 handwritings, 1 artistic vision. Symbiosis (working title) is a symbiotic creation process leading to a circus piece that is intertwined in its core. In this project Kolja Huneck and Luuk Brantjes are searching for a performative concept in which two artistic interpretations melt into one performance diptych.

Both artists collectively research and create their piece in shared residencies and unite their interests and experiences with Magie Nouvelle. Their approach to the circus disciplines object manipulation and teeterboard, will get refined in the process and will be used as language. The visual images, atmospheres and circus vocabulary create a piece that is connected like a mycorrhiza network.

Thematically the piece is inspired by and based on the separation between nature and humans. The powerlessness towards nature and its global complexity serves as starting points for their research. Luuk and Kolja are both fascinated and inspired by natural phenomena, materials, and underground spaces such as caves. For the creation they research about mining, oil exploitation and possible ways of being in balance with natural resources on planet earth.

Next to the piece itself, a mobile performance space will be developed that makes the diptych a unique immersive audience experience. A custom space that is molded by the world of the performance, shooting root in every new location.

The project is an international cooperation with partners in Germany, The Netherlands, France and Belgium.



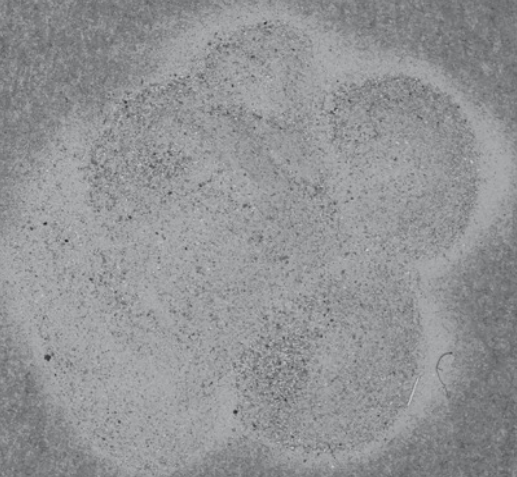


artistic intention

Kolja's chapters of Symbiosis are declaring love to our soil. For the piece, Kolja is inspired by what mother earth is generating: oil, coal, greens and much more! Object manipulation and circus research with vinyl records and raw materials will create a narrative about the fragility of humanity and our ecosystem. Visually shared with the audience, this piece should encourage the public to change perspective and to raise the question: Would we be where we are if our ecosystem is appreciated as science is demanding it?

The creation includes conducted research about soil, fossil energies and materials such as bitumen, asphalt, raw oil and plastics. Behavior, smell and plasticity of raw materials and objects such as vinyl records will be researched and become important playing partners on stage. Visibly and magically, physical influences such as warmth, cold and pressure are combined with circus concepts such as balance, movement repetitions and toss- and floor juggling.

Object manipulation, physical movement and Magie Nouvelle form the elementary language of Kolja to create images and atmosphere that touch, confront and inspire the spectators. Can the fascination for raw material and fragile objects be transmitted through circus?



In the chapters of Luuk, he questions a mirage that is right in front of us. His inspiration for Symbiosis is the alienation from our natural environment. Humans have tried to dominate nature for centuries; we have tried to use our resources to fulfill the wish of infinite growth. Slowly but surely, we are coming to realize that this infinite growth is like a fata morgana in a finite world.

With the teeterboard as a point of departure, Luuk will continue his research on how to evolve this apparatus. Using the principles of Magie Nouvelle his search will deviate even further and will focus on finding balance within imbalance, and the contrary.

The teeterboard as an apparatus will first be stripped down to its core, to afterwards be build back up into an apparatus that facilitates balance and propulsion. Using sandbags as a balancing partner, Luuk will also dig into material research and manipulation possibilities with sand.

Using this, and his movement and acrobatic capabilities he will shape the crumbling environment around him and translate this to poetic imagery. With the addition of other stage techniques, all this will come together into one coherent diegesis.

