

**KAAI**  
**THEATER**

RE:RITUE

**SYMPOSIUM**  
RITUALS IN ARTISTIC PRACTICE

23/03/2018 | 12:00 > 20:00 | KAAISTUDIO'S | IN ENGLISH

**EXTRA**

- Hungry? There are rice rolls for sale at the bar.
- Visit the exhibition on *Gallop's* creation with work by Dolores Bouckaert, Kris Dewitte a.o



# RE:RITE SYMPOSIUM

## RITUALS IN ARTISTIC PRACTICE

12:00 > 14:00 **FILM SCREENING** *The Embrace of the Serpent* (2015) / Ciro Guerra

### **RITUALS AND DAILY ARTISTIC PRACTICES**

14:00 **PERFORMANCE** *see sea zie zee* – Dounia Mahammed & Jan-Baptist Van Damme

14:30 **INTRODUCTION** on *RE:RITE* – Katleen Van Langendonck

14:45 **LECTURE PERFORMANCE** *Winter:sleep: the new black* – Valentine Kempynck

15:15 **SILENT MEDITATION** – The Monastery

15:30 **PANEL DISCUSSION** with artists Dounia Mahammed, Jan-Baptist Van Damme, Dolores Bouckaert, Myriam Lefkowitz, and Géraldine Longueville – moderated by Elke Van Campenhout

16:00 **RITUAL** *touch is in the air* – Robert Steijn

16:15 **QUESTIONS**

### **BREAK**

### **RITUALS AND APPROPRIATION**

16:45 **PERFORMANCE** *Oxumaré / Quetzalcoatl / Satan / Eva* – Robert Steijn

17:00 **LECTURE** *Beyond property, taking a free license to ritual acculturation* – Elke Van Campenhout

17:20 **LECTURE** *Re-Membering the Spi-Ritual Function of Art* – Kendell Geers

17:40 **QUESTIONS**

18:00 **SILENT MEDITATION** – The Monastery

18:10 **TALK** on *folktranceparty* – Simon Mayer, Manuel Wagner & Coupé Décalé

18:30 **TALK** *Yet nothing remains undanced. About tao and undancing dance* – Anne Teresa De Keersmaecker and Wannes Ghyselincx

19:00 **CELEBRATION** *Folktranceparty practice* – Simon Mayer, Manuel Wagner, Annegret Schalke & Coupé Décalé

# RE:RITE SYMPOSIUM

## RITUALS IN ARTISTIC PRACTICE

With RE:RITE, Kaaitheater is taking time to revisit one of the basic principles of the theatre: the ritual. We are going back to the original meaning of rituals – a temporary transformation in the theatre or a permanent transformation in the rites of passage – and will look beyond what they have all too often become, namely a sequence of coded movements or meaningless formal remnants. Traditional rituals have lost much of their power in Western society. And yet, there is a great need for ritualized moments, and especially for those that transcend the sacred rites that are often only associated with one religious tradition.

But what might these new rituals be in our current, 'fluid' times in which everything has become more fleeting and transient? In our almost completely desecularized and pluralist society, grand rituals appear to have been replaced by the small, the concrete, the authentic, and the everyday.

For many performing artists, rituals are an essential part of their practice. They integrate them into bodily routines, or use them as tools to organize daily life, work rhythms, creation processes, or the moment of a performance. For the today's symposium, we invited an array of artists and researchers to reflect on their usage of ritualistic elements during a day full of talks, interactive sharings, and... celebrations.

# RE:RITE SYMPOSIUM

## RITUALS IN ARTISTIC PRACTICE

### WHO IS WHO?

#### ***The Embrace of the Serpent* (2015) / **Ciro Guerra****

*The Embrace of the Serpent* tells the legendary story of a first contact, a first meeting, a betrayal and finally a friendship that becomes more important than life itself. The protagonists are a shaman, the last survivor of his people, and two scientists who, over a period of 40 years, explore the Amazonian forest in search of a sacred plant with the power to heal them. At once blistering and poetic, the ravages of colonialism cast a dark shadow over the South American landscape.

