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Yan Duyvendak

Yan Duyvendak, originally from the Netherlands, lives in Geneva. Trained at the École cantonale d'art du Valais and the École supérieure d'art visuel de Genève, his career as a performance artist began in 1995 with the staging of his first work of live art, *Keep It Fun For Yourself*.

Since then, he has produced a chain of creations and performances at venues around the world: Switzerland, USA, India Russia or Hong Kong to name but a few countries. His art underlines in particular how the overwhelming mass of televised, computer and mental images as well as our social codes and other rituals of our fun society thicken the curtain between ourselves and reality. Yet his work never fails to affirm human dignity and show the extent to which it is imperiled by our image-dominated society.

His creations *Still in Paradise*, *Please, Continue (Hamlet)*, *Sound of Music* and *ACTIONS* unpack the way in which we, as citizens, struggle with social and political models and activism. By recurring to playful procedures, both *invisible* and *VIRUS* address the constitution of collectives and how collaboration and empathy can be conducive to empowerment. Co-authorship and collaborations are an intrinsic part of all his projects: *Still in Paradise* (2008, recreated in 2016) is co-authored with Omar Ghayatt; *Please, Continue (Hamlet)* (2011), with Roger Bernat; *ACTIONS* (2017), with Nicolas Cilins and Nataly Sugnaux Hernandez; the project *invisible* (2019) was co-created with 31 authors from 4 different countries; and finally, *VIRUS* (2020) is the fruit of a collaboration with Dr. Philippe Cano and the game design collective Kaedama.

Yan Duyvendak's video pieces feature in numerous public and private collections, for instance the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Lyon and the Museum der Moderne (MdM) in Salzburg.

Besides his activities as an artist, he worked as a coordinator of the "art/action" programme at the Haute Ecole d'Art et Design (HEAD) in Geneva, where he also taught contemporary performance together with, among others, Christophe Kihm, Maria La Ribot and Lina Saneh, from 2004 to 2014. He resumed teaching in the HEAD since September 2020.

He won the "Swiss Art Award" three times in a row (2002, 2003 and 2004), the "Namics Kunstpreis für Neue Medien" in 2004 and the "Network Kulturpreis" in 2006. He has also been chosen several times for artist-in-residence programmes, which so far have taken him to Cité des Arts in Paris, Atelier Schönhauser in Berlin and Pro Helvetia's Swiss Artistic Studio in Cairo (2007, 2008, 2009). He received the two most prestigious art awards in Switzerland: in 2010, the highest distinction for contemporary art, the "Meret Oppenheim Preis", and in 2019, the highest one for theater and live art, the "Hans Reinhart Ring".

Since 2012, Compagnie Yan Duyvendak is supported by the City of Geneva, Canton de Genève and Pro Helvetia – Swiss Arts Council.