

AARAU & ZURICH  
(SWITZERLAND)

ORGANISED WITH  
CIRQU'AARAU  
AND PRO CIRQUE IN  
PARTNERSHIP WITH  
ZIRKUSQUARTIER ZURICH

# CIRCOSTRADA

# GENERAL MEETING

JUNE 6-8 2019

Co-organised by



With the support of



PROGRAMME

## WHAT IS A GENERAL MEETING AND WHY SHOULD YOU COME?

Let's start with the basics: **General Meetings** consist of a **3-day meeting** between network's members, held twice a year in a different European country. But wait, what else is in there?

### HERE IS ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW!

General Meetings can be regarded as the foundations of the network, in the sense that they are an ideal opportunity for network's members to meet, exchange, share, think together, get to know each other better, discover an artistic landscape, explore topics relevant to their daily work-life, learn about network's activities, experience what it actually means being a member... and so much more!

These meetings take place twice a year and are hosted and co-organised by a Circostrada member in the frame of a festival or an artistic event. They are always designed around a full and tailored-made programme that is specific to the local context of the organisation hosting it, but still deliver meaningful content for both circus and street arts professionals.

### A GENERAL MEETING AT A GLANCE!

- ▶ A privileged sphere to learn about the life of the network, meet the Coordination team and Steering Committee, get to know new members and learn about what they do.
- ▶ A chance to discover the circus and street arts scene of the host country, learn about its cultural context, visit key venues and meet local stakeholders.
- ▶ An invitation to work with your peers, get involved in the network's activities and contribute to its development via its five internal workgroups.
- ▶ An occasion to increase your skills and refresh your perspectives by participating in thematic workshops (CS Boosters), projects presentations and peer-to-peer exchanges.

### YOUR PARTICIPATION MATTERS!

Because we are all busy bees constantly chasing after time, sometimes we need to be provided with an excuse to pause, think, and remind ourselves why we joined the network in the first place. General Meetings create this opportunity and offer the necessary space to raise the head and meet fellow colleagues who share a similar daily life, face similar issues, challenges, experiences and who might just give you the inspiration and brilliant idea you were so eagerly looking for.

This is the very essence of the network and regardless of the reason that drove you to it, you are in it! So, make the most of it and come to the General Meetings!



THE WORD  
OF THE HOST  
PARTNERS

Time could be the overarching topic of these three days. Because time is central – in the creative process of an artist, in network discussions and forums, or again, in the programming processes.

Here in Aarau, with the re-development project of the Alte Reithalle and the development of the festival cirqu', two layers of time come together: on one hand, the long political decision-making process in regard to the redevelopment into a multidisciplinary venue, also due to the specificities of the Swiss political system. On the other hand, this long period was exactly the right time to jump into the gap and initiate and develop the festival cirqu'.

We will present an example for luxurious use of time with the MIGROS project «watch&talk»: a handful of selected artists are invited to the festival, not to perform, but to spend time together. During six days, they enjoy free space for conversations and in-depth exchanges on their artistic work and on the pieces they have viewed.

During the Circostrada General Meeting in Aarau the topic of 'time' brings the different messages together: an introduction to the special cultural-political context in which the festival cirqu' has grown and in which time has played a crucial role; a presentation of an innovative approach to time within the watch & talk residency, and finally, an offer of space and time to discuss, exchange, eat raclette and see Swiss and international shows.

