

Gosie Vervloessem



PORTFOLIO

Gosie Vervloessem's artistic research focuses on the position of the researcher in times of multiple crises. Her work faces the challenges that arise within this role, and looks for new ways of producing knowledge. Her practice is an ongoing quest on finding tools to relate to a world that is messy and chaotic. Therefore she juggles with and re-interprets the practices of cooking, digesting, co-digesting, immersion or osmosis, as tools to literally embody that relation.

Immersion or osmosis in comparison with digestion covers more holes than the mouth and anus and therefore it seems a richer concept.

In scrutinising this relationship she focuses mainly on the concept of nature and tries to unravel the ideas that underpin this concept. In doing that, she identifies herself as a Sick Detective, a character that involves the vegetal kingdom as a possible ally in her research. Her work is highly inspired by plant biology, comic books, horror movies. It is mainly presented as lecture-performance, in the form of workshops or publications.

Gosie Vervloessem lives and works in Brussels. She studied Pedagogical Sciences at KULeuven and was later awarded a master's degree in Audiovisual Arts by the LUCA School of Arts Brussels. Since 2013 she has been following the Advanced Performance and Scenography Studies course at a.pass.

RECIPES FOR DISASTER: The Magazine & Tupperware Party (2015-ongoing) is an online magazine and a workshop that cooks up some crucial questions about classification and control: How do we cope with chaos in our daily lives? How to argue for a messy and less sterile life in times of Corona? I use the **Recipes for Disaster Magazine**, a collection of my cooking recipes, as a catalyst for hosting Tupperware Parties - women getting together around the kitchen table to attend demonstrations of shiny plastic boxes. While tasting, cooking and partying together, the idea that everything can be nicely stored and hygienically put away gets step by step disrupted. **Recipes for Disaster** is presented as a workshop in people's kitchens, as a workshop for children, as a market stand, as an open lab and an online open source magazine.
www.recipesfordisaster.be



Title: Recipes for Disaster

Time: Workshop – 120' // Market stand – as long as the duration of the market // Open lab – ongoing

Format: A workshop in people's kitchens, a workshop for children, a market stand, an open lab, an online open source magazine

Support: Flemish Authorities // Production: WpZimmer // Collaborators: Naomi Kerkhove and Wendy Van Weynsberghe for the marketstand and kids workshop version



GREETINGS FROM NAGASAKI (2016) is a lecture-performance about the Japanese Knotweed, an invasive species well known in Europe. The story of this plant is the starting point for a cooking session and at the same time a moment to reflect on the theme of migration in a quasi-scientific, poetic and absurd way.



Title: Greetings from Nagasaki

Time: 45'

