



Konn

Choreography & Performance **Meher Awachri**
Video/ Sound **Karolin Kent**
Music **Ken Furudate**
 Malika Makouf Rasmussen

Produced 2013

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Idea & concept

Is *nothing* something?
What is nothing?
If we are nothing, could we still be something?

The notion of *nothingness* generated numerous complex questions that were discussed through the creative process along side the perception of 'how to be' within human, social and political context.

Humanity

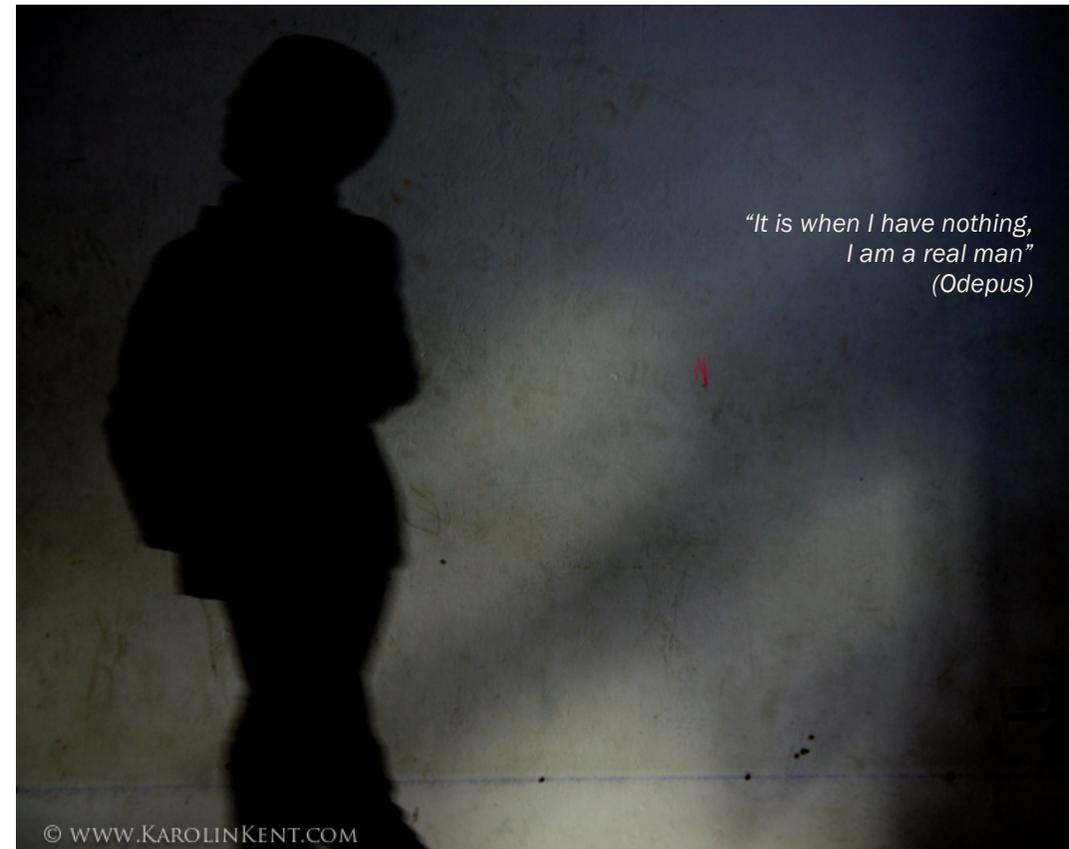
- What is the meaning of *nothingness* in humanity?
- Is it a nightmare or a paradise?
- Does it depend on the situation and the individual?

Society

- What is *nothingness* within society?
- When are you *nothing/something* within society?
- Why does purity become *nothing*? Who decides this?
- Why is a complicated life more valuable than primitive life?
- Is it when one forces oneself to be something in society, that one becomes fanatic?
- Why society fears to lose the structure of the system?

Political context

- What is it to be *something/nothing* in the political system?
- Why is there fear of losing yourself from the system to be left alone?
- Why is there fear of losing yourself in the system?
- Why society fears to lose the structure of the system?



Methodologies

Sensation of *nothingness*- how nothingness can be perceived in different ways and how one can create it.