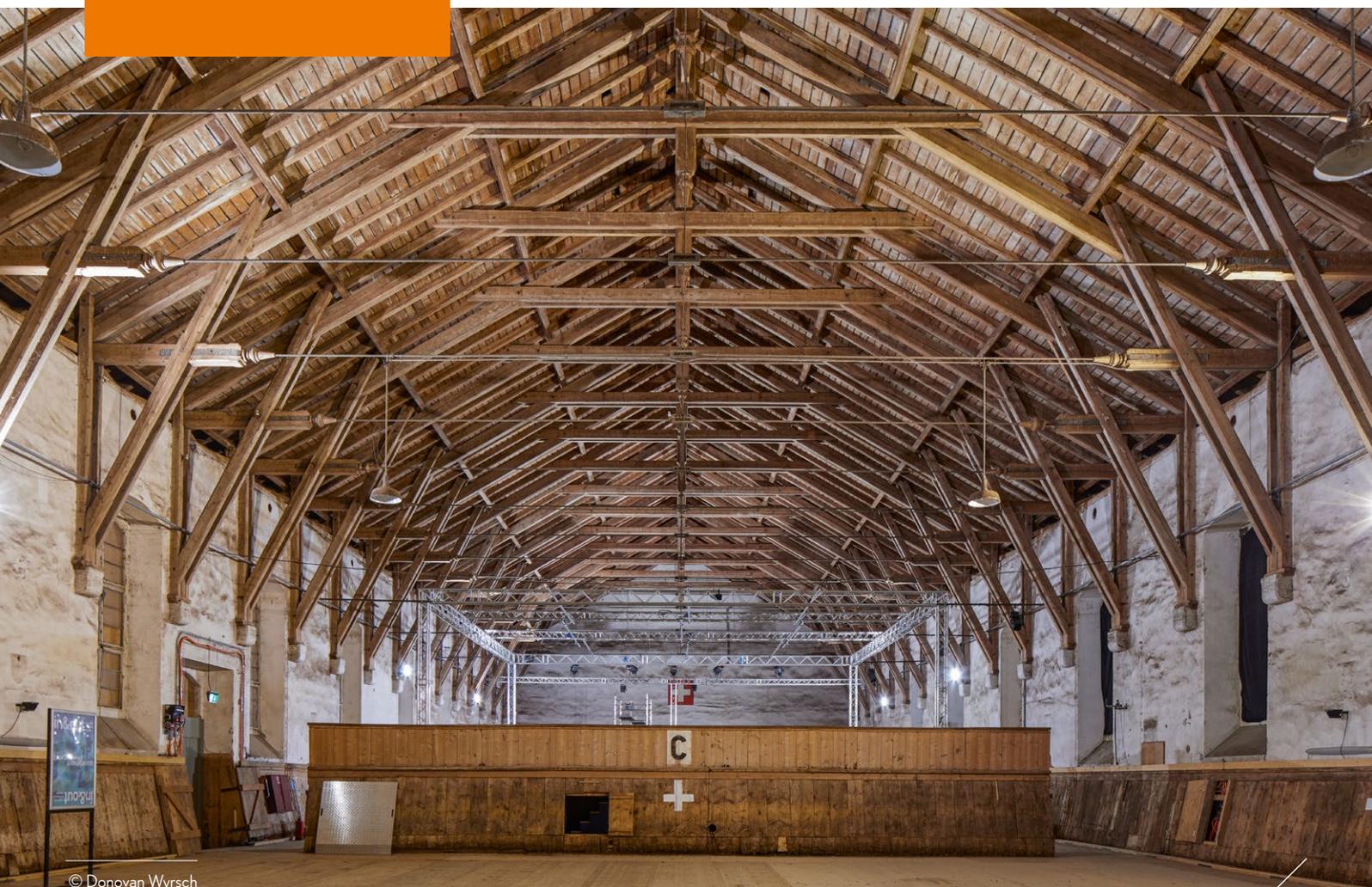
The Alte Reithalle Aarau is a unique space to explore: 70 meters long, 20 meters wide and reaching 16 meters at its highest point, the former riding hall is a magical place with historic roof beams, built in 1864. Currently, the Alte Reithalle Aarau is on its way to become a cultural centre dedicated to puppet theatre, classical music, dance and contemporary circus. The General Meeting of Circostrada and the cirqu'Aarau festival will be the last events programmed there before the comprehensive reconstruction works begin.

