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KAREL BURSSENS

CURRENTS

Currents unfolds in two parts, as a durational installation and a performance. The installation explores the simplest of forms, a line, turned into a light sculpture. Through repetition, it defines not only rhythm, space and light, but also the movements of a dancer. He will meet and confront the moving sculpture in an effort to reconfigure the relationship between man and machine.

The initial state of alienation is pushed to reach a poetic realm, a layered landscape to dream into. As such, both installation and performance aim to reveal our contemporary position as entities forced to adapt to an ever-changing world on both a technological and socio-political level. How do we deal with these situations? How do we continually find a new balance within our own environment and how do we deal with this on a larger scale?



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CREDITS

Concept and direction: Karel Burssens

Created with and performed by: Mario Barrantes Espinoza

Created with: Tarek Halaby

Dramaturgy dance: Femke Gyselinck

Music written by: Daniel Brandt

Music performed by: Ruth Velten (Soprano- & Baritone-Saxophone), Simon Goff (Violin), Andreas Voss (Cello), Florian Juncker (Trombone), Daniel Brandt (Guitar, Bass, Synths, Drums, Piano)

Music published by: Erased Tapes Music Ltd

Light designed with: Cate Carter, Geert Vanhout, Bryte Design, Kristof De Dycker

Costume design: Max Doerr

Outside eye: Jeroen Verrecht

Film by: Robbrecht Desmet, Sander Vandenbroucke

Production sculpture: Fisheye

Production: Hiros

Coproduction: C-TAKT, STUK, deSingel, Vooruit

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BIOGRAPHY

KAREL BURSSSENS

°1984 Belgium, lives and works in Brussels

Karel Burssens is a transdisciplinary artist who trained as an architect and engineer, initially working with Bogdan-Van Broeck architects and Bureau Bas Smets. He went on to become Head of Architecture at villa eugénie, while working on a wide range of fashion shows for Dior, Lanvin, Kenzo, a.o. In 2010 he began to collaborate with Jeroen Verrecht as 88888, developing both commissioned and self-initiated international projects in scenography, installation art and architecture.

Karel Burssens' independent practice is currently evolving on the sidelines of several distinct artistic worlds: sculpture, installation, performance and scenography. On different physical scales ranging from independent objects and sculptures to complex collaborative performance-oriented projects, his work aims to initiate reflections on subjects as broad as society, systems, technology and human interactions therewith.

In 2019, his project Currents had its premiere at Vooruit crystallising Burssens' previous transdisciplinary experience and research into a sculpture-performance.



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TEAM

MARIO BARRANTES ESPINOZA

Mario Barrantes Espinoza is a Costa Rican-Nicaraguan choreographer and performer based in Brussels. In 2017 he graduated at the P.A.R.T.S. training and research cycle. He has collaborated with artists such as Kate McIntosh, Eszter Salamon and Michiel Vandevelde. Currently he continues to develop projects as an independent artist.

DANIEL BRANDT

In 2017, Daniel Brandt released his first solo album, titled Eternal Something on Erased Tapes. The German artist is best known as the drummer for Brandt Brauer Frick. Aside from some trombone parts, Brandt performed all instrumentation on Eternal Something himself, including percussion as well as guitar, bass, keyboards and synths.

MAX DOERR

Max Doerr (1979) graduated in Menswear Design at St. Martin's College, London in 2006. From 2007 until 2012 he worked at the menswear department of Jil Sander. Former Head Menswear Design at Christian Dior Couture, he currently is Design Director prêt-à-porter at Berluti.

CATE CARTER

Cate Carter (1985) is a lighting designer. Specialising in lighting and stage design for music concerts, tours and special events, she currently works with a number of international touring artists worldwide, like Oscar and the Wolf a.o.