Organic movement appears with the **purity of human being**. Currently it is mostly realized in involuntary actions such as: breathing, blinking, sexual actions, orgasm, movement of our mouth when eating etc. Fluidity, contraction and release are common action in these movements.

The baby became a strong reference for our idea of the pure human being. Yet untouched by the by society's influences and acting instinctively. Through research of its transformation in the womb, the movement inside and outside, inspired us further in our movement research.

We started from *nothing*, by exploring primitive organic stages of a human being.

- **Respiration**- the movement of our breath and how it affects our body, movements and being.
- **Body**- primal movement patterns, its accumulation and complexity
- **Voice**- primal sound and expression
- **Need**- eating, sleeping, reproduction, survival, intimacy

The element of **two bodies** is a second stage in our research. Their connection and communication or the lack of it, becomes a constant trigger point in our research and the final piece.

Furthermore, *Konn* is exploring the relationship between **organic movement in artificial context and** artificial movement in organic context. Is there conflict or fusion within these elements? The organic being is disrupted in the sphere of the society and it does not take long until the baby slowly affects by this.

Trailer of research process: <https://vimeo.com/56979609>

Presentation

Konn is an interdisciplinary piece of performance and visual art. Elements of physical theatre could be recognised in a dynamic performance that provokes the observers to ask themselves what it means to be nothing? Where can they find themselves in this complexity? The elements of movement, visual art and sound play an equal role in the piece, creating a balanced organism of performance. Each element discusses the philosophical topic in its own way.

Synopsis

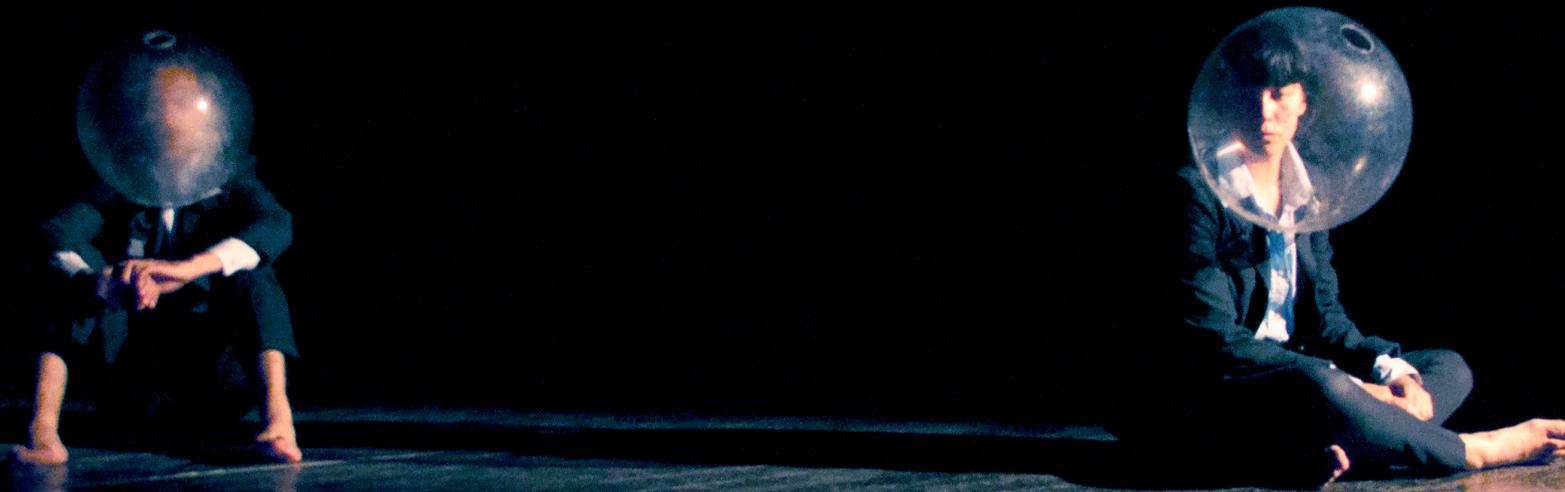
How to be?

Realizing the dissatisfaction of artificial and external inputs from the current social systems.

Emerging desire of reaching identity with the purity of oneself.

Get lost in a constructed social system or realize ones own system, where the outside world might consider one lost.

How to be?



Trailer of *Konn*: http://www.karolinkent.com/creative_work/2013-2/konn/
Video of full-length performance is available upon request.