#### **Dounia Mahammed and Jan-Baptist Van Damme**

Dounia Mahammed graduated from the Drama Department at the KASK in Ghent in 2015. Her work displays an exceptional sensitivity to language, humour and a visual way of thinking. She is particularly interested in social issues, philosophical reflections and the poetry of everyday things. Her work is intended to tell us something about mankind and being human, and swings from wonder to despair.

For the painter and drawer Jan-Baptist Van Damme, creating beauty is a natural reaction on reality. It is a satisfied answer on the present. Without being too complex or spectacular, he invites the spectator for a different and slower way of looking.

In *see sea zie zee*, she and Jan-Baptist explore the fine line between everything and nothing.

#### **Valentine Kempynck**

Valentine Kempynck develops ways to make death part of our lives again. This season she organised the project *Winter:Sleep* at the Kaaistudio's. On the first evening of winter a group of people made a pact: they would have 92 nights to sleep on a plan for what a contemporary hibernation could be. On the first day of spring they reassembled, to compare proposals and leave something behind. Today, she will be reflecting on this project.

#### **The Monastery**

In the whirlwind of work, relationships, deadlines and discussions, we sometimes get distracted from the most important things in life: feeling alive and being conscious of our entire being and everything around you. The Monastery is an experimental spiritual urban community that aims to do exactly that: by performing daily rituals and making every action an intense experience. The 'monks' who will lead the *A-LIFE* cycle are Elke Van Campenhout, Stijn Smeets and Robin Amanda Creswell.

The Monastery is coming to the Kaaistudios four times this season with *A-LIFE*, a ritualistic day that is patterned to the rhythm of the seasons. You can live the life of a monk for an entire day or take part in only one ritual, attend a lecture, or join a ritual dinner.

## **Dolores Bouckaert**

Dolores Bouckaert is an actress, visual artist, author and director who always seeks to foster intimacy onstage. She previously presented *Deceptive Bodies* at Kaaithheater, in cooperation with Charlotte Vanden Eynde. This season she also presented *Gallop. Biography of a Body*. You can visit the accompanying exhibition in the concert studio. Her work balances between fiction and reality, while her body is her most important instrument.

## **Myriam Lefkowitz and Geraldine Longueville**

Both Myriam Lefkowitz and Geraldine Longueville are part of *La Piscine*, a collective project that gathers different artistic practices and works addressed to a single spectator. Similarly to an actual swimming pool which holds the mixing water together, *La Piscine* holds the space for such practices to mix and transform each other so that each encounter is a unique experience and a work in itself.

Myriam Lefkowitz is a performance artist. Since 2010, her research is focused on questions of attention and perception. Research which she is developing through different immersive devices involving one spectator and one performer.

Geraldine Longueville's practice started in 2005 as a curator by exploring formats of the exhibition. She nurtured the artists' inventiveness by creating flexible and multiple modes of exhibiting and sharing it with an audience in the form of a show, a residency, a song, a poem, or a meal. When she started collaborating with *La Piscine* in 2015, she also started making drinks and potions that question notions of welcoming, mediation and transmission.

## **Robert Steijn**

Choreographer and performer Robert Steijn has been making intimate choreographic duets for the past five years. He has collaborated with artists such as Ricardo Rubio and Angela Schubot. As a creator, he has appeared at Kaaithheater with Frans Poelstra, as a performer with Maria Hassabi, and – during RE:RITE – with his *Walk into Nothingness*. As the co-organizer of the artists' encounter facing the smell of death, he explores how art can relate to the persistent violence in Mexican society.

## **Elke Van Campenhout**

Elke Van Campenhout (Elle) is currently a monk at the transspiritual living community The Monastery in Brussels. She was previously active as an artistic researcher, writer and mentor, and developed her research under the umbrella of 'Bureau d-Esprit'.

In her lecture today, she explores the ins and outs of 'appropriation', on the edge between paternalism and political correctness, and expresses a personal need for an alternative model for cultural identity that is not territorial. Is it possible to rethink appropriation as a creative tool to unlearn and rethink the status quo of the 'we'?

## **Kendell Geers**

Speaking as an African artist living in Brussels, Kendell Geers will speak about the role of ritual in his practice. Describing himself as an AniMystikAktivist, his work is a syncretic approach that weaves together diverse Afro-European traditions from Animism and Activism, to Alchemy, Mysticism and Ritual Magick.

