



HANDS ON TIME | THE ILLUSION OF THE END



The Illusion of the End, Mudam's two-week performance exhibition program curated by Joel Valabrega, successfully reveals and questions the unstable agency of the spectatorship, emphasizing its relationship to space, the gaze of others, and, most importantly, the notion of time.

Gathering some of the most compelling artists of the contemporary European performative scene - such as the Swiss duo Pauline Boudry and Renate Lorenz, the Italian choreographer Jacopo Jenna, the Dutch-Polish combo Nicholas Grafia and Mikołaj Sobczaka, and the anonymous Russian collective Vasya Run - the program unfolds through hyperboles of action and moments of void, where performance becomes a weapon to negotiate new forms of perception of time in space.

Through several live performance sessions and video installations, the exhibition activates the ground floor of

the museum, centering its rollout in the two side galleries that serve as bare, aseptic virgin caves open to host new gestures. In these spaces, artists are invited to confront the void. Whether the performative bodies are onstage or offstage (or simply video projections), the galleries become an arena of practice for the viewer as well, who engages in exercises of vision as much as action. The strategies developed by artists to relocate the viewer for a new form of sensory experience - one that calls into question the time of fruition (as a time of life) - are varied and multifaceted.

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Instead, folk tales and marginalized mythology are the ghosts that haunt Nicholas Grafia and Mikołaj Sobczak's Rooms, a thirty-minute scripted performance that delves into the personal memories, dreams, and latent feelings possessing the characters on stage. The bodies become "personification of phantoms of past events inhabiting the performers" where the artificiality and theatricality of the action are emphasized and extreme, revealing an overturning of the unconscious that, thus now externalized, becomes a dynamic and informal environment, a force field in which the different tensions that shape desire clash.

- Simone Rossi