In addition to a lighting design for the bi-frontally seated dome tent, a sound concept for inside and outside the tent is to be created. The music or the sound design should be composed specifically for the piece, e.g. from underground noises and opencast mines. There is an exchange with various electronic musicians who complement each other artistically and accompany the symbiotic work process. In keeping with the theme of the piece, sound art based on vibrations and bass will be used to create a feeling of the underground.



the artists



Kolja Huneck

Kolja Huneck is circus author and performer from Munich, Germany and graduated in 2019 from Codarts Circus Arts in Rotterdam. His working field spreads out from The Netherlands and Germany into many other European countries. Currently, the focus of his work and interests are on contemplative circus pieces and alternative dramaturgies that stimulate thoughts or provide ephemeral sensory impressions. His signature objects are vinyl records and self-developed discs. He is currently touring his solo piece *CM_30* (shortlisted circusnext 2020-2021) in theatres and galleries and the collective *Sawdust Symphony* at indoor and outdoor festivals and venues. In 2021 he started the advanced training course with theory and practice of *Magie Nouvelle* at CNAC and finishes it in spring 2023.

www.kolja.art



Luuk Brantjes

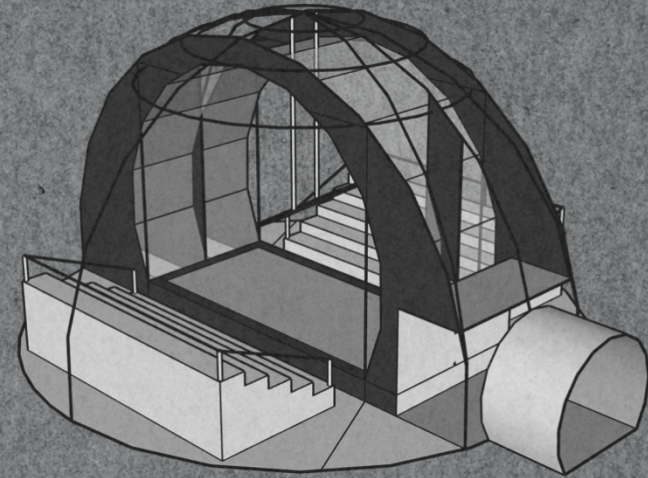
Luuk brantjes is a circus artist and maker from Rotterdam, The Netherlands. After graduating with his collective *4onBoard* from DOCH University for dance and circus in 2020, Luuk's path diverted into the creation of his first solo performance *L O N E*, an abstract solo circus piece that portrays the fine line between alone and lonely. Next to his solo work, Luuk is also co-author of the project *SMÄLTANDE*, a site-specific performance in the snow that focuses on climate awareness and the appreciation of winter. Luuk's education continued through the *BETA*-circus program where he took a dive into the deep in the world of *magie nouvelle*. His work is based on an alternative approach to his apparatus teeterboard, where the focus lies on finding infinite ways of interacting with the apparatus.

www.luukbrantjes.com

the venue

Symbiosis will be the first creation in Kolja and Luuk's dome tent. For several years they have wanted to discover the nomadic roots of the circus together and reach non-theater places with their piece in an immersive universe. Freed from the traditional codes of going to the theater, they want to create their own atmosphere, which begins even before you enter the tent.

With its above-ground dome, the tent invites you into the underground world and to experience subterranean circus moments. Working with smells, immersive sounds, vibrations and elaborate magic methods can only be explored and used for dramaturgy in a venue with consistent conditions.



The construction of the tent and the furnishings have been deliberately chosen and built in such a way that it can be transported by car and trailer, so no truck is required.

In addition to the tent, a light and sound system from previous productions will be used for symbiosis.

collaborators

The project is carried out in cooperation with an extended team. For us, working with artistic advisors is essential to work on the subject matter, the disciplines and the structure of the piece. Only with a look and advice from the outside it is possible to compose circus images, overlap scenes and tell stories through parallel piece fragments.

