

Dialogues of the in-between

A visual storytelling exchange

manipulate

At these times where we face a great number of challenges and crises, whether personally, locally or on a global scale, it feels necessary to both 'dig where we stand'* within our local communities and reach out to collaborate across borders and boundaries. The edges where we meet, where we differ, where we share, although not always straightforward, offer rich spaces in which to engage in dialogue, exchange and nourish both our practice and our questions. Creating moments to acknowledge and celebrate our interdependence and interconnection feels vital.

These themes of interconnection, dialogue, collaboration and the in between are starting points for a new international creative exchange project led by [Manipulate Arts](#) as part of our annual Manipulate Festival. We will work in partnership with [Al Seed Productions](#), [Aura of Puppets](#) (Turku), [Go Figure](#) (Oslo), [Miramiro](#) (Ghent) and other partners to be announced. The exchange will take place during Manipulate Festival, February 2024 in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Given the intrinsic ability of visually led performance to bring people together across boundaries of language and culture, we invite practitioners whose work is led by visual storytelling techniques in various disciplines to exchange practice. By bringing together an international group of artists working across puppetry, object theatre, visual theatre, physical theatre, dance theatre and circus, we hope to create an opportunity to celebrate the dialogue between disciplines during connection across countries – a space for the sharing of practice, processes and questions through physical play and thinking together. This artist-led project will also create and shape possible strategies to work meaningfully and sustainably in international partnership together in the future, as we are urged to restructure how to work together in ways with take responsibility for ourselves, each other and the planet.

*Alastair McIntosh, *Soil and Soul*, 2005

Residency Details

Dates

Saturday 3 to Sunday 4 February 2024 – attending performances as part of Manipulate Festival, Edinburgh

Monday 5 to Wednesday 7 February 2024 – creative exchange at Dance Base, Edinburgh with optional festival activities in the evenings on each date.

Fees & Expenses

Each artist will be paid a fee of €600 in total. Accommodation and meals for international artists will be provided from Saturday 3 to Thursday 8 February.

Aims

For artists working across puppetry, circus, object theatre, visual theatre, physical theatre and dance to exchange movement, techniques, processes of collaboration, response and imagining together. Artists will have the opportunity to attend festival shows both over the weekend and on the weekday evenings, as well as various works-in-progress sharings and artist-led discussions throughout their time in Edinburgh. Programmers from each country will also be in attendance to contribute to strategic discussions and explore potential collaboration.



About Manipulate Arts

The mission of Manipulate Arts is to champion, develop and present visual theatre, puppetry and animated film in Scotland and internationally.

Formerly known as Puppet Animation Scotland, all our work is focused around artforms which breathe life into the inanimate or tell stories using primarily images rather than text. Play and manipulation are at the heart of all the work that we champion and support – whether of puppets, objects, digital imagery, or of the human body. We believe that the common thread between these artforms lies in the opportunities they create to discover the latent magic in the everyday, to find common visual languages beyond the reach of words, and to enable play at all stages of our lives.

We offer creative experiences for audiences of all ages, whether in an urban arts centre or rural community centre, on a windswept hillside, in your local library, in a town square, at home, in your school or at an international festival. We aim to create experiences through which everyone can discover the range and magic of these highly visual art forms, with their power to bring people together through creativity. Manipulate Arts is a home for any artist working with objects, puppets, animated forms and the human body.

Al Seed

Al Seed is a performance maker with over 20 years' experience. The shows he has created in the fields of theatre, visual and physical theatre, dance, circus, outdoor arts and one-on-one performance have earned him Fringe First, Herald Angel, Herald Little Devil, and Total Theatre Awards. He has delivered projects in Japan, Australia, Malaysia, Russia, and throughout Europe. He has been the resident mentor at Dance Base, Edinburgh, as well as the artist in residence for the Arches, Glasgow, and the Byre Theatre, St. Andrews. He is currently the director of the performing arts mentorship programme, Waypoint-1.

