

KOBALT WORKS VZW
Zwarte Vijversstraat 97,
1080 Molenbeek - Belgium



MONSOON AUSTRALIA PARTICIPANTS BIOGRAPHY

Facilitators/ Curators

Arco Renz studied dance, theatre, and literature in Berlin and Paris and was part of the first generation of graduates of Belgium's acclaimed performing arts school P.A.R.T.S. First as performer, then assistant, he worked with Robert Wilson from 1997-2001 on various dance, theatre and opera productions. In 2000 Arco Renz founded Kobalt Works. In addition to Kobalt Works productions, Arco Renz has regularly created commissioned works and has been a guest teacher for dance and choreography in numerous countries worldwide. An important aspect of Arco Renz' activities is his engagement in projects promoting the development of research and exchange between European and Asian artists. Monsoon, a series of research and performance platforms bringing together Asian and European artists is an ongoing project with the next edition foreseen in Sydney 2015.

David Pledger is a contemporary artist working within and between the performing, visual and media arts in Australia, Asia and Europe. His work is notable for building new artworks that combine movement, image, sound and word into an organic system and for engaging publics in productive and provocative ways. He is the recipient of numerous project and career awards including the Sydney Myer Performing Arts Award for his work as a director and actor in live performance. In 1995, he co-founded not yet it's difficult (NYID), one of Australia's leading interdisciplinary arts companies. David initiated Monsoon Australia after attending Monsoon's Belgian iteration at STUK in Leuven (2010).

Margie Medlin is an internationally recognized artist leading the field of dance and the moving image. For 25 years she has lit and designed performances as well as produced film, video and new media art works. Margie was artist-in-residence at the ZKM Institute for Art and Media, Germany (1999-2001). Between 2000 and 2008 Margie facilitated three Time-Place-Space interdisciplinary labs, she received a Science and Art production award from the Wellcome Trust in London for her Quartet Project. In 2007 Margie became the director of Critical Path, where she creates innovative platforms for creative actions that cross artforms. In 2013 Medlin was nominated for an Arts Asia Award and in 2014 she received an artistic leadership award from the Australia Council of the Arts to research arts networks in Asia and the incubation of media and inter-disciplinary arts.

Invited Participant/Exchange Artists Asia

JK Anicoche (Philippines) is an action-star art practitioner of multiple artistic-identities crossing boundaries from mainstream to contemporary performance art movement in the Philippines. JK is a prize-winning storyteller and actor, director, workshop facilitator for film, theatre and television. He is a Theater Arts graduate at the Philippine High School for the Arts in Mt. Makiling and took up BA Film and Audio Visual Communications at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. JK is the artistic director of independent contemporary performance company, the Sipat Lawin Ensemble and is a founding member of PResNT: Performance Research Network, and Acting Without Borders, a pioneering team of acting coaches for lead actors in mainstream television networks. He is also the founder of Project Banig: Storytelling Everywhere Campaign encouraging volunteerism and storytelling in communities. He teaches Directing and Basic Acting courses for Theater Arts scholars at the Phil. High School for the Arts in Mt. Makiling.

Venuri Perera is one of a handful of artists engaged in exploring contemporary approaches to dance-making in Sri Lanka, from and for their cultural context. She is interested in the body as a political 'provocateur' and strongly believes in the transformational power of the performing arts.

Perera is primarily trained in Kandyan dance and was a member of the acclaimed Chitrasena Vajira Dance Ensemble from 1994 to 2007. After completing her Masters in Psychology in 2006, she went on to receive a Postgraduate Certificate in Dance in 2008 from Laban Centre, London, where she was also awarded the Michelle Simone Prize for Choreography. Since 2004, she has collaborated in dance, theatre, film, live art, multimedia, site-specific, promenade theatre, musical theatre, therapeutic movement and mixed-abled dance projects locally and

internationally. She has presented her short works in festivals, platforms and symposiums in Europe as well as South and East Asia.

Geumhyung Jeong (Korea) is a choreographer and performer. In her work, she constantly negotiates the relationship between the human body and the things surrounding it. Through intense, risky interactions with her own body, she bestows a bizarre, disconcerting life upon plain, everyday objects. Jeong explores the potential of the body - its sensuality, power to change its surroundings, and ability to undergo transformations through the power of desire. Her projects combine dance and puppetry, and bring attention to technical aspects of theatre.

Invited Participant/Exchange Artists Europe

Olé Khamchanla (Laos/France) Dancer and co-choreographer of A'CORPS Company from 1997 to 2011, Olé Khamchanla now runs his own company, KHAM Cie, founded in 2011. Born in Laos, he discovered hip hop dance in 1990 and went on to study hip hop, capoeira, contemporary dance, and Butoh.

At A'CORPS Company, Olé established his own choreographic language. In 2006, he travelled to Laos and Thailand to learn their traditional dance forms. Since then, Olé has continued to enrich his dance vocabulary through engagements in Asia and Europe.

In 2010, Olé created the first international dance festival in Laos, FANG MAE KHONG (Listen to the Mekong).

