

ARTSTALK

Colour Supplement

Number 19

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Not much space for blurb this month as there is a very long list of contributors. Some really excellent events to report. Our main articles are on the history of NDT, the major retrospective of Michael Raedecker at Kunstmuseum in The Hague and the amazing Circusstad in Rotterdam. Plus the return to Holland of Laurien Schreuder's *Snowapple* and singer Robbie Williams making his debut as a painter at the Moco Museum in Amsterdam. All this and much more in the May *Colour Supplement*.

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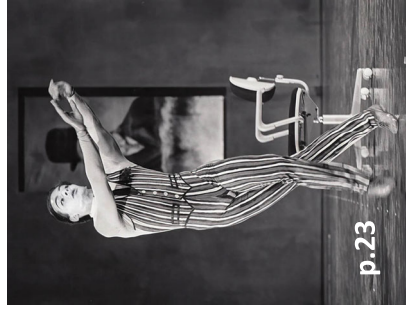
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Camilla Pessi and Simone Fassari of Compagnia Baccala who appear in this year's Circusstad Festival in Rotterdam.
Photo by Geri BORN



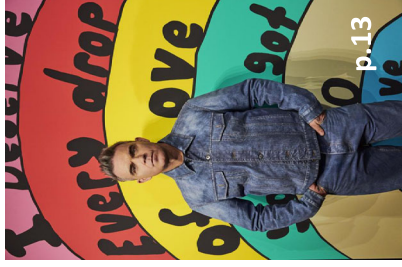
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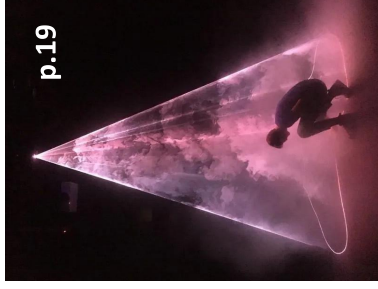
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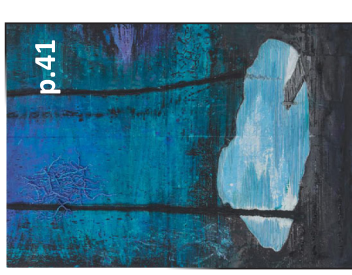
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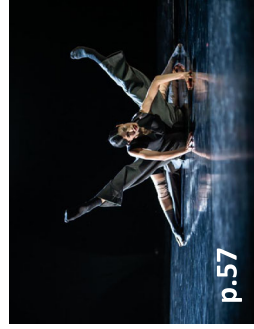
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CIRCUSSTAD Festival

Amazing acts from around the world converge on Rotterdam for the tenth international circus festival, the hotspot of which is the spectacular Gala at the Nieuwe Luxor Theater

Circusstad Gala is back! Circusstad Festival proudly presents the second edition of this unique circus evening on Friday, 3rd May at the Nieuwe Luxor Theater in Rotterdam. With artists of the highest international level including a top act selected for Monte Carlo, a world champion, medal winners of the prestigious *Cirque de Demain* in Paris plus acts that have attracted an audience of millions in dozens of countries.

The public and press responded enthusiastically after the first edition in 2022. Such an event had not yet existed and the level was breathtakingly high. For example, after the first Circus City Gala, Theaterkrant Rotterdam proclaimed 'Circus City of the Netherlands' and trade magazine *De Piste* called the Gala 'the climax of recent Dutch circus history'.

Compagnie Modò Grosso *Entre Cordes*
Photo by and © Denis Rouvre



Raven by Still Hungry. Photo by Andy Phillipson

Expect another thrilling evening full of surprises, spectacle, humour and emotion in short performances that bring current circus art to the stage in all its diversity.

Artistic director of Circusstad Festival, Menno van Dyke, puts it this way: 'With festival artists and 'special guests' we show the innovative power of contemporary circus, with respect for tradition.' Before the start and afterwards, the atmosphere of a grand circus ball fills the foyer with surprising acts and festive music. A unique and unmissable circus party!

The acrobatics of the Australian Circa Contemporary Circus are world-leaders. As the absolute vanguard of contemporary Australian circus, the company has captivated one and a half million people in more than forty countries with standing ovations, enthusiastic reviews and sold-out halls. Especially for the Circusstad Gala, the ten acrobats raise the bar even further in an impressive scene from the performance *Humans 2.0*.

Humour also plays an important role this time. The contemporary clowns Camilla Pessi and Simone Fassari from Compagnia Baccala have been acclaimed in more than fifty countries but never performed in a theatre in the Netherlands. The refined humour of this duo from Switzerland is inspired by the silent film era.

The humour of the crazy guitarists of Trio Olé is of a completely different nature, but just as hilarious. In these 'Gypsy Kings of comedy' the guitars even fly through the air.

The trapeze act of Lisa Rinne, who graduated from Fontys Circus in Tilburg, is of an unprecedented high level. She is the first Dutch alumnus ever to be invited to the famous circus festival in Monte Carlo. Her use of the rope ladder as a prop is innovative, and her somersaults and pirouettes in full flight are breath-taking.

Winning the prestigious Paris Circus Festival ensures success for any up-and-coming circus artist. After winning Gold in 2018 Spaniard Jimmy Gonzalez is in demand all over the world. He appears for the first time in the Netherlands, and exclusively at the Circusstad Gala, with his beautiful act *d'Argile* in which he miraculously juggles with clay.

Other special winners of Cirque de Demain will also perform, such as Tay Lane & Laura Stokes who gracefully and gracefully experience the ultimate freedom of movement with the art of hair hanging for which they won Silver in 2020. Or take the stunning act of Diana Salles (Bronze 2019), who confronts gender identity with her 'aerial silk act' *Genesis*.

In 2022 Shu Takada from Japan amazed the jury of TV show *America's Got Talent* with his yo-yo act, a new discipline for the circus in which he has been world champion for five years.

"With festival artists and 'special guests' we show the innovative power of contemporary circus, with respect for tradition." Menno van Dyke, Artistic director of Circusstad Festival



Les Colporteurs Meanders.
Photo by Christophe Raynaud de Lage

A scene from *Glorious Bodies* by Circumstances masterfully shows how trained older circus artists between the ages of 55 and 67 can still use their bodies. Innovation in the circus emphatically also comes from our own country. Acrobat trio Knot on Hands shows how the new generation of circus makers are developing their own intriguing movement language.

Circusstad Festival takes place around Rotterdam from 1st – 5th May with more than a hundred circus artists in dozens of performances and workshops on the Schouwburgplein, in the de Doelen, Theater Rotterdam, Luxor Theater, Laurenskerk, Maritime Outdoor Museum and other locations. Last year the festival attracted 37,500. □



Australian Circa Contemporary Circus
Humans 2.0. Photo by Yaya Stempier