

# I WILL NOT BURY MY ROMANTIC SOUL

**by Ellen Vanderstraeten**

I Will Not Bury My Romantic Soul by Ellen Vanderstraeten is the graduation work from the Department of Performing Arts at Iceland University of the Arts.

I Will Not Bury My Romantic Soul is an experiment in search of how to make sense of our own bodies.

I experience my body often as numb, alien to itself and hyper sensitive. I believe bodies carry certain burdens with them. One year ago I stumbled upon a video on youtube called 'Memoria do corpo' by the Brazilian artist Lygia Clark. After this significant encounter I started a journey guided by Lygia of collecting objects and applying them to people's bodies. In silence, repetitively, in their own home and over a specific period of time. In these sessions I practice sensible listening to the other and open up for spaces where new pulsations and sensations can arise, in the hope that some of our burdens can be lightened.

The performance is the result of my desire to open up my research in a collective experience bringing together deep rooted personal fascinations for curious worlds such as 'Ikebana' and 'Haikus' (traditional Japanese flower arrangement & poetry), 'ASMR' (autonomous sensory meridian response) and various of therapeutic healing practices.

[LINK TO ARTIST TALK: https://vimeo.com/356868761](https://vimeo.com/356868761)

# CREDITS

## **Concept & performance**

Ellen Vanderstraeten

## **Performers**

Zo a Blanka Tomczyk Michelle Saenz Bu  
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## **Mentorship by**

Alexander Roberts Steinunn Ketilsdóttir Satu Herrala

## **Thanks for Artistic Advice**

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## **Special thanks to**

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## **Collaboration on costumes**

Tanja Huld Levý Guðmundsdóttir

## **Technical Assistance**

Aron Martin Ásgerðarson

## **Documentation**

Maciej Zakrzewski FotoTeatr

6 quotes from Claude Cahun: 'Under this mask, another mask. I will never be finished removing all these faces.', 'If there is horror, it is for those who speak indifferently of the next war. If there is hate, it is for hateful qualities, not nations. If there is love, it is because this alone kept me alive.', and 'Realities disguised as symbols are, for me, new realities that are immeasurably preferable. I make an effort to take them at their word. To grasp, to carry out the diktat of images to the letter.'