





M
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In big cities, despite the fact we share a common space with different types of people, we often live in parallel bubbles. It is not unusual to spend our days surrounded by people with similar social and cultural backgrounds, or working in the same fields.

MOHA is an Amsterdam-based artist collective who create performances, present workshops, devise publications, and propose alternative curatorial models. Operating outside conventional art institutions, we work in public spaces and with specific communities, aiming to shatter our personal bubbles and connecting with the day-to-day realities of people we might never otherwise encounter.

The city, its different social dynamics, and how people make and use their living environment in specific localities, are the starting points for our initiatives. Through our projects, we create connections between the art field and other disciplines. We believe art needs to make these connections in order to take a more active

role in shaping the way society functions, the way we build our cities, and the way we collectively dream about our future. We become the bridge linking un-obvious fields and people together. As part of this mission, we use art as a tool to design these encounters.

At the same time we lead projects, we become students again, exploring different realities and experiences we would never otherwise have access to. We work with shop owners, maintenance workers, and butchers. We clean. We cut grass. We babysit. We make sandwiches. We make socks. We listen. We become multi-functional art-workers, organizers, caretakers, truck drivers, waitresses, social workers, mediators, cleaners, improvised urbanists

and hosts. Our position in relation to the contexts we are working in is always in question. Are we part of the building's maintenance team? Are we a bad entertainment act? Are we the artists? As we strive to understand the different structures that surround us, we become the structures themselves.

Hereby the selection of our works that we are happy to share with you.



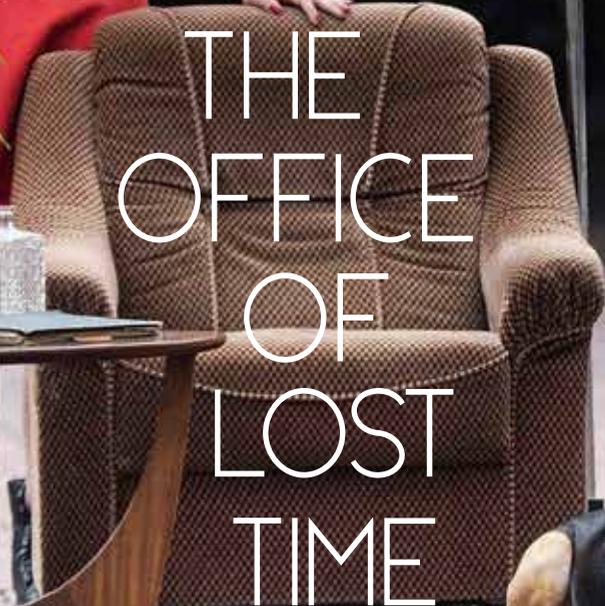
PERFORMANCE



BLUE

GORILLA

BlueGorilla is a dance duet consisting of a gorilla and a blue ninja/princess. We select a specific public site and perform there, typically from 8h-12h over a period of five weeks. We aim to choose unexpected spots; supermarkets, construction sites, public toilets. Through our continuous presence and perseverance, the absurd reality of what we are doing slowly becomes part of the everyday routine of the area. As a result, we begin to develop relationships with the people in the area, producing unexpected and enriching encounters.



WELCOME
IN THE OFFICE OF
LOST TIME
ENJOY



THE OFFICE OF LOST TIME

The Office of Lost Time is a performance for one person at a time in an outdoor site. It consists of a table, a carpet and a couch, and aims to create a sensation of intimacy in a decidedly public space. Passers-by are invited to sit behind a small desk for a 10-minute talk. Based on the information shared, we offer a brief performative service for them, like beauty treatments, silent walks, and fortune-telling sessions.

THE ROOF

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The Roof is both an autonomous artwork and a practice: a nomadic multiform device that challenges one's relation to the city. The action consists of carrying a piece of white kite fabric (The Roof) through a neighborhood, stopping in different locations. Usually 3-4 meters square, the fabric is both a blank map and a toolbox that transforms daily. Influenced by the location where we are operating and what it needs, The Roof serves as a interactive material to be refashioned and reimagined, becoming a tent, a picnic blanket, a gate, a wall, a flag or a cinema, in different moments.

MOVE.DANCE.ACT.