The Alte Reithalle is an example of how both cultural innovation and political processes in Switzerland develop. In 2010, this former military riding hall won the contract for the construction of a new cultural institution. At this time, it has already been empty for 15 years. Hereinafter, the theatre Tuchlaube Aarau launched the use of this unique structure for multidisciplinary cultural projects: it started to co-produce site-specific creations and invited guest performances.

In 2013, Roman Mueller and his company Cie Tr'espace guested in the Alte Reithalle Aarau for the first time. He was overwhelmed by the ambiance of this huge space and at that moment, the vision for the festival cirqu' was born. Now, every second year over a period of 10 days, cirqu' has been showing mostly international productions in the Alte Reithalle and in other venues in the small town of Aarau.

cirqu' is happy to be the host of this year's General Meeting, together with ProCirque, the Swiss association for professional artists, and Zirkusquartier Zurich, a unique open space for contemporary circus with both stages and rehearsal rooms in the city of Zurich.

THE MAIN VENUE  
OF THE GENERAL  
MEETING



## THE WORD OF THE NETWORK

This General Meeting is co-organised with Cirqu'Aarau, Pro-Cirque, in partnership with the Zirkusquartier Zurich and in the frame of cirqu' festival. For the last gathering of the network before the summer and the launch of the festival season, we will be heading to Switzerland for the very first time!

The programme of this three-day meeting was designed with a view to put both circus and street arts in the spotlight, through a yet unexplored but extremely promising Swiss regional focus. As initiated last December in Elbeuf (France), this dual approach showcasing at the same time circus and street arts activities will be our guiding principle for the next meetings to come so as to meet the greatest interests possible of everyone.

Once again, this meeting will distinguish itself by its travelling format, as the second day will be spent in the vibrant city of Zurich! This itinerant experience will enable the network to explore a larger regional area and to get a better and more diversified understanding of the circus and street arts landscape, to learn about key players, trends and practices, aesthetics, and to discover more venues and spaces dedicated to circus and street arts. Be ready for the bus rides!

Another characteristic of this Swiss General Meeting is that unconventional spaces will be brought to the forefront through the different venues hosting us. Among these, the Alte Reithalle, a unique place, which we will have the privilege of seeing and enjoying before its great renovation and transformation into a cultural house dedicated to theatre, classical music, dance and contemporary circus. At a later stage in the programme and as mentioned above, we will also have the chance to visit the Zirkusquartier Zurich, located in the renown Kochareal, the biggest squat there is in Zurich, and meet some of the organisations established here, such as Zirkus Chnopf.

Last but not least, the artistic programme will focus both on Swiss companies and international ones, with a great variety of shows to attend, combining full length performances and work-in-progress, in the frame of the cirqu' festival. You will have the choice between several options, all very tempting so prepare yourself to be torn! Alternatively, to avoid frustration, you can also extend your stay in Aarau for the weekend to enjoy the festival a little longer!

Have a good read!

**Circostrada Team**



## THE INTERNAL WORKGROUPS OF THE NETWORK: BASIC PRINCIPLES

The network is composed of the 5 following workgroups:

- ▶ **FRESH CIRCUS:** its core activity is to reflect on the contents, topics and overall structure of the International Seminar for the Development of Circus Arts, which takes place once every 2 years in a different country. The next one will take place in Auch (France) from 22 to 24 October 2019.
- ▶ **FRESH STREET:** its core activity is to reflect on the contents, topics and overall structure of the International Seminar for the Development of Street Arts, which takes place once every 2 years in a different country. The next one will take place in Torino (Italy) in October 2020.
- ▶ **CS ADVOCACY:** its primary aim is to develop advocacy tools and to carry on actions in support of the fields of circus and street arts, such as the Public Policy Makers Seminar, held once a year in the frame of the FRESH events.
- ▶ **CS DATA:** its focus is on collecting, creating and comparing resource & data on circus and street arts at the European level and beyond, for observation and advocacy purposes.