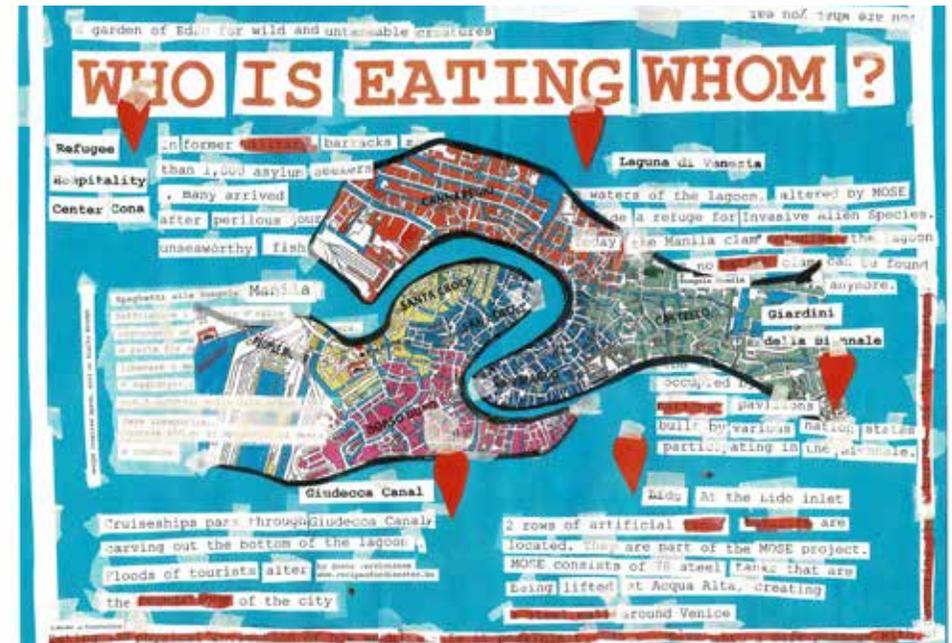
Format: Lecture-performance

Support: Flemish Authorities // Production: workspacebrussels and WpZimmer



WHO IS EATING WHOM? (2017) is a publication in the form of place-mats for restaurants. The publication revolves around the concept of swamp ecology, invasion and floods. It focuses on the Manila clam, a so-called invasive species in the Venice Lagoon and from there, holds a critique on the problematic framing of other so-called floods: the migration crisis and the Venice Art Biennial.

Who is eating whom? was part of the project **Dark Matter Games** (S.a.L.e Docks and workspacebrussels) and was spread in restaurants in Venice during the Biennial in 2017.



Title: Who is eating whom?

Format: Publication, placemat

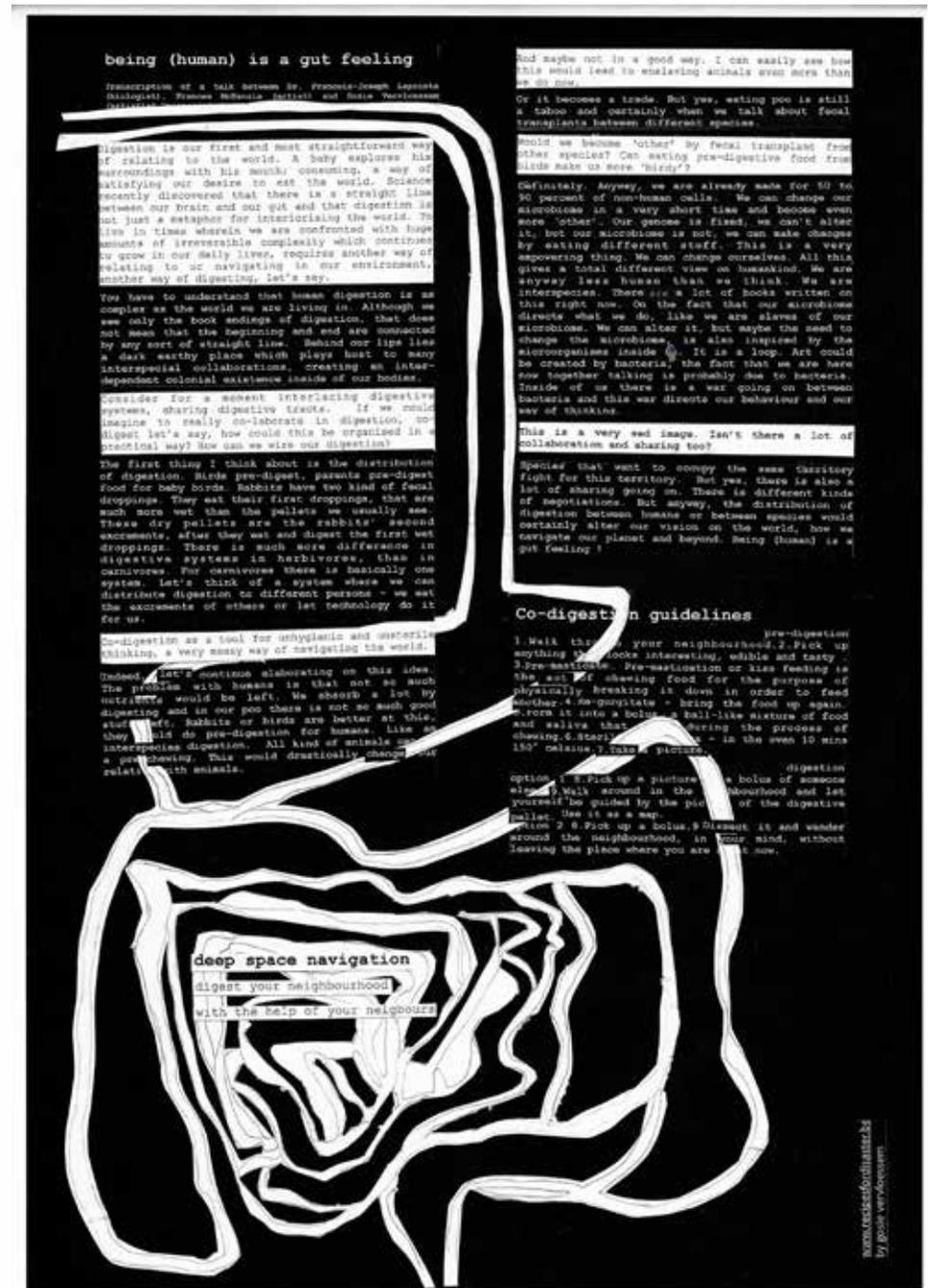
Support: Flemish Authorities // Production: workspacebrussels and WpZimmer