Move.Dance.Act is an open research lab operating weekly in Amsterdam. The aim is to practice "working together" through open artistic research with a diverse group of 12-15 people per week—professionals and amateurs, with different socio-cultural backgrounds and ability levels. Over time, MDA has become an organizational locus for various events and projects in Amsterdam, initiating critical dialogues and connections within disparate communities across the city.



Mapping Utopia is a workshop addressed to children between 6 and 15, in collaboration with visual artist Merel Noorlander. The children are asked to map their surrounding through different techniques including walks, drawings, and photography. Through this, they begin to notice smaller details of their environment, imagine changes, and dream of different possibilities. In the next phase, they begin to explore and propose new propositions for the future of their neighbourhood through 3D objects and utopian models.

MAPPING

UTOPIA





SUPERROUTINE

Super Routine is a card game created to celebrate stories of the people, places, and objects of the "Lost Island", an area of Amsterdam West called Zeeheldenbuurt. The game collects largely invisible details from daily life in the area; shops we pass but never enter, places we bring our children to play, a favourite bridge, the bench where we like to sit, and invites players to explore their surroundings in new ways. It is a tribute to the small, the unnoticed, the ordinary, and the banal. Cards have been distributed to specific people but also placed in public space to be randomly found, leaving a trace of our work behind. The collection can be seen, read, and played by anyone, becoming a form of collective knowledge for the area.



THE CARE

WORKERS

As the Care Workers, we take the role of "maintenance workers", travelling through the city from 8-17h daily with our toolbox on wheels; a colourful trolley of costumes, carpets, fabrics, paint, beauty supplies and other odds and ends. Working in response to the needs of specific sites, we offer "performative care" services; nomadic beauty salons, improvised foot-washing stations, spontaneous napping stations, pop-up tea parties, and silent walks through shopping malls.

PERFORMANCE

Magic Transformers began as a way to re-imagine working with the artists from Move. Dance.Act. who frequently appear in our other projects. Here, the goal was to celebrate them and their specific skills. Structured as a sort of dinner party with food and drink, the piece is created with this group of amateurs and professionals from different social and cultural backgrounds, ages and abilities. We invite them to share their fantasies, questions, wonders, and visions on society through a fairytale format reflecting on immigration, gender, and love through poetic and personal stories.

MAGIC TRANSFORMERS

This project is developed in collaboration with students from different universities, usually from the departments of Urbanism or Architecture, and offers space to share and explore each other's working methods. Students reflect on public space, through projects like The Roof and Strange Urban Folk Dances, allowing them to approach "fieldwork" from an unexpected angle. They explore our methods for data gathering; direct conversation with the participants, physical practices, spatial explorations, social games and public performances. As a response to this experience they provide new approaches and layers to our artistic research, such as maps, videos, and more formal reports.

"The thing I've learned from MOHA is that urban planning can be analyzed partly intuitively and partly based on rationality. We've been learned to only research with factual maps and data. Discovering does not only have to be rational, the important aspect is to turn intuitive based knowledge into some form of rational thoughts for others to comprehend as actual facts and knowledge."

Lisa - students at TU Eindhoven



STRANGE URBAN FOLK DANCES

Developed in part through MDA, Strange Urban Folk Dances began from our desire to invent “folk” dances with a group in which none of us share a common set of references or histories. We created four different choreographies with a core group of performers, often in relation to a site or event; a location in the city, the beginning of spring, etc. As with The Walks, the performance brings together intentional and accidental audiences, who can join us or simply watch.



FLAM



Since 2017, MOHA co-curates FLAM (Forum of Live Art Amsterdam) along with Rose Akras and Titus Nouwens. Presented at Gallery Arti et Amicitiae, the annual event offers a diverse program of works from Dutch and international performance makers, creating a forum for exchange and debate among creators working with both physical and more conceptual performances. MOHA applies their skills in “hosting”; curating in between spaces, gatherings, social activities, bringing in different performance formats to diversify the usual expectations.

IN THE NAME OF ALL

In The Name Of All is a research project into new forms of interaction and exchange across distance and borders. The first try out of the project happened in 2017 with children from Remenysugár Orphanage (Hungary) and artists from the Netherlands. 10 children and 10 artists engaged in a creative and reflective dialogue through the exchange of post-packages. Inspired by a technique called "cultural probes", the packages included an object (a map, a postcard, a disposable camera or diary) along with directed tasks, which allow participants to record specific events, feelings or interactions. The aim is to elicit inspirational responses from people, in order to understand their culture, thoughts and values better, and thus stimulate each other's imaginations.