- ▶ **CS LAB:** its purpose is to imagine and design contents to embody a laboratory, which will provide the space to experiment and test new ideas, methods and practices through dedicated seminars organised every year in different contexts.

The next one will take place in Manchester (UK) in the spring 2020.

Reminder: participation in the workgroups is not mandatory. Each workgroup is limited to a maximum of 15 participants.\*

In order to ensure an effective functioning, a favorable work environment and continuity, members who wish to join a workgroup should be ready and committed to devoting time to the life of the network. They must therefore attend General Meetings on a regular basis and be available occasionally outside scheduled work sessions to exchange with workgroups members.

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\* Details about the workgroups objectives, functioning and registration procedure will be provided at the beginning of the General Meeting.

### GRAPHIC GUIDELINES OF THE PROGRAMME

#### DEVELOP SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE

- ▶ To inspire and provide empowering material
- ▶ To give concrete tools and best practices
- ▶ To share and improve knowledge between peers

#### EXPAND YOUR NETWORK

- ▶ To meet fellow members
- ▶ To learn about current and future activities & projects
- ▶ To build new projects and partnerships

#### BROADEN YOUR ARTISTIC PANORAMA

- ▶ To explore a festival and its programming
- ▶ To meet artists
- ▶ To get a sense of the local artistic trends and aesthetics

#### GET INVOLVED IN THE NETWORK

- ▶ To develop the activities of the network
- ▶ To report on network's past, current and future activities
- ▶ To discuss, reflect and design the network's strategy

#### DIVE IN THE LOCAL CONTEXT

- ▶ To learn more about the local context
- ▶ To develop greater awareness of the cultural policies of the host country
- ▶ To meet stakeholders
- ▶ To visit local venues and institutions

THURSDAY, JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup>

### PRE-MEETING WITH THE STEERING COMMITTEE\*

● 09:30 ▶ 12:00

📍 FORUM SCHLOSSPLATZ

\*Only for Steering Committee members

### OPTIONAL LUNCH

● 12:00 ▶ 13:30

📍 FESTIVAL CENTRE (ALTE REITHALLE AARAU)

Ⓞ 10 CHF

### WELCOME BY CO-ORGANISERS & PRESENTATION ALTE REITHALLE AARAU & CIRQU'

● 13:30 ▶ 14:00

📍 FESTIVAL CENTRE (ALTE REITHALLE AARAU)

### PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS (30') + CIRCONNECT: INFORMAL NETWORKING (45')

● 14:00 ▶ 15:15

📍 FESTIVAL CENTRE (ALTE REITHALLE AARAU)

Each General Meeting is an opportunity to meet, share and exchange - we will take a moment to welcome and present the new network members, and then break up in smaller groups to have a lively exchange on a couple of suggested topics. Details to be defined!

### CARTE BLANCHE BY ANJA EBERHART (SWITZERLAND)

● 15:30 ▶ 16:00

📍 FESTIVAL CENTRE (ALTE REITHALLE AARAU)

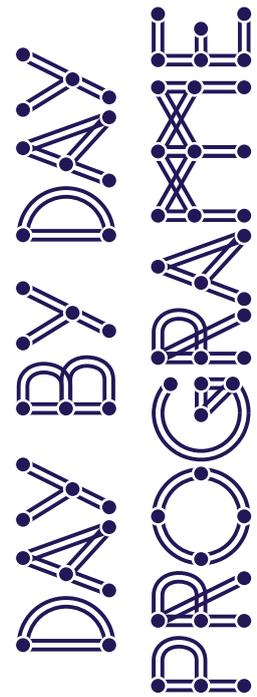
Ⓞ FREE

Ⓞ DETAILS ABOUT THE SHOWS INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAMME OF THE GENERAL MEETING CAN BE FOUND AT THE END OF THE DOCUMENT IN THE SECTION «ARTISTIC PROGRAMME» (P15 TO 22).

