

Lemon Press Collective

# **The Trace of the Snail**

A contemporary circus show about the power of softness

**What happens if we let down our guard and  
give room to our own vulnerability?**



## Our mission

“The Trace of the Snail” is a circus-based exploration of softness, showing emotionality and vulnerability.

In this first creation of the Lemon Press Collective we want to explore “letting go of our shell”. Too often we hide our weaknesses and fears, but also our kindness, behind a facade, because we want to seem strong. We erect a shell around ourselves that stops others from looking in, but at the same time it prevents us from reaching out.

We are intrigued by the moment of softening this protective case. This moment of letting go, admitting defeat or asking for help.

All of us carry our own luggage of trying to be strong and unmovable, but what if that is not the only way to go? It is time to explore the soft, the caring, the small and the fragile, because we believe that they carry infinite amounts of beauty and strength.

# The background

**Only when we soften our defenses, we can connect with others.**

Letting go of our shell means accepting to be exposed, potentially attacked. But staying in the shell blocks us from real human interactions and most importantly, from caring for each other.

The idea for this research emanated from a personal urge to dare to let go of our shell and to embrace our own softness and vulnerability, but we strongly believe that it is not only a private matter.

For us, embracing being soft, giving in and being small on stage is a relevant political action in a world in which being strong, selfish and uncaring are the qualities that bring you to the top.

We want to make a circus piece that celebrates showing yourself vulnerable, admitting mistakes and helping each other up, unconditionally. These are not the qualities that bring you further in the race for money and status, but they are the glue that holds humanity together.

**We want to open all the windows wide and let the wind in, even though we might get blown over. And not least of all, we want to share this experience.**

## Our approach

As tools for this mission we will combine handstands, object manipulation and carrying. We will be using juggling balls and handstand canes. Additionally we will work with existing and self-written texts as a source of inspiration in the creation process as well as in the show.

We want to research with softening our bodies, and also our minds, and see how this translates into the circus disciplines.

Together we have a detailed, visual and intimate circus language that is characterized by fluid, round, continuous movements on the one hand and clear lines and shapes that emerge from them and melt back into them on the other hand.

The feeling of “softening the shell” is our central research inspiration. We want to explore how we can share this feeling of relaxing into a safe, intimate and open feeling state with the audience.

One way of exploring this is to work with erecting and letting go of the boundaries between the two of us. With our combined circus and movement material we will explore being very close in each other’s personal space and being far away from each other.

Also emotionally we want to see what it can tell about the presence of the shell if we are connected and open for each other or closed and distanced.

On top of that we are also very curious to play with softening the shell towards the audience, and see how we can lower the invisible barrier between us as artists and the public.

## About us

We are the Lemon Press Collective, consisting of Aurélie Tercier and Meike Schnapper, a hand balancer and a ball juggler who graduated from Codarts Circus Arts in Rotterdam in 2022.



Aurélie (she) grew up in Switzerland. After studying biology, where she found a great interest for the small and the detailed, she decided to give more room to her physical expression and become a circus performer. During her studies in Codarts she discovered her interest for including objects, which she uses as tools to explore different vocabularies in the handstand discipline.

Meike (he/she) spend her teenage years between the youth circus and political activism in Germany. Practicing art in any form was always an interest of his, especially as a tool to share his visions and ideas about the world. When Meike found the circus, she got immediately hooked by the sense of community. With her circus studies in Codarts and becoming a professional performer she now uses circus to combine her love for movement and juggling with her love for art and activism.



By collaborating regularly during our studies, we discovered that we share a similar physical language, love for shapes and nonchalance and a wish for talking about political issues on stage from a personal perspective. Also, Aurélie likes to use objects in her hand balancing and Meike often includes handstands in his object manipulation – a perfect fit, you could say.

# Timeline of the project

Creation period: July 2022 - Autumn 2023

We aim for this research to result in a show of around 30 minutes. We will create periodically during residencies.

## Planned residencies

2022:

- 25-31.07 MoMoLo in Jena (DE)
- 22-27.08 LeZarti'Cirque in Ste-Croix (CH)
- 29.08-4.09 Tollhaus in Karlsruhe (DE)
- 3-14.10 Chamäleon in Berlin (DE)
- 21-27.11 Cirklabo in Leuven (BE)

2023:

- 21-27.03 Die Schaulust in Bremen (DE)
- 24-30.05 PERPLX in Kortrijk (BE)
- 12-18.06 Latitude 50 in Marchin (BE)
- 26.06-1.07 PERPLX in Kortrijk (BE)

We would like to premiere in autumn 2023 within the program of a theater or a festival.



## Our needs

We are looking for organizations or projects that are interested in supporting us by providing a residency space for our creation together with a production budget.

We are still looking for two residency weeks between April and autumn 2023, and we are searching for financial support to cover the remaining production costs as well as our outside eyes and technicians.

Our technical needs for residencies are:

- A rehearsal space with an even, hard dance floor with dimensions of 5m x 7m or more. The ceiling height should be at least 4m
- A basic sound system with a mini jack cable
- A microphone with a stand that can be connected to the sound system
- If possible, a dance mirror

We are also looking for a theater, festival or project that wants to support us further by offering us a co-production and/or a venue or context for our premiere in autumn 2023.

## Contact

Email: [lemonpress@posteo.net](mailto:lemonpress@posteo.net)

Instagram: [@lemon\\_press\\_collective](https://www.instagram.com/lemon_press_collective)

+49 17651188905 for German, English or Dutch (Meike)

+33 786505122 for French or English (Aurélie)

**Co-produced by**

PERPLX (BE)

**Accompanied/supported by**

Zirkus ON (Kreationsbündnis für Zirkuskunst in und aus Deutschland)

PERPLX (BE)

CIRKLABO, Leuven (Circuswerkplaats)

Latitude 50, Marchin (Pôle des arts du cirque et de la rue)

LeZarti'Cirque, Ste-Croix

Photo credit: Schlinkart

- Dossier updated in September 2022 -