DEEP SPACE NAVIGATION (2018-ongoing) is a one-on-one workshop and a poster that focuses on co-digestion as a way for cruising complexity. It invites people to participate in a process of shared digestion as a tool to better understand the complexity of the world in which we currently live. We start with our own neighborhood: "How to digest your neighborhood with wiring your digestive system to that of your neighbor?". By interlacing digestive practices, the workshop attempts to re-imagining Planet Earth. The poster contains a transcription of a collective brainstorm session about co-digestion with a biologist, and a recipe for making co-digestion real.



Title: Deep Space Navigation
Format: Workshop, one on one

Support: Flemish Authorities // Production: workspacebrussels and WpZimmer



HUSHHUSH OF THE BUSH (2018-ongoing) is a video installation based on a series of texts about my research on invasive species. In the video installation, I tell stories about my fascination about my favorite invasive species, the Japanese knotweed. During my search for stories, I met interesting people: Jo from Knotweed Control in Swansea lead me around the capital of Japanese knotweed Swansea; I worked with Sasha, the head of eradication business in Chur; I got lost with Gusti, a forest ranger in Iceland; I encountered homeless people living in a knotweedbush in Brussels; had long conversations with Denis from the Botanical Garden in Meise. These encounters constantly changed my vision of this tenacious exote - moreover, my vision of invasive species in general. What can be labeled as nature and what not? The fierce reactions that the Japanese knotweed unleashes, raise at the same time questions about categorization, mobility, migration, colonialism, horror and the secret power of plants.



Title: HushHush of the Bush

Format: Installation

Support: Flemish Authorities // Production: WpZimmer



IN A SNOWSTORM THAT DILUTES MY SENSES, I HEAR THE SATIRICAL LAUGH OF THE JOKER BOUNCING FROM ONE WALL TO THE OTHER. ADAM SHRINKS OF FEAR AND QUICKLY THROWS THE APPLE IN A NEARBY BUSH. TIME STANDS STILL, THINGS STOP MOVING. EVERYTHING STARTS TO FADE AND GETS ENTWINED IN MY MIND, WINDED DENSELY TOGETHER INTO ONE BIG INEXTRICABLE KNOT. THE GARDEN OF EDEN, SHRINKS, GETS LIFTED BY THE STORM AND GETS THROWN BETWEEN MY FEET. NO CONSERVATIONIST TRICK COULD EVER UNTANGLE THIS SLIPPERY JUMBLE.

THE HORROR GARDEN (2018-ongoing) is an investigative performance and/or installation about the relationship between humans and plants. It questions a number of important issues: Can the relationship between people and plants transcend the unlimited mutual exploitation? What can we learn about ourselves if we consider plants as the significant order and what kind of horror can this lead to? What happens when plants break out of the background of our living rooms? When searching for answers to these questions, I call on a number of horror movies in which plants frighten us. Sometimes they attack us head-on, but often the horror lies in ominously waving branches and rustling bushes. Colonization runs like a red thread through the story: colonization of territory by humans and plants, colonization of organisms, bodies and spirits.

The work spans three different locations where the human-vegetal relation comes to a climax, where the relation between humans and plants takes a stark form: the nature reserve, the plantation and the botanical garden. Places with a direct link to a colonial past. Places in which the relationship between people and plants seems tightly aligned. At least it seems.



