

"CHANTS DE PIERRE ET D'AIR" (SONGS OF STONE AND AIR)

**Winners of the Odyssey program for foreign artists in
residence in 2021**

at the Abbey of Noirlac

From September 29th to November 4th

Public presentation on October 28 at 6 p.m.

The Ministry of Culture of France and the Association des Centres culturels de rencontre (ACCR) (Cultural Meeting Centers) coordinate the "Odyssey" residency program. This program is aimed at foreign artists, researchers and cultural professionals not residing in France who wish to develop projects within French Cultural Meeting Centers linked with the vocation of these places.

The program, with its particularity of welcoming foreign artists who do not live in France, opens a thin layer that highlights diversity and difference in an increasingly homogeneous world. This highly political action offers an unbeatable creative space with great partners and a wide artistic support network.

Since 2003, more than 650 artists and cultural professionals of 78 different nationalities have benefited from this program, in fields as varied as music, architecture, crafts, visual arts, playwriting, animated film, photography, journalism, etc.

With a national, European and worldwide scope, the ACCR brings together about thirty members and partners around a common problem: the double development of a heritage site and an artistic and cultural project. It has been coordinated since 1973 by the ACCR.

The reflections carried out by the network integrate the issues of territorial development, cultural transmission, professional integration, technological innovation, sustainable development, tourism and creative industries, offering an innovative vision of heritage promotion. In this way, the network enables its members to address cultural development issues with great precision and to establish numerous cooperative actions. Through the coordination and implementation of joint actions and programs, the ACCR network also enables artists and researchers to multiply opportunities to highlight their artistic work and promote it, whether on a national or global scale.

"CHANTS DE PIERRE ET D'AIR" (SONGS OF STONE AND AIR)

Immersive installation. 6 color video channels with stereo sound; quadraphonic sound in the space, sound performance, sound improvisation and objects.

Salon des dortoirs, Abbey de Noirlac

"SONGS OF STONE AND AIR" was conceived specifically for the Abbey of Noirlac and its participation in the Odysée program. Jaidy Diaz (Colombian) and Evelyn Zelada Biecher (French-Chilean), director of the Pitouch Company of Strasbourg, Expanded Theater, propose a sound and visual real time installation to generate an immersive / participatory space in which sound and image are spatialized. It is a project that seeks to link the sound recordings produced in situ around the natural landscape of the abbey of Noirlac, as well as its architecture with its particular acoustic characteristics, emphasizing the place of its unique history in connection with the community.

"SONGS OF STONE AND AIR" is a multidisciplinary proposal that combines visual language, performance, sound art and bioacoustics. With Evelyn Biecher, we offer the spectator an extraordinary event. To carry out a creative process in a place like the Abbey of Noirlac is to come into contact with the history of an ancient community of monks, the landscape, the river, the ties with the city and the spirit of the place. The abbey, exalted by the luminosity of its stones, hides memories that we should listen to and live. "SONGS OF STONE AND AIR" is a gesture between fiction and documentary, sound and silence that portrays a sensation.

It is thanks to the richness of the place, of its natural ecosystem enhanced by the Cher River that we will build sound compositions, a historical documentation that invites to map the memory of the inhabitants. We will develop the project through voices, gestures, music, soundscapes and digitally processed images with synthetic treatments. The notion of immersive we adopt invites the viewer to enter a dream world. Human-scale images, sublimated sounds, lights and sculptural spaces take us on this imaginary journey, which is nourished by archives and its activations. The soundscape, music and silence create a polyphonic chorus that tensions the image.

This project will undoubtedly bring together a community around the sound memory, its traces in the landscape and its architecture, recalling the memory and identity of the region while reinforcing the social ties through art. The project responds to the vital urgency of the deterioration of the planet and proposes from art, a highlight about the state of life, its sounds and cycles, which play as a poetic and ethical question about the state of our relationship with the ecosystem.

The proposal insists on listening as a political act, sound as a creative material and live arts as a practice, as well as on a firm will of contact with the community through artistic gesture.

