



Artistic Practice featuring How To Kill A Dog: “We’re making the intimate political”

Artiststudio How To Kill A Dog is on a mission to inhabit the present space of theater stages, so that the intimate becomes political. They are creating metaphors that set myths about women free, and through their insistent humor, musical intensity and confrontational political movement, they are aiming to change something in the audience to create space for the young woman's voice.

Jennifer Vedsted Christiansen and Emma Sehested Høeg from How To Kill A Dog have been selected for Bikubenfonden's "Artistic Practice" series – for particularly promising artistic practices. The two artists are insisting on having fun, while they – through their concert performances – are breaking down the boundaries that usually define performance arts.

Watch the new film, “Artistic Practice, featuring How To Kill A Dog”, [here](#).

“What we are drawing on, consistently, is our profound interest in changing something in the audience. For this reason, our artistic practice is focused on expressions and even more intensely on the impression that our pieces make. Pop and humor are parts of our method but the goal is always to make festive, fun and sexy performances art, which has

the potential to give rise to serious political change," says Jennifer Vedsted Christiansen, director.

How To Kill A Dog believes in the energy that can be brought forward when people gather in front of a stage. As a symbol of the world's distorted power relations, the artiststudio is constantly playing with the power relation between their artistic expressions from the stage and the audience's reception in the hall.

With powerful musical discharges of energy and an insistence on "pumping up the volume", they occupy, captivate and liberate the audience's intimate spheres and break down the boundaries between actor, stage and viewer. The laughter, the sense of disgust and the reciprocal human reflections generate the foundation for effectuating potential political change – a potential that is positioned centrally within the group's artistic practice.

"The young woman is struggling with quite a lot and finds being in our world difficult. We recognize both ourselves and many girls and women around us as we examine these problems. This is why we think that it's interesting to work with the young woman as metaphor and to set her free, definitively, through the power of art," says Emma Sehested Høeg, actress and composer.

The encompassing presence and condensed form of performance art is the perfect space for How To Kill A Dog, considering that there is a prevailing desire to turn what is intimate into a political battleground.

Farewell to Madonna – new piece in 2023

In February 2023, How To Kill A Dog will present their final piece in the performance arts trilogy, which has been co-produced with Theater Republique in Copenhagen.

In this new piece, "Farewell to Madonna", How To Kill A Dog will be breaking free from the millennium-long stranglehold that patriarchal narratives have had on the pure and innocent Madonna and the diabolical, female seductress.

One can expect to see a ritual redemption, carried forward through a musical orgy of body, sweat, hair, nails and excrement, set to musical tones of the mass, hymns and community singing – imbued with a wish to re-write history and make space for new dreams.

"Farewell to Madonna" finalizes the trilogy about the rebellious female animal, which laid bare her sense of shame in "Welcome to Pandora" (2019) and portrayed the young woman as currency, in a capitalist and male-dominated world, in "Lolita For Always" (2020).

Innovative gender-political theater for the future

How To Kill A Dog takes a refined approach to gender-political themes. Today's woman is entirely in the forefront and becomes de-mythologized and emancipated from all the roles that she has had no part in defining.

Through a curious and experimental practice, How To Kill A Dog put themselves into play in their pieces, and contribute with merciless disclosures of the confusion that women can feel in a society where sexuality, body, gender and feminism are subject to constant negotiation and change.

"Nothing, absolutely nothing, is too much in a normative understanding, when How To Kill A Dog unfold their art. They are breaking down the boundaries of what one "ought to" allow oneself as a woman of today, while breaking down the boundaries related to how one can go about creating performance art and engage the audience. The liberator-mission is at the forefront – in content, and at the aesthetic and musical level. It is performative, appealing, impertinent and artistically innovative," says Mette Marcus, director of Bikubenfonden.

How To Kill A Dog includes their audience in radical, loud and convivial ways. It is through the interaction and the collaboration with the audience that the artistic intention and mission achieve its full strength. As an artiststudio, How To Kill A Dog is in possession of a great potential in performing arts, and their flirtation with the medium of film and concerts serves to provide the group with a significant cross-aesthetic platform.