Title: The Horror Garden

Time: 45' – Chapter 1 / 90' – Three chapters

Format: Lecture-performance, installation, publication

Support: Flemish Authorities // Production: CCStrombeek, De School Van Gaasbeek, WpZimmer // Collaborators: Einat Tuchman (dramaturgy)



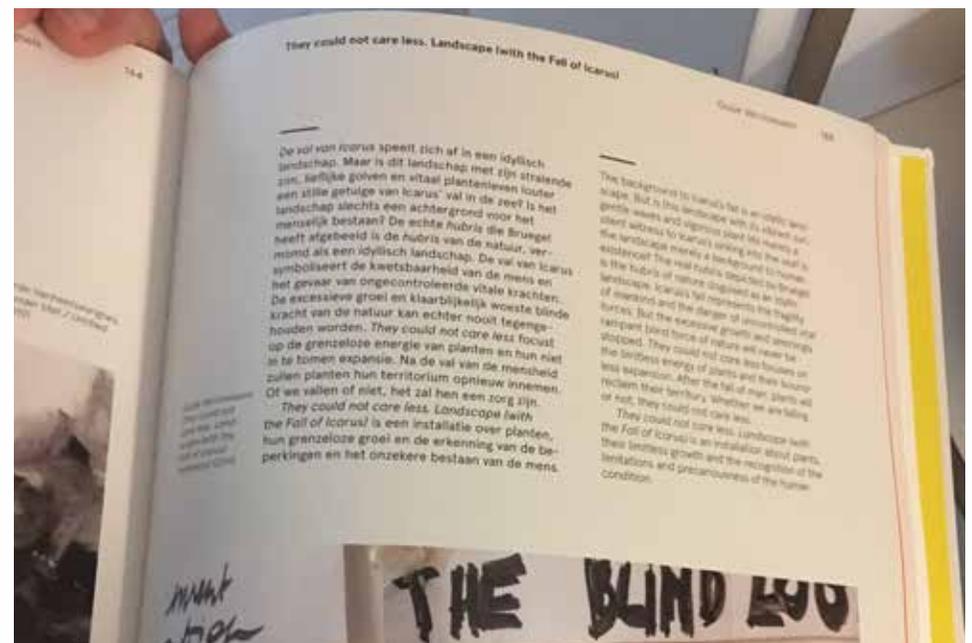
THEY COULD NOT CARE LESS – Landscape (with the fall of Icaros) (2019) is a collage and a booklet. It is the result of an investigation about the relation between humankind and plants, inspired by Bruegel's painting **Landscape, with the fall of Icarus**. The painting represents Icarus fall into the sea, set against the background of an idyllic landscape. Brueghel's painting depicts the fragility of humankind and the risk that lies in dealing with uncontrolled forces. **They could not care less** reflects on questions inspired by Bruegel's painting, such as: Is this landscape with its vibrant sun, its waves and its vigorous plants only a silent witness to Icarus' sinking? Is nature only a backdrop to human existence or is there more at play? The booklet that is presented next to the collage, contains several quotes and images that, departing from Bruegel's **Landscape with the fall of Icarus**, help to shed a light on our relation to plants, their boundless growth, their seemingly rampant blind force and the recognition of the limitations and precariousness of the human condition. The collection of different quotes and images are inspired by some defining elements on Bruegel's painting: sea, island, tendrils, crops, grass, sun, wind and trees. After the fall of man, plants will re-claim their territory. And whether we are falling or not, they could not care less.



Title: They could not care less anymore – Landscape (with the fall of Icaros)

Time: Collage, booklet

Support: Flemish Authorities // Production: CCStrombeek



THE STOMACH, THE CAVE AND THE OVEN, STORYTELLING FROM THE GUT (2019) is a bread baking workshop focused on storytelling, fortunetelling, magic and how linking and re-thinking these elements might help us to digest and transform the world. People are invited to reflect on new ways of storytelling and to create narratives as spells or divinations that could shape the future of the world we are living in. During the workshop we conjure monsters that lay dormant under the ground, under our skin and in the oven, to assist us during the bread-baking process. In the end we share bread, and by doing so ingest the spells we made during the workshop.



Title: The stomach, the cave and the oven, storytelling from the gut

Time: 4h

Format: Workshop

Support: Flemish Authorities, Matera Cultural Capital of Europe (2019) // Production: WpZimmer // Collaborators: Chiara Organtini (dramaturgy)



