

RONA KENNEDY

P O R T F O L I O



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.

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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?





CREDITS

Concept and maker: Rona Kennedy

Composer and sound: Hans Roels

Dramaturg: Kopano Maroga

Scenographie: Saskia Lauwaard and Katrijn Baeten

Assistant: Sabine Declercq

Design: Hannelore Dreher

Design collaborations: Ginelle Hustrulid

Translation and text editing: Line Mertens

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The Flemish Arts Council, Mestizo Arts Platform, Rataplan, Workspacebrussel, C-takt, CAMPO, Arts Centre VIERNUL-VIER, Centre for Performative Arts, Maastricht & Timelab.

PUBLIC SHOWINGS

Arts Centre VierNulVier, November 2026

Theater Aan Zee festival, De Grote Post, August 2024, Ostend

Omrijk festival, June 2022, Sint-Katelijne-Waver

Oorzaken Audio festival, BrakkeGrond, Amsterdam, July 2023

Dansand festival, KAAP, Ostend, June 2023

WTF festival, Arts centre VierNulVier, Ghent, November 2022

Timelab, Ghent, May 2022.

Flemish Arts Council Funding: project funding: January-December 2022, Artistic research grants: December 2020-December 2021, Sept 2018-Sept 2019: incl. research trip to South Africa.

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4IwpRPR9Glo&t=2s>

Online brochure:

https://issuu.com/hanneloredreher/docs/rona_kennedy_-_the_unreliable_archives

<https://ronakennedy.com/2022/06/21/a-glimpse-inside-the-unreliable-archives-may-2022-timelab/>



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.

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

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



ZORAS COLLECTIVE



International
transdisciplinary
collective
(BE, FI, UK, GER)
2021-2024

Transdisciplinary project on
relationships between artistic
and activist practice

ROOTING HOPE



Zoras Collective explores how we can move beyond binaries of hope/lessness, in/action to develop multiple and complex practices for ecological and social change.

Artist's residency Kone Foundation, Saari manor, July 2022.

Guest editors KutiKuti comics magazine (Fi) autumn issue 2023.

Guest speakers, exhibition and workshops at Helsinki Comics festival, September 2023 & Kothuus Vaarassa gathering, Koli National park, Oktober 2023



Fou de Coudre vzw
Public space laboratory,
installations, performances,
Hoaxes, 2006-2014

foudecoudre.wordpress.com

PUBLIC SPACE LABORATORY

Wafelbank, performance conversations about exchange economies, KVS, Recyclart, BOM, Brussels, Micronomics festival, 2010-2012

Boer'nBrood, performative interventions with short chain food picnics and a mobile farm & Fou de Rabot, city gardens and greenhouse 2010-2012

Sterke (sch)Ouders, performance and book launch with women living in generational poverty, 2011

Garvida Consulting: Hoax: Uitbreiding Brusselse Ring, with Greenpeace, 2010

Gender in de Blender, performance. 2009

West Side, Gent. 2008.

Play / Work, performance, Micronomics festival: Citymine(d) & Z33, 2007, 2009

Freeliving: Hoax on affordable Housing, Gent, 2007

ZoomIn, performance and photo exhibition with intercultural women's group, 2009

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Participative performance project with and about undocumented migrant mothers on their experience of bringing up 'good citizens'. Director
Victoria Deluxe, Ghent 2014-2015

ACE BANK

Hoax performance to expose controversial investments by banks
FairFin and Foude Coudre, MuntPunt, Brussels, 2006
Director and performer

Ace Bank Film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xUpZbgRa4nw>





PUBLI EK PLAN OSTEND

Re-imagining cities together with inhabitants, part of Publiek Plan project.
Freelance artist
Campus atelier and Elly van Eeghem,
September 2024



CABARET

Rona Invites: Hosting regular performance nights, with experienced artists and try-outs for new talent as programmer, performer and coach 2011- 2014.
Solo: Weightwatchers the musical, B€U, semi-final Ovatie cabaret festival, cabaret solo performances, 2010-2012.
bRaSs, cabaret duo, winner Gagacup, Villa Basta, 2005-2008



THE DARK ROOM

Immersive sound installation,
commission Gender bender festival
& Queer Arts Festival

HUSKROOMS

Coach: dramaturgy and performance for 'Huskrooms', an artistic research project of Lili/Ellen Vanderstraeten, 2023-ongoing

THE SMALL GESTURE

Forum theatre with measuring and weighing volunteers, VBJK (Centre for renewal of services for young children),
Director and facilitator



THE PRACTICE OF (IN)VISIBILITY

Performance-lecture, Critical arts practice conference, University of Brighton, UK, June 2015

SILO

Participative arts project with patients, staff and neighbours of Psychiatric hospital Karus, Melle.
Director and coach
Victoria Deluxe, Ghent 2013-14.

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, 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

STADS ATELIER: Arts Centrum VierNulVier, Project support and regular collaboration.
www.viernulvier.gent/nl/pQJXLsB/viernulvier/stadsatelier

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