### BREAK

● 16:00 ▶ 16:30

Ⓞ CHANGE OF VENUE



EXPAND  
YOUR NETWORK



GET INVOLVED  
IN THE NETWORK



EXPAND  
YOUR NETWORK



GET INVOLVED  
IN THE NETWORK



BROADEN YOUR  
ARTISTIC PANORAMA



## ARTISTIC PROGRAMME **HOCUS POCUS - CIE** **PHILIPPE SAIRE** **(SWITZERLAND)**

● 16:30 ▶ 17:15

📍 THEATER TUCHLAUBE AARAU

© 5 CHF



BROADEN YOUR  
ARTISTIC PANORAMA

## **VERNISSAGE OF THE SWISS CIRCUS & STREET ARTS** **REPERTORY, FOLLOWED BY AN APERO**

● 17:30 ▶ 18:15

📍 FESTIVAL CENTRE (ALTE REITHALLE AARAU)

Together, ProCirque (Swiss association for circus professionals) and FARS (Swiss federation for street arts) launch the second edition of the Swiss Circus and Street Arts Repertory. We will celebrate together this milestone with a vernissage and aperitif.

ⓘ PLEASE NOTE THAT DURING THE MEETING, SOME OF THE BEVERAGES WILL BE OFFERED BY THE HOSTS. IN ADDITION, DRINKS AT THE FESTIVAL BAR WILL BE AVAILABLE AT REDUCED PRICES FOR THE PARTICIPANTS.



DIVE IN THE  
LOCAL CONTEXT

## ARTISTIC PROGRAMME **LE PROJET F - COMPAGNIE.SH** **(SWITZERLAND)**

● 18:30 ▶ 19:30

📍 FESTIVAL CENTRE (ALTE REITHALLE AARAU)

© 10 CHF



BROADEN YOUR  
ARTISTIC PANORAMA

## **DINNER**

● 19:30 ▶ 21:30

📍 FESTIVAL CENTRE (ALTE REITHALLE AARAU)

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## ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

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You have 2 options for the artistic programme, feel free to choose between:

### **FIDELIS FORTIBUS - CIRCUS RONALDO (BELGIUM)**

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● 20:00 ▶ 21:15

📍 BIG TOP AT SCHLOSSPLATZ

© 15 CHF

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### **VORTEX - COMPAGNIE NON NOVA (FRANCE)**

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● 20:00 ▶ 20:50

📍 KUK - SAAL 2

© 15 CHF

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BROADEN YOUR  
ARTISTIC PANORAMA

## ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

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You have 2 options for the artistic programme, feel free to choose between:

### **STICKMAN - DARRAGH MCLOUGHLIN (IRELAND)**

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● 22:00 ▶ 22:30

📍 ALTE REITHALLE AARAU

© 5 CHF

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### **VACUUM - CIE PHILIPPE SAIRE (SWITZERLAND)**

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● 22:00 ▶ 22:25

📍 THEATER TUCHLAUBE AARAU

© 5 CHF

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BROADEN YOUR  
ARTISTIC PANORAMA

## DRINKS

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📍 FESTIVAL CENTRE (ALTE REITHALLE AARAU)

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For those who want to, you can come back to the festival centre after the show to have a drink. The bar will still be open!

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FRIDAY, JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup>



## WORKGROUPS

● 09:00 ▶ 12:30

📍 FORUM SCHLOSSPLATZ

Optional working sessions for the 5 workgroups of the network: FRESH CIRCUS, FRESH STREET, CS DATA, CS LAB, CS Advocacy.



GET INVOLVED  
IN THE NETWORK

## PARALLEL ACTIVITY HOW TO SUPPORT STREET ARTS AND CIRCUS ARTS?

● 09:00 ▶ 12:30

Pro Helvetia supports and disseminates Swiss arts and culture on a national and international level since 1939. However, for many years Pro Helvetia did not support street or circus arts. In recent times, they have started to support circus arts, and have expressed their willingness to support the street art sector.