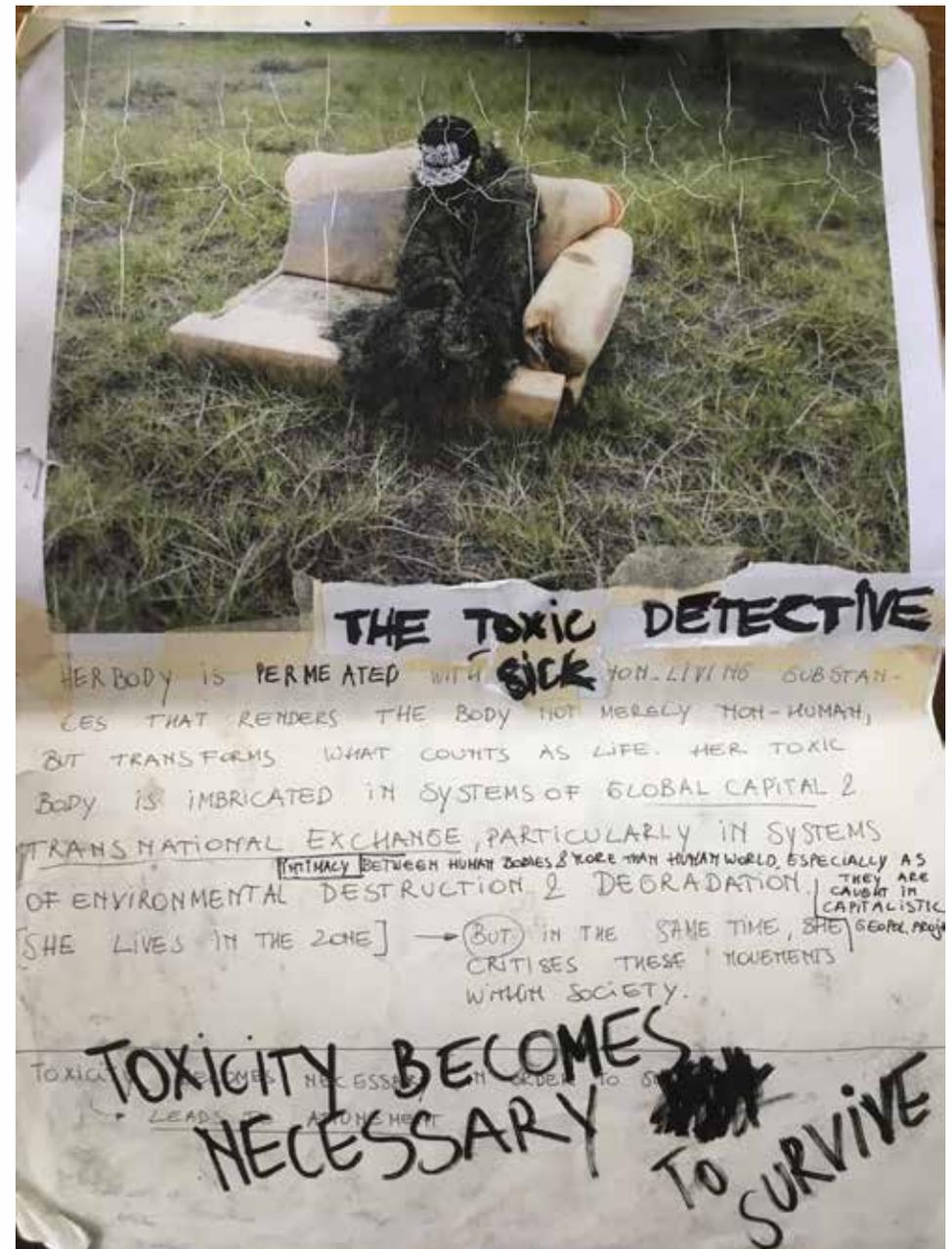
THE SICK DETECTIVE (2020) is a zine that introduces the character of the **Sick Detective**, an alter ego that I use to carry out my artistic research. The main trait of the **Sick Detective** is her ongoing struggle with notions as immersion, osmosis, co-penetration, infection, etc. By embodying this character I reflect on the position of the artistic researcher in times of crises and the problems that are induced by it. The character of the **Sick Detective** is based on plant-human hybrids depicted in popular culture. It draws inspiration from philosophical works from Stacy Alaimo, Nicole Seymour, Jeffrey T. Nealon, Heather Houser, etc. The zine is used during talks, workshops and lectures.



Title: The Sick Detective

Format: Publication

Support: Flemish Authorities // Production: WpZimmer



WE NEED MONSTERS TO THINK MONSTERS

(2018-ongoing) is a series of documentary photographs and drawings made by the **Sick Detective**, while becoming one with the **Swamp Thing** (a comic book character by Alan Moore). By close observation and study of the **Swamp Thing**, the **Sick Detective** explores her being.