THE OFFICE BOOK

LIST OF OFFERED SERVICES

THE BEAUTY TREATMENT
A BEAUTY TREATMENT FROM US TO YOU
Instructions: Just relax and enjoy.

THE ROCKS
A JOURNEY INTO THE FUTURE
Instructions: Follow your guide.

THE PICNIC
SHARING FOOD ON A BLANKET
Instructions: Choose a game to play while sharing your food. If you don't know any games, we will propose something to you.

THE HOST
A CARING GESTURE
Instructions: You will be blindfolded and guided to sit on our couch. Just relax.

THE LOOKING
A WAY TO FIND EACH OTHER
Instructions: You will be given a walkie talkie, a paper and you will need

THE WALK
A SILENT WALK HAND IN HAND BETWEEN TWO STRANGERS
Instructions: The walk takes 10 minutes. You will walk hand in hand with one of us in silence. Neither of us is the leader. Let yourself be surprised.

THE MISSION A
AN ENIGMA TO SOLVE
Instructions: It is a mission. You will start alone and will find one of us on the way, who will then guide you further.

THE MISSION B
A WALKIE TALKIE ADVENTURE
Instructions: You will go alone. You will be given a walkie talkie. You will have to listen carefully for further instructions.



THE PILLOW FIGHT
A FIERCE FIGHT BETWEEN TWO PERSONS
Instructions: You will be fighting with one of us. The third person is the referee. We will

THE DISCO DANCE
BACK TO DISCO
Instructions: Choose a disco item. We will dance together to a famous disco hit. Don't stop before the end of the music. Support each other.

THE GAMES
PLAY A CHILDRENS' GAME TOGETHER
Instructions: Choose one of the following. We have a jumping rope, an elastic, a Frisbee and marbles.

THE SLOW DANCE
A SLOW DANCE BETWEEN TWO STRANGERS
Instructions: You will be slow dancing with one of us in a chosen location to one of our favourite songs.

THE FUNERAL
BURRING AN OBJECT TOGETHER
Instructions: Find a meaningful object within your belongings. If you don't have it with you, write on a paper what you would like to let go. We will go together hand in hand to bury it.

THE BLIND FOLD
A JOURNEY WITH EYES CLOSED
Instructions: Something will cover your eyes. One of us will take your hand and lead you through the walk. We will be in silence. Just follow us and trust us.

THE DESTRUCTION
DESTROY AN OBJECT
Instructions: You will be given three options to choose from. After that you will be guided to a location where you have to destroy your object the way you want.

THE RUN
A RUN TOGETHER
Instructions: We will run hand in hand through the whole corridor as fast as we can as we will run a race from one side to the other. You decide.

Through our project The Office of Lost Time we collected more than 100 stories from people we encountered on the streets. The Office Book is the first publication of these stories.

PERFORMANCE

THE WALKS



The Walks are a series of four walks through Amsterdam, each based on a different type of social gathering; the carnival (where people create their own rules), the protest (where participants claim space and demand to be heard), the funeral (a ritual of mourning to let go of something) and the march (a simple yet powerful gesture of walking together as a group). Each walk lasts around 2 hours, and brings together a core group of participants, with both intentional and accidental audience. The piece serves as a poetic reflection on a neighbourhood, a platform to have new encounters, and an invitation to view our city together in a new way.