As a parallel activity to the working groups, we invite Pro Helvetia, FARS (Swiss Federation for Street Arts), Pro Cirque and you - members of the Circostrada network - to discuss funding strategies and potential ways to go forward. We want to use this activity for a rich and fruitful discussion between Pro Helvetia, FARS, Pro Cirque and interested members to shape together the future funding strategy for Swiss street and circus arts.

## LUNCH

● 12:30 ▶ 14:00

📍 FESTIVAL CENTRE (ALTE REITHALLE AARAU)

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## ZURICH EXCURSION EXPERIENCE

## TRANSFER TO ZURICH BY BUS

● 14:00 ▶ 15:00

📍 MEETING AT THE FESTIVAL CENTRE (ALTE REITHALLE AARAU)



## WELCOME & PRESENTATION ZIRKUSQUARTIER & KOCHAREAL

● 15:00 ▶ 15:30

📍 ZIRKUSQUARTIER, ZURICH



DIVE IN THE  
LOCAL CONTEXT

## VISIT OF THE ZIRKUSQUARTIER AND KOCHAREAL IN SMALL GROUPS

● 15:30 ▶ 16:00

📍 ZIRKUSQUARTIER, ZÜRICH

We visit the Zirkusquartier Zürich, home of Zirkus Chnopf, and one of our co-hosts of the General Meeting. The Zirkus Chnopf has been touring around all of Switzerland for 30 years with its company of young and professional artists. For the past years, their winter quarters co-exist with Zurich largest group of squatters.

In 2016, the space was provided to Zirkus Chnopf by the city of Zurich. As a part of the larger Kochareal, it was also formerly squatted by self-organised groups. The circus should act as a buffer between the still squatted surroundings and the arising business and banking district nearby.

Since then, the team of Zirkus Chnopf expanded their winter quarters step by step. They developed the place, installed rehearsal rooms and a performance venue. The Zirkusquartier has established itself as an important engine for the development of the still young Swiss scene for contemporary circus. In the nearer future, when the renovation of the whole area takes place, the circus will still be a part of the area. So, Zirkusquartier Zürich will be able to evolve into an established name/permanent part of Zurich's cultural landscape: with new ateliers, rehearsal rooms and a stage for circus.



DIVE IN THE  
LOCAL CONTEXT

## BREAK

● 16:00 ▶ 16:30

## SUPPORTING ARTS IN SWITZERLAND

● 16:30 ▶ 17:15

📍 ZIRKUSQUARTIER, ZÜRICH

During a crispy podium discussion, different players of the Swiss funding landscape will enlighten us on the influences of federalism, regional diversity, local politics and popular initiatives on funding policies. The aim will be to link the discussion back to the realities of Zirkusquartier and the festival cirqu'.



DIVE IN THE  
LOCAL CONTEXT

## ARTISTIC PROGRAMME WORK IN PROGRESS: LONELY ARE THE LONELY ROADS - CIE ICI'BAS (SWITZERLAND)

● 17:30 ▶ 18:30

📍 ZIRKUSQUARTIER, ZÜRICH

© 5 CHF



BROADEN YOUR  
ARTISTIC PANORAMA

## ARTISTIC PROGRAMME WO IST TOBI? - ZIRKUS FAHRAWAY (SWITZERLAND)

● 19:00 ▶ 20:00

📍 TENT OF THE ZIRKUSQUARTIER, ZÜRICH

© 10 CHF



BROADEN YOUR  
ARTISTIC PANORAMA

## RACLETTE DINNER

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● 20:00

📍 ZIRKUSQUARTIER, ZÜRICH

Ⓞ DINNER IS OFFERED TO THE PARTICIPANTS BY THE HOSTS

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## ARTISTIC PROGRAMME CHINA SERIES #1 - JULIAN VOGEL (SWITZERLAND)

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● 21:30 ▶ 21:50

📍 ZIRKUSQUARTIER, ZÜRICH

Ⓞ LIMITED SEATS!