Ahilan Ratnamohan (Choreographer, Performer) is a performance- maker working with unorthodox forms and inspired by sport, film and language. Ahilan attempted to make a career as a professional footballer in the Netherlands, Sweden and Germany. Since 2007 he has been creating physical performance pieces. He has worked with diverse Sydney-based companies and artists such as Urban Theatre Projects, Branch Nebula, Legs on the Wall, PACT, PYT, Theatre Kantanka, Martin del Amo and Campbelltown Arts Centre. He has toured work and performed in Australia, South Africa, Germany and Belgium. Most recently he toured his first work as a director, Michael Essien I want to play as you... to LIFT, performed in Jochen Roller's Trachtenbummler in Tanz im August and premiered a new football-dance solo, SDS1. www.aculturedleftfoot.com

Rita Morais started her professional path in Balletatro Professional School in Drama (2006-2019) and she graduated in Theatre-Acting in Lisbon Theatre and Film School in 2012. In 2015, she finished a Master in Theatre Directing at RITCS in Brussels. As a performer, she has been working since 2006 in several productions, both as a dancer and as an actress, with Teatro Praga, André E. Teodósio, Arco Renz, Victor Hugo Pontes, among others. She gave choreographic support in theatre productions and worked as a performing arts teacher both in regular and artistic schools. In 2012, she founded the collective SillySeason, where she works as a co-director, performer and producer, with whom she did, among others: DarkTourism, T-REX and the short films Frei Luis de Sousa and Antígona. In July 2015, she co-created E Solo Un Ricordo with Edoardo Ripani, premiered in Italy.

Invited Participant/Exchange Artists Australia

Nathan Gray's work uses techniques learned from his background in experimental music to create succinct, often humorous works that span sculpture, performance and video. Recent works have focused on small economic gestures, and brief performances that attempt to use objects as scores for action. These works question relationships with objects and subvert their generally accepted use values. Nathan has exhibited in many solo and group shows in Australia. Gray was the recipient of the 2014 Substation prize and is currently completing an MFA at The Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne and has completed residencies at Cemeti House, Indonesia in 2011, The Sacatar Foundation, Bahia, Brazil in 2008 and Osaka Arts Aporia 2006. He is a member of the improvised electronic duo Snawklor and convenor of Ancient Memories, a group that performs works by Cornelius Cardew.

Adelina Larsson is a Swedish/Australian independent dance artist working between Australia and Europe in contemporary dance, physical theater and interdisciplinary practices as choreographer, performer, teacher, curator and producer. Since arriving in Australia 2007 she has worked with David Pledger Not yet it's difficult, Big hART company, STRUT Dance, Nadia Cusimano, Paea Leach, David Corbet, Corazon de Vaca, Sarah Kaur, Mia Holton, Legs on the Wall, QL2 Dance, Canberra Theatre Centre, You Are Here Festival, Short+Sweet Dance Festival as Festival Director, Ausdance NSW and ACT as Artistic Director of ACT Youth Dance Festival and Frank

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Madrid FAMA as assistant to the producer of Leigh Warren and Dancers. Adelina is currently based in Perth working as lecturer in Dance at Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts.

Rebecca Jensen, Born in New Zealand (1988) is a Melbourne based Choreographer and Dancer she studied at the Victorian College of the Arts (BA Dance 2009.) Choreography has been presented at Next Wave Festival and Dance Massive with Sarah Aiken (OVERWORLD 2014); Lucy Guerin's Pieces for Small Spaces (Within An Inner 2011); Food Court Gallery (Running backward and forward with sticks 2012); Conduit Arts Gallery (Still Life 2014); Mo Faux Festival club, Ponderosa Tanzland, Germany, Dallas Texas Woman's University (Head Back 2012). She is a founding member of Deep Soulful Sweats Fantasy Light Yoga (Festival Of Live Art, Dark MOFO, Tiny Stadiums, Chunky Move, Next Wave Festival).

Australia Council Art Start and an Ian Potter Cultural Trust, have enabled Rebecca to expand her practice in New York and Europe (DanceWEB, Impulstanz 2015, Ponderosa, PAF). Notable performances and collaborations include work with and by Jo Lloyd, Sandra Parker, Natalie Abbott, Balletlab Phantom Limbs & Luke George, Motherboard Australian Korean Cultural Exchange Shian Law, Sarah Aiken, Janine Proost, Aphids, Ben Speth, Public Movement, Mårten Spångberg, Zoe Scoglio and Liz Dunn, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Luke George, Brooke Stamp, musicians Worlds End Press, Kate Neal and Andras Fox.

Matt Cornell (Documenter)

Matt Cornell is curious. He cares about moving people. Sometimes by dancing with them or for them, sometimes by composing sound to vibrate them, sometimes by choreographing a show and sometimes by speaking. Matt is currently undergoing a 10yr experiment entitled "don't believe the hype".

Matt has worked with & for some great people throughout the world, list.mattcornell.com

And Matt is aware how weird it is to write his own bio in third person.