ALTERNATIVE

ARTISTIC

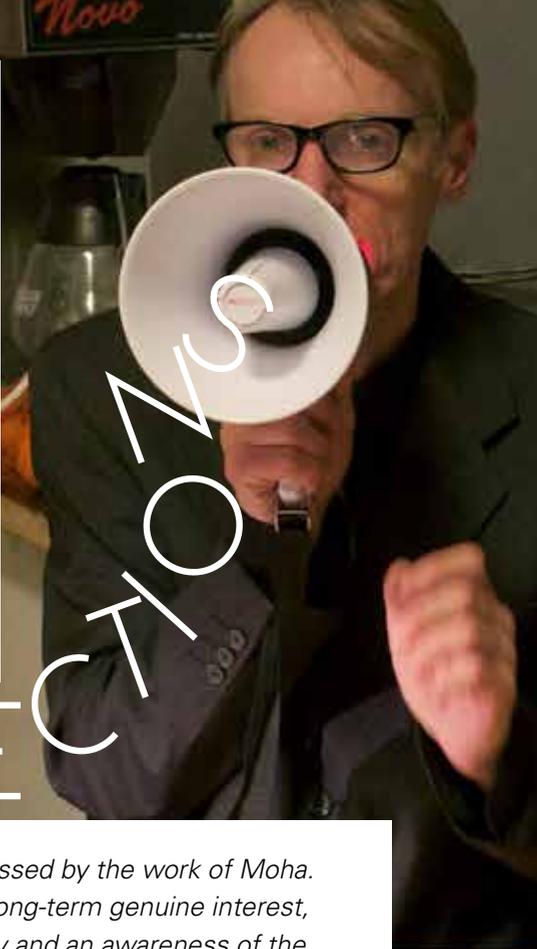
ECONOMIES

During our own studies, we often struggled with questions of how we would sustain ourselves as professional artists. Alternative Artistic Economies addresses this question in the current context through a workshop addressed to students in the Performing Arts. First developed for students of the SNDO Bachelor of choreography program, the aim is to accompany students in contextualizing their work, while triggering creative thinking around the production and communication strategies. We offer our own journey and those of other colleagues starting points, proposing games and exercises to explore the subject; mapping techniques, peer support groups, and brainstorming sessions.

UNFOLDING ROUTINES

Unfolding Routines is our subsequent search to re-articulate who we are and what we do as artists. We decided to take internships in different fields in order to compare them with our own profession. Through this project, we have explored the backside of the service industry in a family run hotel in Den Bosch, joined the city maintenance department in Amsterdam North, followed an intensive marketing course with shop owners of the Bijlmer Poort (a suburb in south east Amsterdam) and launched our own MOHA Impact Product, in which we designed a series of limited edition socks.

We have cleaned rooms at the Student Hotel in Groningen. And we have integrated ourselves into the routines of a seniors' residence, cleaning, preparing food, and talking to residents. By closely working with the people from these fields, we reflect together on both our position in society as artists and on theirs as citizens. At the end of each internship, we create performances and tours where we invite a wider public into the discussion with the common ground developed through collaboration.



G. Ortdroog
Ambtenaar

"To me, BlueGorilla stands exactly when they stop being amusing. When they become an exact reflection of a relation to life that is based on values that we don't question enough. It is then that BlueGorilla becomes a mirror, allowing ourselves to observe our life. And our choices. And the choices that were made for us and that we don't question anymore. It is then that BlueGorilla makes us question. And after this point a possible gorilla, or a possible blue girl, can emerge from us and make us take our stand."

Gabriel Zimbardi
Galeria Vermelho, Sao Paolo

"I didn't quite understand the meaning of the costumes, but their "kitschy" look with your extremely humble position brought something bizarre and mocking to this "temple" of modern art."

An audience member
about BlueGorilla in
Palays de Tokyo

"We are impressed by the work of Moha. It is based on long-term genuine interest, huge sensitivity and an awareness of the force field of human responses and projections that one enters when engaging so closely with communities. Moha is a master at mediating and embodies the ethical attitude she proclaims effortlessly, or so it seems. It is the cornerstone of its credibility, which we consider undisputed."

DASTheatre

"MOHA is taking a pioneering role by re-searching new forms and, at the same time, doing this with a context that is not evident for this kind of work. They move from performance festivals to the Bijlmer and do this with the same openness and sharpness. In recent years they have produced a series of interventions and performances that mainly took place in public space, their signature has become increasingly clear."

Anne Breure
Artistic directeur of Veem Huis
voor Performance



THANK
YOU

MOHA

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A woman with a bright blue wig and matching blue jacket and leggings is performing a yoga pose on a city street. She is sitting in a lotus position on top of a black, furry gorilla costume that is lying on its back on the pavement. Her hands are pressed together in a prayer position (Anjali Mudra). In the background, there is a brick building with large windows. One window shows a woman in a white shirt looking out. A utility pole with various stickers is visible to the right. A blue and black sneaker lies on the pavement near the gorilla costume. The overall scene is a playful and artistic performance in an urban setting.

THANK
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