With its broad definition of performing arts, How To Kill A Dog has performed, for instance, at the Heartland Festival in 2022, presenting excerpts from "Lolita For Always", and the performer, "Dame Dearest", also known as Emma Sehested Høeg, will be performing the songs from the group's repertoire at the Vega concert venue. Moreover, How To Kill A Dog is also bound to be the focus of current interest with a upcoming TV series that is scheduled for broadcast on TV2 Zulu - about a woman's battle for orgasms.

See "Artistic Practice, featuring with How To Kill A Dog" [here](#).

In the new film, you can also meet the artists Kirsten Astrup and Maria Bordorff – in conversation with How To Kill A Dog at Teater Republique.

Artiststudio How To Kill A Dog is:

Jennifer Vedsted Christiansen, director

Emma Sehested Høeg, actress and composer

Amanda Tilia Hamelle, producer

Petruska Miehe-Renard, scenographer, and costume designer

Jennifer Vedsted Christiansen and Emma Sehested Høeg both completed their studies at The Danish National School of Performing Arts in 2019, and they are recipients of the Danish Art Foundation's 2-year development program – "The young artistic elite"

How To Kill A Dog is in close collaboration with Rikke Hedeager, manager at Teater Republique & Revolver

Artiststudio How To Kill A Dog's mission

How to Kill A Dog is dreaming of achieving closer contact between the edge of the stage and the audience's rows of seats. Their work reflects the reality in which they exist and the dilemmas that are arising around them. With their expressive artistic practice, their declared mission is to "take up space"!

How To Kill A Dog's practice is curious and experimental. They want to enlighten, to criticize and to discuss society – and to discuss the role of art in relation to this. They are working across various branches of the arts and they are seeking to blur the relation between artwork and reality. In this way, the framework for what art can do is being challenged and they are examining how the individual artwork can possibly exist beyond its own frame – both in the preparatory process and in the sediments that their pieces leave behind.

Although How To Kill A Dog's artistic practice is anchored firmly in performing arts, their pieces and concert performances are characterized by cross-aesthetically practices. From the outset, it has been the ambition to work with different formats, and different genres – and through various artistic mediums.

Artiststudio How To Kill A Dog – central scenic arts works:

Velkommen til Pandora [Welcome Pandora], 2019

Lolita for Altid [Lolita Forever], 2020

Farvel til Madonna [Farewell Madonna], 2023

How To Kill A Dog is always open to new collaborations – read more about the group [here](#).

About Artistic Practice

Artistic Practice is a close-up-to-the-person and close-up-to-the-work film-portrait of a Danish artist, artist duo or group with particularly promising practice and potentials. Bikubenfonden is making Artistic Practice available to artists as a link in an internationalization of Danish art. The purpose is a contribution to the elevation and strengthening of the artists' visibility in their ongoing career.

Artistic Practice featuring How To Kill A Dog has been produced by Meeto film, for Bikubenfonden.

Read more about Artistic Practice [here](#).

Upcoming artists in the Artistic Practice series:

Visual artist Jens Settergren

Visual artist Marie Munk

August 23rd, 2022

Visual artist Linda Lamingnan
Scenographer Nathalie Mellbye
Director Anja Behrens
Scenographer and artist Sif Freya Hestnes
Visual artist Hannah Heilmann
Visual artist Kristoffer Akselbo
Artist Jessie Kleemann

Previous releases in the Artistic Practice series:

[Artistic leader Marie Lydie Nokouda](#)
[Visual artist Jakob Kudsk Steensen](#)
[The artist duo Astrup and Bordorff](#)
[Choreographer and creator Gunilla Lind](#)
[Theater director Sargun Oshana](#)
[Visual artist Alexander Tillegreen](#)
[Visual artist Hannibal Andersen](#)
[Artist and choreographer Jules Fischer](#)
[Choreographer Hilde I. Sandvold](#)
[Set designer and costume designer Ida Grarup](#)

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