The residency takes place over a period of one month. Although we will have a high pace of work, we do not expect to conclude with a finished project but rather to acquire a strong working material loaded with sensitive information that fulfills our objectives and allow us to continue working. Undoubtedly is an exceptional experience for us as artists.

PLACE OF RESIDENCE :

Abbaye de Noirlac -- Centre Culturel de Rencontre, member of l'Association des Centres Culturels de Rencontres (ACCR).

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ASSOCIATES:

The Association des Centres de Rencontres Culturels is supported by the State.

It develops and maintains partnerships with networks and institutions in France and abroad.

Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, French Institute of China, Direction of Cultural Affairs of Martinique.

SUPPORT AND COOPERATION:

Institut Français, Centre des Monuments Nationaux, Cité Internationale des Arts de Paris, Association du Peuple Chinois pour l'Amitié à l'étranger (APCAE), New European Bauhaus, Les Oiseaux de passage.

NETWORKS:

French Rural Network, Culture Action Europe, ICOMOS France, European Heritage Alliance 3.3, European Alliance for Culture and the Arts, Le Dimore del Quartetto, Michael Culture.

THE ARTISTS:

Jaidy Diaz Barrios (Colombia)

Visual Artist and associate professor at the National University of Colombia, Bogotá.

She currently works as an independent artist and teaches as a researcher at the School of Visual and Plastic Arts and in the Interdisciplinary Masters in Theater and Performing Arts at the Faculty of Arts of the National University of Colombia. She is director of the research group Pensar Sonido (2008) at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia and is part of the research and creation team of image and sound of the company Pitouch, Strasbourg, France. He has worked in different universities such as Universidad de los Andes, El Bosque and Francisco José de Caldas, in their art departments. His professional work is interdisciplinary and explores the limits of plastic, performative and sound languages. Her interests come from the critical and sensitive observation of the current world, the

phenomena of power, the voices of the periphery, the microhistory, are part of her operations in the creative process. She has participated in the Paris Peace Forum 2019, in the Virtual National Meeting of Peace Experiences UNAL 2020, among others, and has been invited to the University Research Master's Forum in Artistic and Visual Practices at the University of Castilla la Mancha, Spain, the Autonomous University of Mexico in Toluca, Mexico, and the Kunsthochschule für Medien Köln Academy of Media Arts Cologne. KHM, Cologne, Germany.

She completed her MFA program at New York University, with studies in art history at the Istituto d'architettura di Venezia, Italy, and the International Center of Photography, New York. He has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions as a visual artist, and has produced various performance works and sound concerts nationally and internationally. She has received several awards and grants, including the Meritorious Research Award from the National University of Colombia, the Iberescena Award, the Ibero-American Fund for the Performing Arts, the Young Talents Grant from the Banco de la República, the Carolina Oramas Grant, the Jack Goodman Award for Art and Technology, New York, the Anna Stampalia Foundation Award, granted by the Museo d'Arte Contemporanea di Brescia, Brescia, Italy, and the second prize of the X Salón Nacional de Artistas Jóvenes (X National Salon of Young Artists), among others.

As a researcher, she has received support from the Research Fund of the Faculty of Arts of the National University of Colombia, Bogota and Leticia, and from other governmental institutions, such as the Colombian Ministry of Culture and the Secretariat of Culture, among others. She has published several articles and books related to the reflection on artistic practices, such as the *Rage / the Trace, le Noir, Pensar Sonido: Actos de la Escucha, Territorio Transformado: metáforas del río*, in collaboration with Martha Morales and *Cinco Miradas - Cinco documentos*, among others. She is the creator of the interdisciplinary creation platform *Línea infinita* (2015), a space for meeting, dialogue, reflection and creation around the arts, and participates in the image and sound space of the Pitouch Company in Strasbourg, France.

Evelyn Zelada Biecher & Pitouch Company

(Franco-Chilean)

Author, Director, Actress

Artistic Director of Pitouch Company www.pitouchcompany.com

Evelyn Z. Biecher created in 2006 the Pitouch Company which welcomes in its team different nationalities and artistic disciplines with whom she has realized different immersive and participative productions. Her creations have had a great impact on critics and the public, defining them as close to Postmodern Theater.

