



# SYMBIOSIS

a circus diptych by Luuk Brantjes and Kolja Huneck



# about the project

2 circus artists, 2 handwritings, 1 artistic vision. A symbiotic creation process leading into two circus pieces that are intertwined in their core. In this project Kolja Huneck and Luuk Brantjes are searching for a performative concept in which two solo pieces melt into one performance diptych.

Both artists collectively research and create their pieces 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 link two performance fragments into a mycorrhiza network.

Thematically the pieces are inspired by and based on the separation between nature and humans. The powerlessness towards nature and its global complexity serve as starting points for their research.

Next to the two pieces, 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 chapters

### Mutterboden (working title)

Kolja's fragment of Symbiosis Mutterboden is 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 of *Mutterboden* includes conducted research about soil, fossil energies and materials such as bitumen, 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 in *Mutterboden* 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?

Next to the lyrical disposition of voice, vibrating sounds and music are used in *Mutterboden* and create one link to the work of Luuk Brantjes.

### Fatal Morgana (working title)

In the chapter of Luuk, *Fatal Morgana*, Luuk intends to break down a mirage that is right in front of us. Humans have tried to dominate nature for centuries; they have tried to use it as an infinite resource to fulfill the needs of men. Slowly but surely, we are coming to realize that this infinite growth is like a fata morgana in a finite world. Inspiration for *Fatal Morgana* the alienation towards our natural environment. Can a circus dialogue with an apparatus give perspectives on reconnected nature/human?

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 be stripped down into no more than a wooden plank, a pile of sand and some ropes. Using this, and his movement and acrobatic capabilities Luuk will shape the crumbling environment around him and translate this to poetic imagery. With the addition of projection and other stage techniques all this will come together into one coherent diegesis.





## 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](http://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.

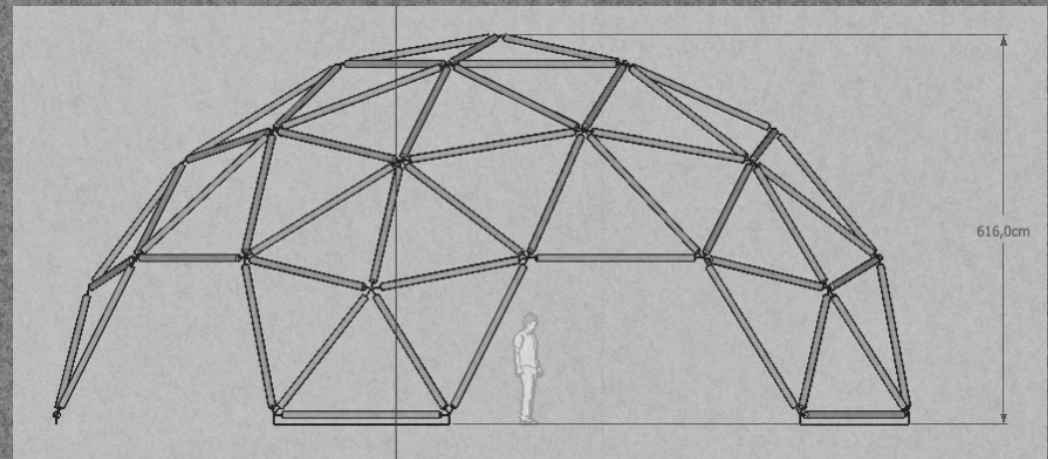
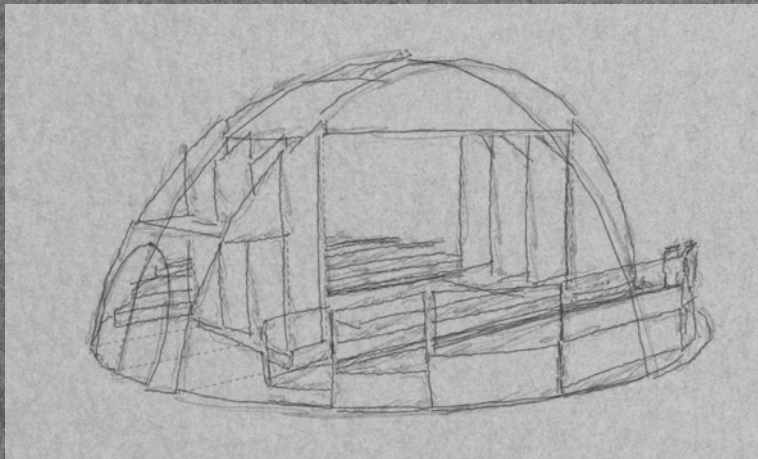
[www.luukbrantjes.com](http://www.luukbrantjes.com)



# the venue

*Symbiosis* – a circus diptych by Luuk Brantjes and Kolja Huneck will be created and performed in a tourable performance venue. In 2022 the first feasibility of mobile structures is going to be evaluated.

The shared performance space makes the diptych un-separable and due to a fine mycorrhizal network intertwining the works into one symbiotic whole, the audience will be absorbed into the universe of the piece.





## calendar

The year 2022 with its pre-production phases is dedicated to artistic laboratories, vision development through reading residencies and attending workshops. In order to network, build references together and discuss and continue the dialogue about art, circus, venues and ideas, Luuk and Kolja travel to several festivals together and watch as many performances possible from different genres. The goal for 2022 is to find artistic coherence between Mutterboden and Fatal Morgana in the pre-production phases.

Both artists refine their circus vocabulary, apparatus and objects to be able to start the parallel creation process of the pieces in April 2023. During 4-7 weeks of residencies inside theaters or other venues the first scenes of the pieces will be written.

Throughout 2023 the construction of the portable venue that will host Symbiosis is planned and realized. The goal is to have the first creation residencies inside the venue in the 2nd half of 2023.

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

## collaborators

The project will be accompanied by several artistic and technical collaborators who will be finalized throughout autumn 2022.

## partners

TENT, Circolo

