

MORPHOSIS

A site-specific performance about ecosystems, transformation and connectedness



MORPHOSIS is a site-specific and sensorial family performance created and performed by the artist duo Beyond Darkness. It takes place in the first week of August 2023 in Amager Fælled, starting where Amarminoen starts and journeying to Grønjordssøen, Monke-ringen and Klatretræ. With MORPHOSIS, the audience is invited on a journey of transformations, where all their senses will be activated and familiar surroundings will morph and change into new landscapes.

CONCEPT

MORPHOSIS takes place among the local flora and fauna at Amager Fælled, and is profoundly inspired by its diverse landscapes and natural cohabitants that Amager Fælled is known for. The piece is both a sensorial and educational walking experience, where the audience journeys with the performers off-trail to intimately experience and observe the surroundings, colours, smells, sounds and organisms around them. It is also a playful invitation to shift their perspective from micro- to macroscopic, following the migration of the performers who morph from human to non-human, hiding and (re)appearing within the natural scenery of the reservoir. MORPHOSIS thus invites the audience to curiously encounter and interact with their surroundings, connecting them in a story of collective metamorphoses, and transforming their perspective of the site in a playful manner.

PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTION

At the start, the two performers guide you on a sensorial walk, noticing the sounds, smells and textures from the (well-)known path into the more hidden spots of the site. By awakening your senses and telling stories about the lives around you, they intimately connect you to them. In the next part, the performers slowly transform into different creatures, becoming themselves inhabitants of the site, and playfully bring you closer to what lies usually hidden. The colourful costumes of the performers allow them to morph from human to non-human, from fauna to flora, from performer to storyteller, continuously guiding you through the reservoir.

Through movement, text and play, they transform your perspective and shift it from the micro- to macroscopic, allowing you to look beyond your usual viewpoint. The performers might almost disappear high on a tree or far away behind a hill. They'll invite you to listen to the sounds of the marshes, encourage you to touch the soil and investigate its life with a magnifying glass, smell the mushrooms that grow in the grass. The whole performative experience allows you to curiously encounter and investigate the ecosystem(s) we so often take for granted since they usually remain hidden from us or because we don't have a close encounter or relationship to them.

SUSTAINABILITY

MORPHOSIS is created with a circular approach to making performances by making sustainability an integral part of our artistic practice. We work with a co-creational approach where the landscape and its natural cohabitants become collaborators of the piece. We also focus on only working with reused and upcycled materials, such as the costumes by eco-fashion designer and painter Cecilie Schou Grønbeck. Working site-specifically means that we use daylight and natural sounds to create the piece, which reduces our energy footprint and makes the piece easily adjustable in different places.

As part of our sustainable working practice, we are not only reusing textiles and materials, but also previous movement material. For MORPHOSIS, we will rework existing movement material from our previous work SCINTILLAE (2022) which is a piece performed in nuances of darkness, and transform it into a completely new performative experience.

CONTEXT & PURPOSE

MORPHOSIS is part of a new wave of eco-art which comments on the current climate crisis and biodiversity loss by inviting the participants to find new ways to reconnect with nature and establish a stronger relationship to it. Thus, we are creating art that puts nature at the centre and allows us to decentralise the human-focused needs and instead put focus on our interconnectedness with the more-than-human.

With MORPHOSIS, we wish to establish new relationships with the natural habitats and lives that are in close proximity to / a part of the city and reveal our mutual relationships, both with the micro and macro. Our intention is to continue making these interconnections through performative experiences that encourage curiosity, discovery, and learning.

AUDIENCE

The performance is a family performance and a kid-friendly experience aimed at people from all ages and backgrounds. As an open public and free event, MORPHOSIS is a piece with a flexible format, performing just as much for passers-by as it is for those that participate all throughout.

With MORPHOSIS, we predominantly target people that might less regularly experience theatrical or dance performances, mostly locals, adults and families living close to or regularly visiting the reservoir for recreational purposes, as we strongly believe in the importance of making art more accessible across a variety of backgrounds.

