

Julien Creuzet

Algorithm ocean true blood moves

Choreography by Ana Pi

Commissioned by Hartwig Art Foundation and Performa

DAK'ART 2024 – ANCIEN PALAIS DE JUSTICE

7 DEC. 2024

Presented by Hartwig Art Foundation in collaboration with Performa and DAK'ART 2024



Julien Creuzet, *Algorithm ocean true blood moves* (2023), choreography Ana Pi. Commissioned by Hartwig Art Foundation & Performa 2023. Photo Walter Włodarczyk.

Hartwig Art Foundation is proud to present—for the first time on the African continent—Julien Creuzet's performance work *Algorithm ocean true blood moves* (2023), choreographed by Ana Pi. The performance is a collaboration with Performa and takes place on Saturday 7 December as part of the DAK'ART Biennale of Contemporary African Art 2024 closing programme.

After the successful world-premiere as part of [Performa 2023](#) in New York (November 2023) and European premiere in Amsterdam at the Dutch National Opera's Studio Boekman, presented by **Hartwig Art Foundation** (June 2024), a new adaptation of *Algorithm ocean true blood moves* comes to Dakar. It has been specially produced for the outdoor space in front of the Ancien Palais de Justice, the biennale's main location.

Algorithm ocean true blood moves, Creuzet's first-large-scale performance, continues the artist's explorations into the history of trade, displacement, and diaspora. In collaboration with Pi, Creuzet draws on a collection of movements by online content creators of African descent. The movements, gathered by the artist from social media over the years, unveil unexpected, yet intimate connections between steps that exist in different times and geographies across the Black Atlantic. From New York to Amsterdam to Dakar, the performance at DAK'ART 2024 completes a significant full-circle journey for Creuzet, symbolically reversing the brutal history of the transatlantic slave trade through a new triangulation of life and vitality. Bridging geographical, political and temporal separations, the performance translates movement into a living encounter of history.

Algorithm ocean true blood moves was conceived in collaboration with Brazilian choreographer Ana Pi and co-commissioned by Hartwig Art Foundation and Performa (read more about the ongoing collaboration [here](#)). It features a group of dancers from the Alvin Ailey School in New York and is performed to the vibrations of Shatta, a new genre of electronic Caribbean dancehall music from Martinique.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Julien Creuzet

Julien Creuzet is a French-Caribbean visual artist and poet who blends sculpture, installation, and poetry to explore his diasporic experience and connection to Martinique, his ancestral home. Influenced by Aimé Césaire and Édouard Glissant's reflections on creolization and migration, Creuzet delves into the complex relationship between Caribbean histories and European modernity while addressing themes of emancipation and the present-day legacy of the Caribbean diaspora. Recent solo exhibitions include LUMA Westbau in Zürich (2023), the LUMA Foundation in Arles (2022), the Camden Arts Centre in London (2021), as well as the CAN Centre d'art Neuchâtel and Palais De Tokyo, Paris, both in 2019. Creuzet participated in Manifesta 13 in Marseille (2020), the 35th edition of the São Paulo Art Biennale (2023) and represented France at the 60th Venice Biennale (2024).

About Ana Pi

Choreographer, imagery artist, pedagogue, "extemporary" dancer, researcher of urban and African Diasporic dances. Her practices are woven through the act of traveling, her transdisciplinarity is situated between notions of transit, displacement and belonging. MoMA, Centre Pompidou, Museo Reina Sofia, 35th São Paulo Biennial, Lá da Favelinha and RAW Material are some of the many institutions she navigates through works that articulate choreography, discourse, installation and radical imagination. Ana Pi is now working on her next creation, ATOMIC JOY, for 8 dancers.

About Hartwig Art Foundation

Hartwig Art Foundation is dedicated to fostering and facilitating the production, presentation, mediation, preservation, and collection of contemporary art. In addition to its multiple activities in productions with artists and partnerships with a wide range of institutions, Hartwig Art Foundation is currently developing a new museum for contemporary art in Amsterdam. For more information, please visit [here](#).

Since 2023, Performa and Hartwig Art Foundation have been working together as part of a major institutional partnership. This partnership involves commissioning new performance works, expanding the Performa Archive, and implementing a fellowship programme that offers hands-on training for individuals working in the contemporary - cross-media and performance field. For more information about the partnership, please visit [here](#).

About Performa

Founded in 2004 by art historian and curator RoseLee Goldberg, Performa has expanded the possibilities for visual artists working in performance, providing essential curatorial and production support, and, with its dedicated biennial, providing a worldwide platform for performance of the 21st century. Performa Commissions have entirely changed the possibilities of the form and its educational programs have shown its rich history as an integral part of artistic practice, reaching back through the centuries to the Renaissance. This visionary organisation has entirely transformed every art institution's approach to visual art performance, now a staple in art museums and galleries throughout the world. Since 2005, Performa has presented nine editions of its three-week international Performa Biennial that have animated every borough of New York City every other year.

Credits

Concept, videos, sculptures, and costumes: Julien Creuzet

Choreography: Ana Pi

Performers: Kamani Abu, Sarah Boyd, Sydnie Cooper, Morgan Gregory, Paulin Aby Maindron, Noel Olson and Shota Sekiguchi

Music: Julien Creuzet and Natoxie

Live music: Malou Beauvoir with the special participation of Boris Percus

Julien Creuzet Studio: Scarlett Chaumien (studio coordinator) with artist collaborators Chadine Amghar, Emilien Bonnet.

Senior Curator: Charles Aubin

Senior Producer: Julia Simpson

Technical Director: Abdou Diouf

Coordinator: Gacirah Diagne

Team Hartwig Art Foundation: Beatrix Ruf, Annematt Ruseler, Henri J. Sandront, Astrid Schumacher

Julien Creuzet and Ana Pi are deeply grateful to the ancestry of Madame Katherine Dunham, the brilliant Alvin Ailey's legacy, the bravery of Zumbi dos Palmares, the vitality that still dances in each mystery on Earth and in the Oceans, the wisdom of statues, the Maroon and Quilombo communities rooted in the islands, forests, and fibre optics.