

# SWAMPY RITUALS

M2ACT  
CALL FOR  
PROPOSALS  
2021

## WHO?

This is a project by the Avantgardeners Collective, a diverse constellation of creatives based in the Toggenburg and working across borders, languages and cultures. Our artistic community strives to develop future-focused approaches to artmaking that are co-creative, nurturing, and centre nature as an active player in the creative process. We have worked with the Tate Modern, V&A and Tanzhaus Zürich.

## WHY?

The global climate catastrophe is rooted in Western society's human-centric thinking. The future of the performing arts relies on collaborating with nature and one another, if our art is to remain relevant and impactful. Yet the sphere is dominated by privileged voices and hierarchies that perpetuate inequality. Individual practitioners and cultural institutions alike need a tool to radically diversify perspectives: to begin «swamp-thinking».

## HOW?

Through research into the swamp, a unique system of biodiversity that defies fixed borders and linear temporality, we will devise a series of practical rituals to facilitate de-learning and rewilding. These mental & physical acts will embed swamp-thinking throughout the process for performing and production roles; allowing multiple perspectives, a re-centring of process over product, and the complexity of the organic world to seep into the work.

## VISION?

We see a tender future where swamp-thinking has led to an equitable and diverse performing arts sphere driven by care, collaboration and artistic experimentation. Emerging creatives are no longer exploited by hierarchies of power but nurtured through co-creative opportunities, fair pay and radical transparency. Work is freed from the monotony of singular privileged voices, instead able to find fresh collective stories for the now. Our rituals continue to be used by practitioners both individually and collectively to manifest change, organically developing as new needs and understandings arise.

M2ACT@GESSNERALLEE  
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m2act supports co-creative projects that contribute to fair and sustainable practices in the performing arts — from small experimental set-ups to large projects with audiences. This project idea is supported in the frame of m2act Call for Proposals 2021 and takes part in the «FAIRy Circus» at m2act Campus 2021. m2act.ch

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