

P O R T R E T F O L I O

Highlights

RONA
KENNEDY



I am a British-Belgian transdisciplinary artist, writer and educator. I build worlds, creating cracks: temporary autonomous sites for experiment and agency. In my artistic practice, Installation-performances, (sound) stories and workshops are ways to start (material and somatic) conversations.

My artistic (research) practice consists of deep listening/observation, field recording, reading (aloud), autoethnographic writing and thinking through drawing, collage making and critical exchange.

My focus is on how accessing embodied, tacit, intuitive and imaginal knowledge of place through stories of and encounters with (geological) landscapes can deepen our understanding of the complexities of (not) belonging in a time of ecological and social crises. Process-orientated and participative live performance as both research and artistic creation are inseparable in my work.

<https://ronakennedy.com/>





Public showings: VierNulVier, Nov 2026; TAZ24, Aug 2024, Ostend; Omrijck May 2023, Duffel; Oorzaken, BrakkeGrond, Amsterdam, July 2023; Dansand, KAAP, Ostend, June 2023; WTF!, VierNulVier, Ghent, Nov 2022; Timelab, Ghent, May 2022.

THE UNRELIABLE ARCHIVES

A process-orientated installation-performance about the unreliability of (collective) memory. I connect stories of mining to stories above ground: forced land removals, the British boarding school system and the separatist Homeland system in Apartheid South Africa. The impact of these traumas on both people and nature, is not immediately visible. The traumas are passed on from generation to generation and form literal scars in landscapes. Gathering and sharing such stories, as a starting point for encounter and exchange, is central to my artistic practice. In this transdisciplinary installation, I invite you as co-archivists, to slow down and take time to feel our way into this complex material. What changes of perspective do you want to see? Which complex entanglements are you part of?





MIGRATING DIALOGUES

This artistic research project creates a transit zone. Between here and there. Between the past and the present. Between the personal and the geopolitical. Between ourselves and others. It is a collection of stories on migration. We map our own migration routes by interviewing family and friends. Confronting our own stories we invite others to share theirs. This investigation and (re-) collection is developed and documented in performances and audiovisual installations.

Fahren Collective: Rona Kennedy, Fabián Espinosa-Díaz, Helena Elshout
www.migratingdialogues.org

Public showings: UN/SETTLED festival, KAAP, Oostende, BOMfestival Bij de Vieze Gasten, VierNulVier In/uit de Kast, CAMPO, NEST, Gent, WiP Coop, Mestizo Arts Festival, KASKA, CCBerchem & Arenbergschouwberg, Antwerpen

RECENT ARTIST RESIDENCIES

Arts-centrum VIERNULVIER (BE), April 2023; Kone Foundation (FI) July 2022; C-Takt (BE), December 2022; Workspacebrussel (BE), November 2022, September 2021; CAMPO arts centre (BE) June 2019, January 2020, June 2021; Mestizo Arts Platform/Rataplan (BE) April 2021; Muodoslompolo (SW/FI) August 2019; KAAP (BE) June 2018.



RESEARCHER AND LECTURER ARTS AND SOCIETY

Karel de Grote-University college, Antwerp, p/t, 2013-ongoing

- Research on how the arts can support sensemaking in social work practice
- Paper and workshop at ESWR Conference, 2024 and 2025
- Lecturer in participative art practices, critical perspectives on art history

Photo credits: Karolina Maruszac, Rona Kennedy, Campus Atelier

UNRELIABLE ARCHIVES



A geological archive of unreliable collective memories
Concept & maker
Artistic research project and process-orientated installation-performance 2019-ongoing



MIGRATING DIALOGUES



Artistic research project:
audio-visual installations and performances on migration, privilege and power

Concept and maker with Fahren collective, 2016-2022



PUBLIC SPACE LABORATORY



FOU DE COUDRE
Public space laboratory: installations, performances, Hoaxes
2006-2014
Concept & maker with FDC
<https://foudecoudre.wordpress.com/>



CAMPUS ATELIER



PUBLIEK PLAN OSTEND
Re-imagining cities together with inhabitants.
Freelance artist with Campus atelier and Elly van Eeghem
De Grote Post, Ostend, 2024
Member board of directors



ROOTING HOPE



Transdisciplinary project on relationships between artistic and activist practice
Concept & maker with ZORAS collective: International transdisciplinary collective (BE, FI, UK, GER), 2021-2024



MORE INFO



For complete portfolio, photos, videos, sound and texts, see

WEBSITE
WWW.RONAKENNEDY.COM