Cross-art & cross-cultural collaboration

Meher Awadhi's (Tunisia) professional training originates from the medium of theatre but he also has experience within movement. On the contrary Karolin Kent (Sweden) has a professional training within movement and performance art, but have been utilizing mediums of theatre as well. This collaboration opened the discussion about the boundaries between theatre and movement. Are there any differences and why? Is there a necessity to distinguish the differences to create a piece of performance art?

By inviting Malika Makouf Rasmussen (Norway/Algeria/France) and Ken Furudate (Japan) the cultural influences broadens further. This cross-cultural collaboration has offered the opportunity to develop an understanding of the differences between Arabic, Scandinavian and Asian culture.

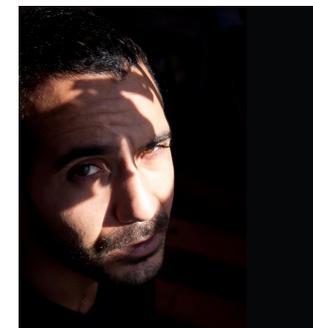
Can drama theatre, grotesque/contemporary movement, high technical media art and traditional rhythms come together to create and act in symbioses? This was the challenge and the exciting thing with this collaboration and an element in the process that pushed it further. Through discussions, workshops and experimentation we worked us through complexities within the subject of *nothingness*.



Artist Biographies

Meher Awachri (Tunisia)

After a baccalaureate specialized in theatre, the vocation of Meher appeared naturally: he will become an **actor**. In 2011, he leaves the Superior Institute of Dramatic Art of Tunis with his final studies project *D-Sisyphé*, which gave him an immediate success especially when the show got the 1st price in the *Thespis, International Monodrama Festival* in Keil, Germany. Play-writer, he writes his own plays and develop a sensibility to practice dance, which drives him to take one of the main parts of the international dance show *La feuille d'olivier* in 2006. His career began in 1997 with amateur theatre companies such as Al Zaytouna, Club de theatre universitaire and Club de theatre Mohammadia. In 2001, he enters the professional field of acting, directing and writing for contemporary pieces such as *Farès et le manipulateur* - 2003, *Les Diables* 2006- *Lettre à ma mère* 2010- *D-sisyphé* 2012 etc.



Karolin Kent (Sweden)

Karolin is an interdisciplinary artist with the focus on performance and visual art.

Her work aims to provoke the creative mind & engages ones emotional, intellectual & physical being. Choreographic methodologies are based around improvisation and inspires through investigating areas such as sociology, philosophy and psychology. After graduating with a BA in Dance Theatre at Laban (London 2011) Karolin has presented work within performance, film and photography in Europe, India, Thailand and Mexico. Furthermore, she is looking to integrate arts in different social contexts such as public spaces, education and therapeutic work. As a performer she has been working with choreographers/artists such as Rosemary Butcher, Lizzie Kew-Ross and Franko B. **Website:** www.KarolinKent.com



Malika Makouf Rasmussen (France/Algeria/Norway)

Malika is born in 1965 to a French-Norwegian mother and a French-Algerian father. Is a critically acclaimed composer, musician and music producer and holds a Master of Philosophy degree. Her music has been described as contemporary music with a mature sensibility, the latest pulse to come out of the emerging crossover scene. Malika is also the founder of Global Oslo Music, Women's Voice Publishing and the label New Music. The company employs people in art-direction, management, producing and booking and utilizes a network of independent distributors of music worldwide. **Website:** www.malikamakoufrasmussen.com



Ken Furudate (Japan)

Artist, programmer.

Since around 2000, working as a unit 710.beppo with Mr. vokoi live performance and, in the name of anagma. Presided over Daisuke Ishida, Kazuhiro Jo, with Mizuki Noguchi Sound Art Project The SINE WAVE ORCHESTRA2002. Published works in various exhibitions start the Yokohama Triennale 2005. Make the European / American tour in 2006. In Kyoto, as a programmer video, sound, and interactive, in addition to its own production, is currently participating in the creation of other artists.

Portfolio: http://ekran.jp/anagma/portforio_2011summer_en.pdf

Acknowledgements

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KONSTNÄRSNÄMNDEN | THE SWEDISH ARTS GRANTS COMMITTEE



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Video of full-length performance is available upon request.

Trailer of research process: <https://vimeo.com/56979609>