We are in conversation with dramaturge Valentine Losseau. She is co-founder of the French company 14:20, which has made the genre of magie nouvelle its own language. Valentine has been involved in various French productions for 20 years and is an anthropologist researching the perception and role of magic in different cultures.

The second artistic advisor is Benjamin Richter, dancer, circus artist and lecturer from Berlin, who has already worked with Kolja on his solo piece CM_30. Luuk met Benjamin when he was a lecturer at the circus school in Stockholm and has collaborated with him on projects, there as an artistic consultant.

With further artistic (light, sound and costume design) and administrative (production management) collaborators, planning talks are held over the course of 2023. Light is a very essential medium for magic, so a person experienced in lighting magie nouvelle is required. For further technical advice and support in the creation process, we are in contact with various technicians.





sustainability

In addition to our thematic examination of resource exploitation and transformation processes, we are also personally convinced that art and culture need new approaches, methods and concepts in order to become more sustainable and climate neutral. We have developed several measures and action steps that we would like to continuously supplement and further develop with the expertise of other cultural workers:

- We are using cork instead of plastic granules. We avoid using real sand that is very heavy in transport. Cork granules are created as by-product of cork processing and is a renewable and easily recyclable raw material.
- Only discarded carpets are used as stage sets and props for the creation and rehearsal phases and the touring. In cooperation with a Munich stand builder/supplier, old trade fair carpets are collected and picked up by us before they are destroyed.
- We would like to use the weight-saving construction of the tent as an incentive to be able to save as much weight as possible during transport.
- Travels are only made by train if no material transport is necessary.

In addition to ecological sustainability, we strive to create fair and long-lasting working conditions and relationships and to reach as many and as diverse an audience as possible with the piece. Only through future-oriented partnerships and long, well-planned touring all the resources and funds that flow into the creation of Symbiosis can be amortized.

calendar

Kolja and Luuk spend a few pre-production weeks in 2022 in artistic laboratories for research and vision development.

In the first half of 2023 the dome-tent will be tested and explored as a mobile venue for the creation.

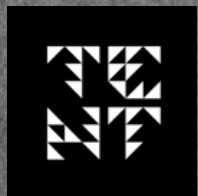
In the second half of 2023 Luuk and Kolja have residencies in Belgium to start the creation.

In 2024 Luuk and Kolja are planning to finalize the construction of the venue with stage and tribune, to have tryouts and pre-premieres, to conclude the creation process and to premier the project at the end of 2024.

partners

As mentioned at the beginning, Symbiosis is an international collaborative project. Already confirmed partners and supporters in the creation process are the following institutions:

- TENT Amsterdam: coproduction, production consulting
- Circolo Tilburg: coproduction
- Ruhrfestspiele Recklinghausen: co-production, tent residency with tryout at the Ruhrfestspielhaus/Stadtgarten, performance in 2025
- Circuswerkplaats PERPLX VZW, Kortrijk, Belgium: co-production, research residency in autumn 2023 and summer 2024
- Circuswerkplaats Dommelhof, Neerpelt, Belgium: creation residency in 2024
- Theater HochX Munich: partner/venue of the Munich premiere in winter 2024
- MUCCA Munich: residency partner for winter residency in 2024
- CNAC Châlons-en-Champagne: residency partner for Magie Nouvelle research
- Korzo Theatre Den Haag: storage partner
- Latitude 50: residency in autumn 2023
- CIRKLABO: residency in summer 2023



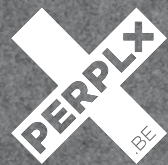
**LATITUDE
50**
POLE ARTS DU CIRQUE
ET DE LA RUE



HochX Theater und Live Art



Korzo



CIRKLABO

CNAC

**CENTRE
NATIONAL
DES ARTS
DU CIRQUE**

gallery



More photos and videos can be found through these links:

www.kolja.art/symbiosis-pro

www.luukbrantjes.com/symbiosis-pro