Ⓞ 5 CHF

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BROADEN YOUR  
ARTISTIC PANORAMA

## RETURN TO AARAU BY BUS

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● 22:15

📍 MEETING POINT TBC

Ⓞ THE RETURN BUS WILL STOP BY EACH PARTNER HOTEL IN AARAU

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SATURDAY, JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup>

## COFFEE & CROISSANTS / CHINA SERIES#7 - JULIAN VOGEL (SWITZERLAND)

● 09:00 ▶ 10:00

📍 ALTE REITHALLE AARAU

🆓 FREE // COFFEE AND CROISSANTS ARE OFFERED TO THE PARTICIPANTS BY THE HOSTS

## PLENARY SESSION

● 10:00 ▶ 12:00

📍 THEATER TUCHLAUBE AARAU

On the agenda: workgroups feedback, presentation of the past and future activities of Circostrada, information related to the life of the network, and a privileged time with the Steering Committee members to exchange on topics of your choice. If you want to share wishes, expectations, ideas about the network, the microphone will be yours!

## LUNCH

● 12:00 ▶ 13:30

📍 FESTIVAL CENTRE (ALTE REITHALLE AARAU)

🆓 5 CHF

## CS BOOSTERS

● 13:30 ▶ 15:30

📍 FORUM SCHLOSSPLATZ

### 1 IS THERE A (FUNDING) LIFE BEYOND INTERNATIONAL TOURING?

The life of mobile artists, companies and collectives is often considered only through the perspective of country-hopping, touring and export.

How can we share more about practices and experiences beyond this touring aspect (residencies, collaborations, exchange, training, knowledge transfer etc.)?

Are there specific funding lines for such mobility experiences particularly when they are expected to go beyond the one-shot experience?

Co-organised by On the Move, this CS booster will be based on specific projects' sharing in Latin America, Africa and Asia. It will also be the occasion to map international experiences and related funding/partnership by the participants.

Come with your projects, questions and leave with resources and new inspiration for international experiences beyond touring.

🆓 BY MARIE LE SOURD (ON THE MOVE)



BROADEN YOUR ARTISTIC PANORAMA



DEVELOP SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE

## CS BOOSTERS

### A LITTLE KICK TO KEEP YOU GOING!

#### What is it all about?

The idea behind the CS BOOSTERS is to offer different thematic paths and to learn about a specific topic. For this General Meeting, you will have the opportunity to tackle issues dealing with mobility and funding (1. Is there a (funding) life beyond international touring?), a residence project (2. WATCH&TALK) and Swiss support policies for circus and street arts (3. Circus a (non) art?).

#### Pick a BOOSTER!

Participants explore\* one of these paths, choosing in the programme between the 3 options offered. Get ready to boost your brain!

\* Prior registration needed via the dedicated Circostrada Registration Form.

## 2 WATCH & TALK

For six days during the festival cirqu', watch&talk, the residence project of the *Migros Cultural Percentage*, offers artists a chance to exchange and a time-out from the pressure of producing. No concrete result is required by the programme, the importance lies on the deep exchange over the long period of 6 days. The factor 'time' unfolds the lasting effect of this programme.

In this booster, Migros Cultural Percentage - the organisation that has accompanied the project over the past 10 years - presents the original idea and the story of its programme. Afterwards, the group splits up and meets one of this year's Watch & Talk participants for a short w&t experience. We'll count on your curiosity and active participation to engage in a deep and lively exchange in small groups!

© BY RAHEL LEUPIN FOLLOWED BY AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE WATCH&TALK RESIDENCY

## 3 CIRCUS, A (NON) ART?

Why do circus and theatre have a different societal status - reflected for example in funding policies - in particular in German speaking countries? This basic question led to a historical research project of Mirjam Hildbrand at the University of Bern.