Title: We need monsters to think monsters

Time: ongoing

Format: Photographs, drawings

Support: Flemish Authorities // Production: WpZimmer



ALAS THE HEART IS NOT A PLANT (2020) is an online publication of excerpts of my diary written between May 2019 and September 2020. It revolves around the **Sick Detective**. **Alas the Heart is Not a Plant** focuses on my struggle performing this vegetal character during Corona-lockdown. The text was first presented as a lecture-performance at PAPBerlin. www.grandreunion.net/alas-the-heart-is-not-a-plant

IF a damaged heart were photosynthetic, it would'nt need to rely on blood to resupply oxygen and sugar to its tissues. All it would need was the sun. **alas the heart is not a plant.**

From around May 2019 I started to shape a character that I call the "sick detective". The "sick detective" became the alter ego that I perform while doing artistic research. What you read here are excerpts from the diary of my struggle shaping this vegetal character.



Title: Alas the Heart is Not a Plant

Format: Online publication

Support: Flemish Authorities // Production: WpZimmer



FORENSIC PLANT LAB (2020-ongoing) is an ongoing project operated by the **Sick Detective** that takes different forms (lecture-performance, workshops, open studio) and is set up as a detective agency that is specialised in investigating the relationship between Homo Sapiens and the vegetal kingdom and in a broader sense humankind's' relation to nature. It investigates destructive actions against plants and focuses on how these actions entangle us in dense relationships with our environment. Every **FPL**-investigation challenges the subjectivity of the investigators and the ways we live together.

Forensic Plant Lab is a part of the **Detective Agency of Monsters**, a collaborative project with **Kinstitute** (by Maria Lucia Cruz Correia).

In may 2020 **Forensic Plant Lab** and **Kinstitute** started working on their first case 'De Liereman'. On the night of the 23th of May, (an) unidentified subject(s) girdled 117 oak trees in Landschap De Liereman in Oud-Turnhout (Belgium). The police defined it as a crime against public goods. The investigation goes on until the perpetrator is caught. Status of the investigation: **CLASSIFIED**.



Title: Forensic Plant Lab

Time: ongoing

Format: Lecture-performance, workshop, open studio

Support: Flemish Authorities // Production: WpZimmer // Collaborators : Gosie Vervloessem, Maria-Lucia Cruz-Correia



IF A DAMAGED HEART WERE PHOTOSYNTHETIC

(2020-ongoing) is an ongoing in-situ project that starts from a squatted ticket booth in The Botanical Garden in Brussels, from where I commit a slow and silent coup on the site. My strategy for doing this is two-fold. I haunt the garden = identifying and unveiling the ghosts that linger on the gardens' grounds, ghosts of various exploitations through different times. And secondly, by pushing plant science in a radical and speculative direction. This attempt follows the tradition of Radical Botany, a literary and cinematic tradition of looking into the possibilities of unleashing the speculative energies of plants to envision new worlds and new futures, by conjuring them as allies. Plants have long been identified with the feminine body and have been as regularly exploited and subjected to biopolitical control. But bodies of women and plants also hold a magic that might counter the ghosts of capitalism. For making this coup really successful I need the help of women and plants. I invite women into the botanical garden and have one on one talks, starting from our personal lives, from our stories, from our connection to plants, from books and films. The haunting is done by walking, looking, wondering and talking. Gossip can also be a magic tool to identify ghostly presences.



Title: If a damaged heart were photosynthetic

Time: ongoing

Format: Guided walks, audio-guide, publication

Support: Flemish Authorities // Production: WpZimmer



CV: Gosie Vervloessem ▶▷

Education

1992-1997: Master in Social Pedagogy, KUL Leuven, BE

1997-2002: Master in Audiovisual Arts, Sint Lukas Brussels, BE

2013-2014: Postmaster A.pass - Advanced performance and scenography studies, Brussels, BE

Residencies (R), workshops (W), work-sessions (WS), courses (C)

2020

- Stadslab Vooruit, Gent, BE (R)
- "Horror and Antropocene", wpZimmer, Antwerp, BE (co-organiser) (R)
- workspacebrussels, Brussels, BE (R)
- "Ghosts", wpZimmer, Antwerp, BE (R)
- Inauguration of the collective work-group 'Within Others', workspacebrussels, Brussels, BE (WS)

