

workspacebrussels presents

# open studios

21.04 - 23.04.2023

## AZAHARA UBERA BIEDMA

### Tender Frictions

23.04.2023 - 17:30 - Kaaistudio's (Dance Studio / 3<sup>rd</sup> floor)

dance, performance / in English / 60 min.

**The Tools we have to activate Magic are many.  
Through sound, words, sitting together.  
Dancing for plants.**



NL – Planten zijn modulaire organismen die zich flexibel kunnen aanpassen aan hun omgeving. Kunnen wij daar als mens iets uit leren? De performatieve installatie *Tender Frictions* creëert ruimte voor radicale verbeelding en verkent strategieën om meer of minder 'mens' te worden. In een queer spel met planten, haarborstels, toestemming en plezier worden de identiteiten en verlangens van enkele menselijke personages grondig door elkaar geschud en getransformeerd.

FR – Les plantes sont des organismes modulaires qui s'adaptent avec souplesse à leur environnement. En tant qu'êtres humains, pouvons-nous en apprendre quelque chose ? L'installation performative *Tender Frictions* crée de la latitude pour un imaginaire radical et propose des stratégies pour devenir plus ou moins humains. Dans un jeu queer avec des plantes, des brosses à cheveux, du consentement et du plaisir, les identités et les désirs de quelques personnages humains sont ébranlés et transformés.

EN – Plants are modular organisms that can flexibly adapt to their environment. Can we as humans learn something from this? In the performative installation *Tender Frictions*, Azahara Ubera Biedma creates space for radical imagination and proposes strategies for becoming more or less than human. In a queer game with plants, hairbrushes, consent and joy, the identities and desires of a few human characters are thoroughly shuffled and transformed.

**Azahara Ubera Biedma** is an artist, dancer and researcher based in Brussels. They hold a BA in Fine Arts at Goldsmiths University of London, and completed a Research cycle at P.A.R.T.S in Brussels. Their practice is situated at the intersection of dance, choreography, experimental pedagogy, artistic creation and how to translate philosophical ideas around feminism and queer culture into somatic practices. They teach these pedagogies at the Post Master on 'Art in a social-political context' at Sint Lucas in Antwerp.

Through performances, installations, workshops and social situations they create spaces for humans and not humans, for being together, intimate encounters to connect with otherness through movement, language games and sound.

Azahara also develops their work and practices along with several collectives and organizations and thanks to all the learnings with Somatecx, a research group initiated by philosopher Paul B Preciado after his advanced program on queer and gender studies at the Museum Reina Sofia in Madrid.

**Direction, text, sound**

Azahara Ubera Biedma

**Performance in collaboration with**

Inga Huld Hákonardóttir

Eimi Legget

Chiara Monteverde

& a group of plants, some of which were abandoned at an office of the city of Brussels, and others that were borrowed from Le 123, a new collective space where cooperation and collaboration are at the base of its infrastructural relations

**External eye**

Jaime Llopis

**Special guest**

Kristina Nickel

for sound and dramaturgical support

**Drawing landscapes**

Eva Decaesstecker

**Residencies**

workspacebrussels

wpZimmer

**Thanks to**

Anouchka Oler

Julia Dyck

Bruno Casabona

Jesus Ubera

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