Pitouch is liberation, madness, love, adaptation, rhythm, evolution and transgression. Evelyn Biecher, is author, director and performer of her own creations and has a nomadic team of artists who accompany her in the realization of her pieces; with them, the work of the body, image, sound, music, light and text, creates a poetic relationship polysemic and seductive.

The Pitouch touch is the name with which one identifies one's own language, characterized by its radical and even provocative force. The Pitouch touch defies the norms of conventional theater, it extends it and builds its works in absolute freedom, where all the arts coexist: theater, live arts, visual arts, audiovisual media where many other disciplines coexist. Her shows are usually installed in conventional and unconventional places that take into

account the specificity of the space, the specific characteristics of the place, in order to make the stage the ideal space where the audience is an active part of the show, integrating it as a central point like a Greek chorus.

She transforms the theatrical act into a gesture charged with impetus, in which a delicate sensitivity and at the same time the raw force of its expression converge. Her writings are the fruit of her acute and sensitive observation of the world. Because of her ties to Latin America, especially Chile and Mexico, and the old continent, France and Spain, her texts offer a singularity marked by tensions and contradictions: beauty and dictatorship, solidarity and war, the sublime of nature and its destruction.

Evelyn Z. Biecher / Pitouch Company, has more than 10 shows that have been presented in different national and international festivals, in Colombia in Bogotá, Barranquilla, Bucaramanga, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Spain, France, Mexico, Cuba and Brazil, also participating in different scenarios of academic and scenic training, through specialized workshops, conferences and creative writing. Her works have been analyzed in different academic and theatrical fields and some of her writings have been published.

She has been a professor in the scenic field at the Marc Bloch University in Strasbourg, and a special guest at the Master's program in Creative Writing at the National University of Colombia, as well as at the University of Sciences and Arts of Chiapas in Mexico, at the ESAD, Escuela Superior de Arte Dramático in Seville, Spain. She has also given various workshops, exhibitions, laboratories, conferences and performance readings in different artistic environments, at international festivals and academic structures such as the University of Philosophy of Valencia in Spain, at the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme of Clermont-Ferrand and the Centre National du Costume de Scène (Moulins), at the University of Paris Diderot, Paris, France as well as the famous European Doctoral College of Strasbourg France, contributing to the debate on contemporary stage creation.

Some experiences: Awards:

- Winner of the Odyssey program for foreign artists in residence (2021). Ministry of Culture of France and the Association des Centres culturels de rencontre (ACCR) Abbaye de Noirlac.
- Frag #2; presented at the Festival de Teatro de Valencia, Spain (2006). First prize for innovation, quality of performance and social commitment.
- Frag #3; presented at the TEA Festival in Toledo, Spain (2013). The first prize for the best staging of the festival and the first prize for the innovative character of the show, highlighting its physical staging, interaction with the space and the audience and for its current theme and social engagement.
- Millones de seres viviendo juntos en soledad # 3 (Millions of beings living together in solitude # 3), presented at the Festival Experimental de Teatro de Toledo, Spain (2019) also won the Audience Award.

During her professional career, she has worked with the Congolese author, actor and director Dieudonné Niangouna, the Italian director Romeo Castellucci (Societas Raffaello Sanzio), the actress, singer and author Chiara Guidi (Societas Raffaello Sanzio), the director Oskar Gómez Matta, Cie. Alacran, the author Lina Prosa (Comédie-Française), as well as with the choreographers Jan Fabre and Isabella Soupard. In technological creation, collective, interaction with the public and unconventional places, she works with Pep Gatell, director of La Fura Dels Baus (2018), among others. In the field of video, she has worked with Ramón Diago (video-creator of La Carnicería Teatro

Rodrigo García). His most significant works of cinema are Civil by Christopher Muñoz, selected at the International Festival of Clermont Ferrand (France), the film "Captive", a direction of Yann Gozlan and in the series "The Invincibles of ARTE TV, among others.

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