2019

- workspacebrussels, Brussels, BE (R)
- Hevergard/Hofn, IS (R)
- Sprinter Residency, Timelab, Gent, BE (R)
- The Horror Garden, A.pass, Brussels, BE (W)

2018

- Re-invent the Party, Arc, Romainmotier, CH (co-organiser) (R)
- The Spring Thing, Arc, Romainmotier, CH (co-organiser) (R)
- Writers-society Hevergard, IS (R)
- Vision and Digestion, A.pass, Brussels, BE (W)
- This book is Yours, recipes for artistic collaboration, Arc, Romainmotier, CH (co-editor)
- De School Van Gaasbeek, Gaasbeek, BE (R)

2017

- "NOW-network", Indisciplinarte, Terni, IT and Fabbrica Europa, Florence, IT (WS)
- workspacebrussels, in collaboration with Frances Adair McKenzie, Brussels, BE (R)

- "Maria gaat naar school" in collaboration with Maria Jerez, Buda, Kortrijk, BE (R, WS)
- "The Table and the Territory" - Summer Lab, Imagine 2020, organised by COAL, Paris, FR

2016

- Lokal, Reykjavik and Akureyri, IS (R)
- MoM and El Vivero, Barcelona, SP (R)
- Arc, Romainmotier, CH (R)
- NOW-artists, Fabbrica Europa Festival, Florence, IT (R)
- NOW-network, Reykjavik, IS and Cagliari, IT (WS)
- "Reinvent the Residency 3", Arc, Romainmotier, CH (R)
- "Herbarium Participative", Arc, Romainmotier, CH (coordinator) (R)
- "Culture of Permanence", Arc, Romainmotier, CH (coordinator) (R)
- Cursus Natuurgids, Natuurpunt Flanders

2015

- "Reinvent the Residency 2", Arc, Romainmotier, CH (R)
- NOW network, wpZimmer, Antwerp, BE and Indisciplinarte, Terni, IT (WS)

2014

- "Reinvent the Residency 1", Arc, Romainmotier, CH (R)
- De Pianofabriek, Brussels, BE (R)

2013

- Les Bains:Connective, Brussels, BE (R)

2012

- ACOSS, Yerevan, AM (R)
- Recyclart, Brussels, BE (R)
- Springcamp/Timelab, Gent, BE (R)
- Free Studies Geology, UGent, BE (C)
- Introduction to Solid State Chemistry, MIT, US (C)

Presentations

2020

- The Horror Garden, Out of Sight, Antwerp, BE
- The Sick Detective, PAP, Berlin, DE; KULeuven, Leuven, BE; Vooruit, Gent, BE
- Alas the heart is not a plant - Grand Reunion (online publication)

2019

- The Nature of (workshop, performance), Hverardi and Hofn, IS
- The Cave, the stomach and the oven, storytelling from the gut, Matera, IT
- The Horror Garden, ERG (Brussels), De Pianofabriek (Brussels) Breughel Feast of Fools, Kasteel Van Gaasbeek; Working Title Festival, Brussels; De Lustwarande, Tilburg, BE
- Recipes for Disaster, workspacebrussels, Beursschouwburg, Atelier 210, Brussels, BE

2018

- The Horror Garden, CC Strombeek, De School Van Gaasbeek, De Grote Post, Oostende, BE
- Il cielo en una stanza, Progetto Corale, Preci, IT
- The Hush Hush of the Bush - Open House wpZimmer, Antwerp, BE
- Recipes for Disaster, Club Solo, Breda, NL
- Sprouting (installation), Buda, Kortrijk, BE
- Mini micro macro (workshop/presentation) realised within CC Ten Weyngaert, presented in schools in Brussels, BE
- Deep Space Navigation (workshop/presentation) University Plymouth, UK; Luca School of Arts, Brussels, BE
- The Taste of Hveragerdi - Hveragerdi Bonus, IS

2017

- A Matter of Animated Mountain, Working Title Situation, Brussels, BE; Phenomena Festival, Montreal, CA
- Half A House (collaborative project), Fabbrica Europa, Florence, IT
- Recipes for Disaster, Working Title Situation, Beursschouwburg, Brussels, BE; De Vriend Van Bavink, Amsterdam, NL; Open House wpZimmer, Antwerp, BE; Fabbrica Europa, Florence, IT; Arc, Romainmotier, CH; Ramsalt, Bergen, NO

