



A PERFORMATIVE RITUAL

BECOMING
HUMAN

TOWARDS MOTHERHOOD



In this performance a woman invites her future child to come over. Through different artistic landscapes she prepares the womb with stories about life on earth and our role as human beings. These stories are sparkles of life the child breathes in before voyaging into the world. Becoming human is a search for our human nature and legacy in relationship with our environment, but overall it is a celebration of life.

Nina Vermeulen



HUMAN BEINGS

BEHIND THE MASKS OF SOCIETY

Raised in a city I have always carried the fascination of what would happen if I would live in the middle of nature. Would I somehow know from deeply inside how to act in relation to nature and other animals? And what is our place as humans in the bigger ecological system?

With the thrive of these questions I spent a few weeks in the jungle of Costa Rica. It made me feel strong and humble and let me experience a beautiful feeling of belonging, no matter what side of myself I was showing. I was acting human, without questioning how that should be. And I wondered if I could take this experience with me into society.

Within the web of society we are encouraged to show certain aspects of this human nature while other parts are requested to be suppressed or forgotten. I not only want to meet this mask of society but as well the rich human being that is hidden behind that mask.

Looking for this pure human life has lead me to the womb, where a spark of life becomes a human being as gold in the dark.



STORIES OF THE WOMB

The womb has a unique space and time, it's a sort of no-mans-land. A preparation for life on earth, life in a society where with every breath we become more and more human. The open, receptive and sensorial way we start our life is inspiring.

In this place we carry our own experiences, the experiences of our ancestors and many collective memories as well. That made me wonder what message I would like to give to the next generation. What would I like to pass on to my future child? What roots and chords are already undeniably there? And what parts are ready to end here?



THROUGH DIFFERENT LANDSCAPES

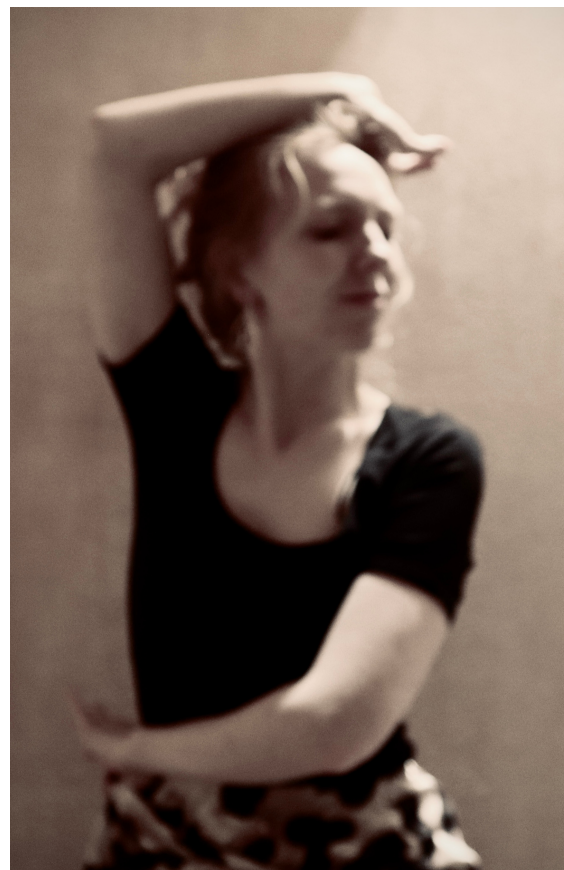
Diving into this topic, universal themes and landscapes came up. It was nature that inspired me to combine different artistic languages into a message for a future child. A new invented language, music and movements were composed.

It turned into a performative ritual as a journey towards motherhood. A moment where I prepare and decorate my womb as an exhibition full of stories about humanity. These are stories my future child can discover and more and more breath in while growing inside the womb.

VOYAGING INTO THE WORLD

More than a focus on motherhood, this project also carries the search for my personal voice, my personal home and this in relationship with society. During a solo part this piece gives fully space to discover my personal expression.

In a second part I explore what happens to this personal truth in interaction with others. It's a dynamic play in which you find and lose each other and yourself. Can you stay true to yourself and in the meantime open up for others? Can you sing your own melody and still be in connection?





CELEBRATION OF LIFE

COMING TOGETHER

LLast but not least, an important part in this topic is community. This performance dives back into the roots of storytelling. Coming together and expressing art is and has been for many people over the world impossible or contained a risk of life. I wanted to use my privileged position in and not meet but also put it on stage.

More than anything Becoming Human is a celebration of who we are, of humanity, of new life coming up. A celebration of life in its richest form.



*Left: performance may 2023
@Teatri di Vita, Bologna,
©Stefano Scheda Photography*

*Under: fragment of the music
'letter to my future child'*

**NINGOLEYO
NINGOLEYOZO
ZUNGALAYE
ZUNGALAYELE**

*"I let you know that I am here
I let you know that you are
welcome to come over"*

Extra note: the language in
this music is invented by the
creator and freely translated
into English