

LLB report Black on Black | Marta Ziólek

In the framework of the project LLB activity Dance Works, Het Veem Theater produced Black on Black, a performance by Marta Ziólek.

"Black on Black" is a performance of two masked performers undertaking the issues of blackness and the black void in choreography. The audience, seated on both sides of this live exposition, is invited to participate in a black session, in which the choreography empties the black forms and intensifies their internal black matter.

The point of departure here is the gesture of appropriation of street dance by the means of treating it as a tool of inspection through the survey of weight, mass and potency of movement. Gradually undressing and covering themselves with layers of clothing the dancers manoeuvre between the embodiment and a catwalk masquerade, an underground fitness regime and transformation into a *monstrum*.

A context programme was composed. The exclusive photographs Katarzynka Szugajew made during Black on Black's making process were shown in the bar of Het Veem Theater and sold during a playful auction by Florentina Holzinger after the premiere. On one of the other nights, programmers Dries Douibi (Batârd Festival) and Lara Staal (Frascati Theater) went into dialogue together about the issues they face in curating performance art, and deal with young work and new developments in the field. Sunday matinee was nicely closed off with a talk between performing arts theorist, dramaturge and researcher Konstantina Georgelou and Marta. The Mezza talk on Monday March 9th (the aftertalk format we use) was hosted by Marijn Lems, theatre programmer at the Brakke Grond, house for Flemish culture.

Apart from being presented at Het Veem Theater in Amsterdam for five nights from March 4 till 8, in STUK Leuven Ziólek held a research presentation, performed the work in the frame of the event 'I paused halfway up the stairs' by Tom Engels in Giessen, and back in Poland the work was performed in the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw.

Concept Marta Ziólek; Creation and performance Marta Ziólek and Anna Nowicka; Dramaturgical advice Eleonora Zdebiak; Curator, art historian Szymon Żydek; Fashion designer Michał Gruca; Photographer Katarzyna Szugajew.

"Black on Black" is a coproduction of Het Veem Theater and Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, and was supported by Teatr Studio in Warsaw, Komuna//Warszawa and STUK in Leuven. Black on Black is part of Life Long Burning (LLB) project.