

*A support scheme
for emerging creators of contemporary circus in Europe*



Think Circus!

DREAM CIRCUS!

Words of CircusNext artists

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The following words are taken from statements by pre-selected and laureate artists and the people accompanying them during CircusNext 2013-2017. Their voices have been put in writing. They tell of things dreamt, hoped, and of that which exists but is not always seen.

For three years, at the end of each interview, Agathe Dumont have asked the project's actors to give her an account of what they had experienced, seen, perceived, and to talk about their ideals.

These words tell of an ideal CircusNext.

An ideal circus.

An ideal next.

Of one day, finding yourself in an open place where everything has yet to be invented. Of the people you meet, the projects you make. Of a place where everything is possible because nothing is judged. A place where every step is an invitation to ask questions, every move and gesture a cause for astonishment.

A place where we change our ways to think together and rethink our professional relations, a place where we teach each other how we work.

A scene that we watch, devoid of preconceived notions, the better to be surprised, unsettled. Accepting the discomfort and its fertility to feel our inner space moved.

Learning to watch, learning to "talk about it".

A jury comprised of artists, painters, musicians, circus artists, dancers, stage directors, choreographers, photographers, poets and writers, unattached, unbound, unencumbered by any professional reasons. Giving the lead role to artistic experimentation, making risk a struggle worth fighting for.

And time. Lots of time. Slow times, fast times, undefined times, unexpected times, planned times. Making it possible for a young or a not so young artist to complete their project, for one year, two years, maybe three, who knows...

A complex, all-encompassing itinerary. Bridging multiplicity. Accepting contradiction.

A project that unfolds on stage, in theaters, museums, contemporary art galleries, but also in town, in the parks and the squares. A project that sends you on the road and brings you back with an artistic, cultural, structural baggage. A project through which you build a way of thinking.

A project where you are accompanied and you are a companion.

The looks on unfinished work, that help structuring, building, developing it.

A project without fear of aiming high. For CircusNext creates beautiful things and could create more, bigger things.

A project where everyone at their own place is empowered to help the teams find ressources, partners. Where you help things and people emerge, discreetly, without intruding.

Encouragement, concrete engagement, networks, relays.

Making the full, radical choice of embarking for an artistic journey. Defend it whatever may happen. Following a team you have set your mind on, without cheating. Making a long-lasting choice. Entering an engagement for better and for worse, all the while remembering that in the end, producing the best is up to you. It is neither a honeymoon, nor the end of a story. But what it is is there, at once robust and fragile.

The dozens of encounters, exchanges, with no other aim than sharing. Freely, and for free, for the sheer pleasure of artistic and intellectual emulation. It is crazy. Free from any framework, from any norm. Non-merchant relations, a freer word.

The moments when each and everyone, artist, technicians, programmers, cultural operators, producers, can be present, when each and everyone has a say, for in that togetherness projects are realised.

Structures working in association, means which become mutual. Competencies that are shared, people coming together. It's about building on the achievements on those who are already there to help those who are heading towards something yet unknown.

It's about the these crossroads that are provoked, new encounters that nothing foreshadowed. It is letting oneself be surprised by what one had not foreseen. It is accepting the imponderable, the fortuitous, the uncertain. It's creating the conditions to feel that something is happening, that something is going to happen, there, now, at this place ... It's creating the conditions to gain that freedom.

It's opening to what is possible.

It is a place where people have a go, where they fail, where they try again, where they come back. It is the place of the people with no "labels", this is where one might be someone else than what he or she has always been.

This is where we draw the portrait of the author for tomorrow. He's writing circus but he's also building and bearing a whole project. It is here that reality goes beyond the stage. This is where are shoulders become strong.

Here, we have the right to have long term dreams, to deploy a universe, to assert artistic promises. CircusNext is lifelong! It's a place where you grow up.

Here, it's not "the market", we do not deal, we do not do business. One comes to see, one comes to understand, one comes to exchange, one comes to debate. And if we do not agree, it's for the best, because we all have the same commitment for CircusNext!

There you can come whenever you want.. More often, longer. It is a place where you do not expect anything productive, where one is left with more opportunities to discover, without necessarily having a result. It is a space that escapes all economic and political logics. It is a world without a market.

It's a world where you can feel legitimacy, where you have nothing to prove, where where you don't feel judged. It is a world where politics are not what you defend for yourself but what is necessary and vital to talk about our society.

It is the possibility to never think "in" the box. It is the possibility to look elsewhere.

It is a place that is invented outside the usual production schemes, to give birth to things that would never emerge otherwise. It is to keep the margins alive.

Maybe it's getting out of the production scheme during a creative process, getting out of the production networks for broadcasting shows. Going out.

It's is no longer judging an artistic approach, it's trust. It is a place where one is not afraid to present his work because he knows that he will only hear benevolent words.

It is a time when one knows the capacity of the gaze to place things in a context where one accepts that there are human and artistic affinities. It is a place where every situation will be adapted to each project.

It is a place where we know that a creation can brings fragility, but where we are never fragile.

It is always feeling at home, to risk imbalance. It is being between spaces, languages, writings, people and finding this in-between comfortable.

It's giving more space and more air for artists to take-off.

It is giving yourself time to breathe. It's giving us time to breathe. It is taking the time, it's stepping aside in a creation process that takes us, drags us away. It's working differently to get some fresh air. It's working with no expectations.

And, sometimes, it is the right to stop.

It is a place where you get advices, where you stay awake. Where we are told that being visible, very visible, it is not so easy. It's a place where your learn to be solicited and to protect your work. It is this moment when you realise that you are never obliged to accept everything, that political, ethical choices can be made.

It is no longer cultural, financial or symbolic dominations. It's no longer obeying a rule or submitting to an injunctions, ideas, ways of doing things. It's more equality between men and women, more balance between powers.

It is a commitment for artists, for programmers, for directors, for producers. It is inventing another framework to engage other relationship, other discussions.

It's spaces that one crosses, territories that one explores. It's the possibility to stop, to contemplate, to act. It's just possible.

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CircusNext

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