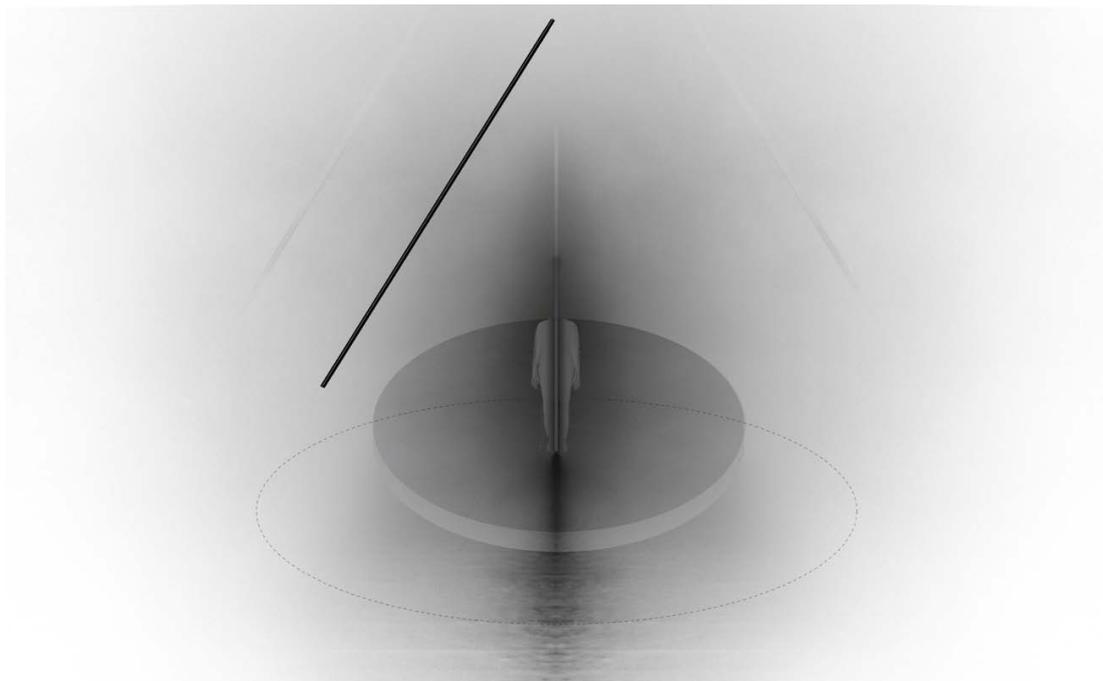
FEMKE GYSELINCK

Femke Gyselinck (1983) graduated at P.A.R.T.S in 2006. She works as artistic assistant of Anne Teresa De Keersmaecker/Rosas since 2010. She also makes her own work: Lachrimae or Seaven Teares (2012), L'echo du Danube (2014), Flamer (2017), a piece together Lander Gyselinck (STUFF., LabTrio) and her upcoming piece Moving Ballads (2020). She is a member of the faculty of P.A.R.T.S. and is a teacher at KASK/Hogent.

TEAM

JEROEN VERRECHT

Jeroen Verrecht (1984) is trained as an engineer-architect and currently works in the fields of installation art, scenography, architecture and photography. The latter is used as a seemingly objective form of discourse on the development and use of the cultured environment. Since 2015 he teaches at LUCA, school of Arts, Brussels & Gent.



PRESS

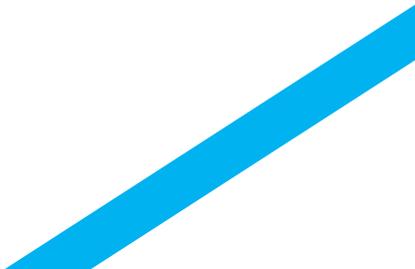
“a remarkable spectacle in a dark space”

read [the review](#) (in Dutch) on Currents published in Hart

“through the selective use of scene and choreographic gestures, Burssens and Barrantes Espinoza succeed in suggesting an intense corporality and position in the world - which contrasts beautifully with the apparent simplicity of the means, a man and a light pole on an otherwise empty stage, slowly being revealed. In Currents’ black-and-white environment, space and time become elastic, picturesque concepts, where presence acquires an existential quality amid the mighty chemistry of theater light and dark. It is reminiscent of the dramatics of Koltès and other nocturnal loneliness in clair-obscur, but without a clear dramatic build-up or dito ending.”

read [the review](#) (in Dutch) on Currents published on Theaterkant

[Video interview](#) with Karel Burssens during his residency at Vooruit



AGENDA

26 & 27.09.19 FESTIVAL VAN DE ARCHITECTUUR, VOORUIT (GENT) •PREMIERE•

03.10.19 STUK (LEUVEN)

05 & 06.02.2020 BEYOND THE BLACK BOX, BRAKKE GROND (AMSTERDAM)

Check [our website](#) for all confirmed tour dates.



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VIDEO

Trailer vimeo.com/387969052

Full performance vimeo.com/385251241

password: Unknown

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HIROS

Hiros is an organisation which supports the development of artistic trajectories.

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