

Workshop Invitation

SPINNING PLOT

A one week camp
taking on satellite perspectives
making scenes
within a play already playing

12.09.-18.09.22



Spinning PLOT¹ chooses an existing place in Ghent to observe, monitor and learn from ongoing – often irrevocable – processes we are more often passively than actively part of. At the same time this workshop offers the possibility to generate different standalone small format *scenes*, displaying and voicing our observations and research trajectories.

We base our workshop on the currently evolving participatory street opera PLOT by artist collective PILOOT². Produced this year, to be presented on site, September 18th. This opera is the culmination of 7 years of social artistic research and exercises. By introducing and unraveling the works of PILOOT, we will be entering the multilayered artistic practices which developed and are still running around Tondelier site – a highly gentrified area in the Rabot area in Ghent.

To start with, we will set up a camp on site, and get to a better understanding of the socio-political complex this site provides; let's call this complex PLOT. We will dig into archive material, invite the artists currently and formerly involved in the long term presence on site and exchange on each other's artistic interests in this experimental context. Furthermore we will engage with the speculative opera libretto THE ORPHANS OF TAR³ and its characters. This libretto was co-authored by participants and contributors of a previous site-specific workshop in 2019, ourselves included. Thereby introducing the idea of a co-conducted Tondelier opera, which today seems to happen ...

Based on the methodology of co-narrating, we will take an outside satellite perspective, to realize *scenes* of our own. A *scene* being a moment, in which you make your experience tangible in the medium of your choice. By entering the context, the complex – the PLOT – you step on stage. We invite you to become active in the opera PLOT and explore possible involvements orbiting on present or past trajectories from PILOOT. May it be enacting a character from THE ORPHANS OF TAR, enhancing a particular sound, building a prop or engaging with others acting on site.

Who are we? We are Julien de Smet, Vanessa Müller and Clémentine Vaultier. The three of us met at KASK School of Arts during our involvement in the master course Autonomous Design and continued working together as BOTSCHAFT. Our collective developed shared interests in intertwining practices, politics of space and storytelling. BOTSCHAFT is a research-based facilitator and messenger – *Botschaffer* – to connect and fuse individual research interests within and beyond art school. We came together questioning how common artistic interests can be a basis for students and alumni to self-organize learning trajectories and collectivized practices out of the topics of their individual work.

Extending an invitation We want this week to contain encounters between people from different backgrounds. Off campus learning is also an opportunity to engage with people that are not related to the context of an art school. We very much want to open this invitation to students as well as others to participate in this interdisciplinary and heterogeneous project, where we will form a receptive group settling in a pre-existing plot.

As a participant you commit to inviting another person to the workshop from outside the school of arts context at one point or another. This person can have a bigger or smaller engagement to the project over a longer or shorter amount of time. Maybe you have a friend that has been asking about your art practice and wants to join for the whole week. Perhaps you hit upon an interesting discussion point you want to debate with someone. We want to commit this group to an experiment over the course of the workshop, that questions how an invitation can be extended further than only among ourselves?

The workshop is realized through the frameworks of **radical house / Bridging from School**¹, **PILOOT**² and **Nomadic School of Arts**³ and financed by the **European Union through NextGenerationEU**.

Curious? If you are ready spinning PLOT with us, or simply want more information, send us a short reply/ application to: -> write@botschaft.page by 31.08.22.

1 - A PLOT of land is a small piece of land that has been measured or marked out for a specific purpose, such as building houses or growing vegetables.
- The PLOT of a film, novel, or play is the connected series of events which make up the story.
- A PLOT is a secret plan by a group of people to do something that is illegal or wrong, usually against a person or a government.
- When someone plots the position or course of a plane or ship, they mark it on a map using instruments to obtain accurate information.

2 PILOOT² is a group of artists active on the Tondelier construction site in the Rabot neighborhood. PILOOT negotiates their work between various actors on the site, from landlords and city officials, to common people, workers and many others. Over the last eight years they have been enacting a number of artistic exercises in participation, documentation, communing and negotiation with the different actors present on the site. By realizing these exercises, each through their own practice, they challenge notions of ownership, usership and value. Social, artistic and financial views and interests overlap and collide on this PLOT of land. Through their active fieldwork PILOOT is realizing and archiving a vast body of work that contains a large variety of voices from and around the construction site, also described as the PLOT. Initially they were given a five-year grant from the Flemish government, to develop artistic practices on the site, starting from 2015. However, to this day they have kept working on the site and continued their practices. By affirming their presence they question what is to happen of the practices that were built on site and who stands to artistic and social-cultural value. PILOOT is currently developing a bigger project that will combine their practices and different voices in an opera on the PLOT. The form of the opera allows for the different exercises, practices and voices on the Tondelier site to be conducted together.

3 THE ORPHANS OF TAR³ is a co-authored libretto based on factual fiction of the Tondelier construction site. The publication was realized by Heike Langsdorf and Anthony Hudek in the context of CHOREOGRAPHY AS CONDITIONING after a workshop in 2019 organized by artist duo Vermeir & Heiremans. The text is a collection of eight characters that sprouted and intertwined out of the practices on the Tondelier site, as well as a report of a shared writing process with contributions of PILOOT artists, participants and organizers from the workshop. The voices highlighted by the characters of the libretto find themselves entangled with one another, unlabeling new narratives to form around this site and about the politics of urban development.