

Fellowship with Needcompany 2021

Performance and film project: And then she said, 'you have future but you have a past'

The fellowship at Needcompany developed in new and exciting ways. The collaborative work involving the performer Marijke de Roover was collectively written and was inspired by Hélène Cixous' l'écriture féminine, or feminine writing. In *The Laugh of the Medusa*, Cixous defines this as the purposeful writing of spiralling compositions in order to move the writing outside the sphere of patriarchal linearity. This is a new step for my practice, as recent videos have been written usually only by myself and in a less fluid back-and-forth way, including the script writing, the casting, the storyboarding, the editing, etc. The aim was for this work is to subvert narrative conventions, considering how a work can fold in on itself and be observed differently. This spiral like movement is found within the configuration of the six characters in the film who all deal with trauma. This circular motif is further elaborated in the visual style (reoccurring circular shapes in the space, custom-made props, the arrangement of characters, etc) as well as various camera techniques (sense of circular movement, lens-shift and macro). Furthermore, this project is my longest and most complex film to date

and has involved two edits — a cinema edit and a performance edit. The complexity arises by the length of the film, the amount of dialogues and the different techniques used — conversations, monologues, discussions, collective singing, breaking the fourth wall, etc. As such, the work is very layered and in keeping with both De Roover's and my own interests, working with an unapologetic mix of influences and condensing sprawling and complex thoughts.

Another development for the film and performance was building custom props made at the Needcompany workshop. The props involve a large and colourful wheel of fortune, a wooden boombox and alternative minimal seating. The props in the film are extended into the performance as a scenography and function as interactive objects during the performance.

The work is presented as a film, installation and live performance at Museum M in Leuven as part of the Playground Festival 2021 (11-14 November 2021). The film will play throughout the festival, with one performance on the opening and another on the last day of the festival. A live performance by Marijke de Roover and the actress Priscilla Wittman, a main character from the film will perform within the space together. The performance edit involves live dialogue, singing and music from a keyboard. The

planned exhibition/performance at IKOB Museum of Contemporary Art in December has been postponed until February 2022, with the work going on to exist in other contexts thereafter.

The fifteenth edition of playground festival offers a platform to artists who are not bound to one discipline, but work on the interface between stage and visual arts. Playground is a sanctuary for experimentation, where installation, film, architecture, sculpture and choreography merge into continuous installations and live activations.

www.needcompany.org
www.playgroundfestival.be
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