### **Simon Mayer**

Simon Mayer, performer, choreographer and musician, was born in Austria in 1984 and studied at the Vienna State Opera Ballet School, at the Performing Arts and Research Studios in Brussels (PARTS) and was a member of the Vienna State Opera Ballet. In 2009 he founded his band *Rising Halfmoon* as singer, songwriter and guitarist. In 2014 Simon released his latest music album *Monkeymind*. Simon worked amongst others for Anne Teresa de Keersmaecker, Wim Vandekeybus and Zita Swoon. At the Kaaitheater, he presented *SunBengSitting* and *Sons of Sissy*. He choreographed several solos, duos and grouppieces which are internationally presented. He received the outstanding artist award from the Austrain Chancellery in 2017.

### **Anne Teresa De Keersmaecker**

In 1980, after studying dance at Mudra School in Brussels and Tisch School of the Arts in New York, Anne Teresa De Keersmaecker created *Asch*, her first choreographic work. Two years later came the premiere of *Fase, Four Movements to the Music of Steve Reich*. De Keersmaecker established the dance company Rosas in Brussels in 1983, while creating the work *Rosas danst Rosas*. Since these breakthrough pieces, her choreography has been grounded in a rigorous and prolific exploration of the relationship between dance and music. She has created with Rosas a wide-ranging body of work engaging the musical structures and scores of several periods, from early music to contemporary and popular idioms. Her choreographic practice also draws formal principles from geometry, numerical patterns, the natural world, and social structures to offer a unique perspective on the body's articulation in space and time. In 1995 De Keersmaecker established the school P.A.R.T.S. (Performing Arts Research and Training Studios) in Brussels in association with De Munt/La Monnaie.

### **Wannes Ghyselinkck**

Wannes Gyselinkck a PhD in Ancient Greek Literature with a thesis on 'irony and fiction/meta-fiction in rhetorical Greek writing'. While a student he was a member of Lite, an electric guitar ensemble that played compositions by and together with John King (USA) and René Lussier (Canada). In addition to his work as a freelance writer on theatre, literature, music, dance and art (with commissions from Rosas, Ictus, LOD, the Handelsbeurs, Bijloke, Concertgebouw Bruges, etc.) he also writes on the performing arts for rekto:verso, the art criticism magazine and works as a dramaturge, among others for Hof van Eede.



# MORE RE:RITE MOMENTS

## CONVERSATIONS IN VERMONT: LISA NELSON

Sarma is launching a digital publication about the life and work of dancer/video artist Lisa Nelson. In the company of Nelson herself, we are offering you a glimpse of the result, which also features a series of interviews with Lisa Nelson, conducted by Myriam Van Imschoot. There will first be a workshop by Anouk Laurens and then a presentation.

**KAAISTUDIO'S | 30/03  
TALK & WORKSHOP**

## MICHEL VANDEVELDE & fABULEUS

PARADISE NOW (1968-2018)

July 1968. The legendary *Paradise Now* by The Living Theatre premieres at the Festival d'Avignon. The actors attempted to unleash a revolution by getting the audience into a state of readiness. Half a century later, Vandeveldde is exploring the vestiges of the legacy of May '68 with a new generation of young people.

**KAAITHEATER | 12>13/05  
PERFORMANCE/DANCE**

## FABRICE SAMYN A BREATH CYCLE

Visual artist Fabrice Samyn installs five of his *Breath Pieces* around a waiting room. Performers do various things that intensify your awareness of time and focus your attention on the fundamental and uncontrollable nature of breathing. Each section follows a consultable protocol that determines the interactions between performers and audience.

**KAAISTUDIO'S | 21-22/04  
PERFORMANCE**

## LUCINDA RA GRONDWERK

In *Grondwerk*, the intermittent collective Lucinda Ra is presenting a continuous performance, lecture, exhibition, studio, kitchen, and brass band. Over a 72-hour period, you will discover more about life and death in the welfare state from three different perspectives: as a child, as a working person, and as a senior citizen.

**KAAISTUDIO'S | 22>24/06  
THEATRE/PERFORMANCE**



Vlaanderen  
verbeelding werke



Klara

BRUZZ



dS  
De  
Standaard