2016

- Recipes for Disaster, FMDO, Brussels, BE; Adarps, Brussels, BE; Everybody's Spectacular, Reykjavik, IS; Ah! Performance Festival, Akureyri, IS; Bildnis, Oostende, BE; Vrijstaat O, Oostende, BE; BlackBox, Farnham, UK
- Greetings from Nagasaki, Bioterrorist Recipe II (installation, open studio, lecture-performance), workspacebrussels, Brussels, BE; Arc, Romainmotier, CH
- Milky Way (performance/workshop), CC De Linde, Haren, BE; CC Ten Weyngaert, Vorst, BE

- Domestic Science Club (workshop), CC Elzenhof, Elsene, BE

2015

- Milky Way, CC Nekkersdal, Laken; CC Elzenhof, Elsene; CC De Rinck, Anderlecht; CC De Kroon, Sint Agatha-Berchem, BE
- A PostPasteurian World, Mad Scientist Festival, Bern, CH; Leherzimmer, Bern, CH; Blackout Festival, Aufstellungsraum Klingenthal, Basel, CH; Arc, Romainmotier, CH; MUHKA, Antwerp, BE
- Big Fat Failed Beginnings, Villanella, Antwerp, BE; Vrijstaat O, Oostende, BE
- Recipes for Disaster, Recyclart, Brussels; A.Pass, Brussels; workspacebrussels, Brussels; Beursschouwburg, Brussels, BE

2014

- Big Fat Failed Beginnings, Storm op Komst, Turnhout, BE
- Recipes for Disaster, Midzomer, Leuven, BE; Hulpgevangenis, Leuven, BE; Cult 2016, Antwerp, BE; LesBains::Connective, Vorst, BE

2013

- Big Fat Failed Beginnings, Festival International Belluard Bollwerk, Fribourg, CH
- Neomaïzena (in collaboration with Einat Tuchman), Beursschouwburg, Brussels, BE

2012

- Domestic Science Shop, Recyclart, Brussels, BE
- Recipes for Disaster, Pianofabriek, Brussels, BE; Point Blank - Mikser Festival, Belgrade, RS
- The Motherland, Recyclart, Brussels, BE

2011

- The Digging Project (in collaboration with Kosi Hidama), Festival Belluard Bollwerk, Fribourg, CH2010
- Safe and Simple Electrical Experiments, Brakke Grond, Amsterdam, NL; Buda, Kortrijk, BE; Les Bains: Connective, Brussels, BE; De Pianofabriek, Brussels, BE; Open House, wpZimmer, Antwerp, BE
- Gravity (in collaboration with David Elchardus), Medialab Prado, Madrid, SP; Recyclart, Brussels, BE

2009

- Maïzena (in collaboration with Einat Tuchman), Dock 11, Berlin, DE; Dommelhof, Neerpelt, BE, De Brakke Grond, Amsterdam, NL; Gynaika, Antwerp, BE



- Safe and Simple Electrical Experiments, Recyclart, Brussels, BE; Living Room Festival, Brussels, BE

2008

- Everything seems so logic, Dommelhof, Neerpelt, BE; De Brakke Grond, Amsterdam, NL

2007

- The Volcano Project, STUK, Leuven, BE; CC Genk, De Queeste, Genk, BE
- Anytime/How to make your own Clouds, Kaaitheater, Brussels, BE

2006

- Eetbaar Amsterdam (in collaboration with Irma Firma), Brakke Grond, Amsterdam, NL; Dasarts, Amsterdam, NL

2005

- How to make your own Dead Sea?, TOR, Genk, BE; deSingel, Antwerp, BE

2004

- Anytime/How to make your own clouds?, Beursschouwburg, Brussels, BE
- Performer in Showdance by Alexandra Bachtzetsis
- Performer in Best Off by Alexandra Bachtzetsis and Anath Steinberg

Subsidies

2019 - Flemish Authorities, Research funding: Sunshine is calling

2017 - Flemish Authorities, Research funding: Invasive species

2015 - Flemish Authorities, Project funding: Recipes for Disaster

2014 - Flemish Authorities, Project funding: Ruelles/Recipes for Disaster/The Marketstand

2013 - Flemish Authorities, Project funding: Neo-Maïzena

2012 - Flemish Authorities, Project funding: Domestic Science Shop

2010 - Flemish Authorities, Research funding: Private Geology

2009 - Flemish Authorities, Project funding: Maïzena

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