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CHRISTOPHE MEIERHANS

TRIALS OF MONEY

Trials of Money turns the theatre into a court of justice. The audience is invited to take part in the Special Tribunal for Semi-Human Persons that, instead of human subjects or legal entities, puts that very complex “thing” on trial that we most commonly call “money”. Can money be held responsible for the disastrous state the world is in today?

But how can we hold a fair trial, if everybody in court is involved with the accused? How can we call money to the stand to answer the charges brought against it, if it doesn't have a voice of its own? Ten witnesses will testify: a psychologist, an ex-banker, an employee of the Swiss National Bank, a homeless person, a rich philanthropist, a Native American, a professor of economics, a member of a kibbutz and a criminologist.

The trial is conducted as a collective exercise: the performers deliver their testimonies by responding to any questions the audience might want to ask them. Together, they will attempt to respond to the accusations money is facing: charges of fraud, extortion, non-assistance to a person in danger, incitement to hatred and slavery. Should money be found guilty, what would be a just sentence?



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PRESS

Het uitgangspunt voor Trials of Money is een fictieve, science fictionachtige rechtbank, 'een speciaal tribunaal voor half-menselijke personen'. We kunnen er niet langer omheen: we leven in een tijd waarin we bepaalde dingen niet zomaar meer 'dingen' kunnen noemen, omdat ze steeds meer zelf kunnen handelen – denk aan AI, het internet of gedecentraliseerde systemen. Maar wie draagt de verantwoordelijkheid als er geen centrale, identificeerbare persoon is die de leiding neemt?

Christophe Meierhans in conversation with Toon Vandeveld in Etcetera
(14.03.2018) (NL)

Tot nu konden enkel mensen en organisaties terechtgesteld worden. Ik voegde een derde categorie toe: "semihumane personen", menselijke uitvindingen die een eigen leven lijken te leiden.

Christophe Meierhans on *Trials of Money* in De Standaard (14.04.2018) (NL)

We betalen als het ware een heffing voor het bestaan van geld. En dat is een beetje gek", zegt Meierhans. "Vraag je een bankier waarom we rente betalen, dan zal hij zeggen dat het de 'huur' is voor geld. Maar als banken met een truc op de balans geld creëren op het moment dat ze de lening creëren, aan wie betalen we dan de huur?

Christophe Meierhans on *Trials of Money* in De Wereld Morgen (19.04.2017) (NL)

In some respect you could refer to money as being a kind of source-code of the economy. In this view, anything that is running on top of this source code (markets, trade regulations, etc.) must be somehow conditioned by money's own embedded logic. So when you use a form of money that is designed around debt and scarcity it is very likely that any types of relationship that are mediated by it, will have to deal with these issues as well.

Christophe Meierhans interviewed by Eva Decaesstecker (Kaaaitheater)
(16.04.2018) (EN)

CREDITS

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BIOGRAPHY

CHRISTOPHE MEIERHANS

°1977, Genève (CH), lives and works in Brussels

He works with and within performances, public spaces, theater, installations, sound, music and video. His work consists mainly in developing strategies for interventions in our daily life protocols through manipulating conventional agreements, social habits or simple usages. Fragments of reality such as an existing speech, a café, a theater performance or our daily audiophily become frameworks for artistic operations which attempt to redirect banality so as to only let it reappear under peculiar angles. His work raises questions of norms and conventions by confusing casual contexts with another and confronting the spectator with some kind of otherness, the strangeness of being in the “wrong” place, or of the place itself being the “wrong” one.

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AGENDA

18 & 19.04.2018	KAAISTUDIO'S (BRUSSELS) • PREMIÈRE •
20 & 21.05.2018	AUAWIRLEBEN (BERN)
01.07.2018	BELLUARD BOLLWERK INTERNATIONAL (FRIBOURG)
13 & 14.09.2018	BIT TEATERGARASJEN (BERGEN)
10.2018	TEATRO MARIA MATOS (LISBON) • TBC •
11.2018	NEXT FESTIVAL (KORTRIJK) • TBC •
02.2019	ZONA K (MILAN) • TBC •
03.2019	L'APOSTROPHE - SCÈNE NATIONALE CERGY-PONTOISE VAL D'OISE (CERGY) • TBC •
06.2019	NOUVEAU THÉÂTRE DE MONTREUIL (PARIS) • TBC •
2019-2020	VOORUIT (GENT) • TBC •
2019-2020	FESTIVAL DE LA CITÉ (LAUSANNE) • TBC •

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[HTTP://WWW.HIROS.BE/EN/PROJECTS/DETAIL/TRIALS-OF-MONEY](http://www.hiros.be/en/projects/detail/trials-of-money)



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HIROS

Hiros is a production and management structure for independent artists working in various disciplines. We offer tailor-made support for each artist and project, ranging from pre-production to production, administration, communication to financial management, tour management to post-production.

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