By the end of the 19th century, the drama based playhouses found themselves in a situation of rising economic pressure in the German theatre landscape. In contrast, the stable and travelling circuses were highly successful. As a reaction, theatre professionals discredited circus arts. Although the theatre laws were restricted for circuses, they remained successful until the 1910s. After WWI, the circus-theatre relation started to change: the dramatic theatre was established as an institution of high culture, whereas a lot of circuses disappeared.

The aim of the research is to create a better understanding of how the circus came to its present status. In this booster, you will get an insight and have the opportunity to discuss this topic.

© INPUT BY MIRJAM HILDBRAND (UNIVERSITY OF BERN)  
DISCUSSION LED BY STEFAN HÖRT (PRO CIRQUE)

## BREAK

● 15:30 ▶ 16:00

## ARTISTIC PROGRAMME PLAY NICE - ARIANE & ROXANA (GERMANY)

● 16:00 ▶ 16:50

📍 THEATER TUCHLAUBE AARAU

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BROADEN YOUR  
ARTISTIC PANORAMA

### ▶ End of the official programme!

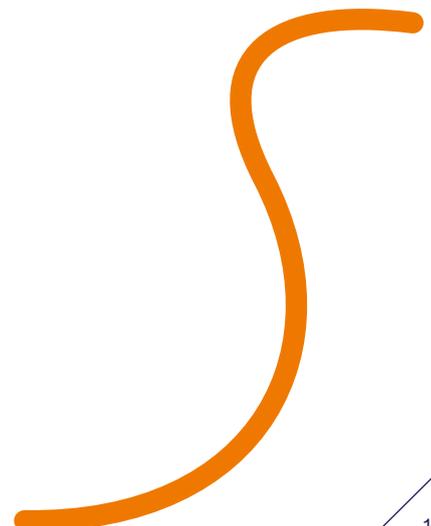
### ▶ Optional Artistic programme if you stay on site!

For those who decide to stay on site, you will have the opportunity to attend the following shows\*:

- ▶ Dystonie / Cie Defracto
- ▶ Optimum / Zirkus Chnopf
- ▶ Toni Ronaltoni / De Stijle, Want
- ▶ Le Vide - essai de cirque / Association du Vide
- ▶ Vortex / Cie Non Nova

\* Full details about each show can be found in the «Artistic Programme» section (p.15 to 22).

Alternatively, you can also stay at the festival centre and have some drinks!





FESTIVAL FÜR  
AKTUELLE  
ZIRKUSKUNST

31.5.— 9.6. 2019  
Aarau

Crédits visuel : Jean-Luc Beaujault

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The festival programme offers a rich spectrum of performances. During the General Meeting, we laid our main focus on Swiss circus productions, which should not be missed. Apart from that, we do not suggest a specific performance schedule, so please choose freely.

## TICKETING

We are pleased to offer special prices for Circostrada members. Please reserve your tickets when registering for the General Meeting and pay them by credit card or cash (Swiss franks!) on arrival.

We cannot guarantee availability if you do not reserve your tickets via the Circostrada registration form.

ARTISTIC PROGRAM



THURSDAY, JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup>



**CARTE BLANCHE**  
**ANJA EBERHART (SWITZERLAND)**

● 15:40 (20')

📍 ALTE REITHALLE AARAU

With the Carte Blanche format, cirqu' offers young Swiss artists a platform and gives them the opportunity to present their current work to an interested audience. The focus is on the process of the experiment itself, not on the final product. The audience gets an insight into a still raw artistic moment. This year, the Carte Blanche is given to Anja Eberhart from Zurich and her art bike James. The two met three years ago at the CNAC in France.

© FREE



**HOCUS POCUS**  
**CIE PHILIPPE SAIRE (SWITZERLAND)**

● 10:00 OR 16:30 (45') – CHOOSE THE SLOT YOU PREFER!

📍 THEATER TUCHLAUBE AARAU

Two sliding tubes of light, suspended in parallel in a dark room form the frame of a stage where two bodies appear and disappear, projecting mysterious images which bend and deform. Heads appear and bodies become mere forms, but they're together, friends in the fight. Then it is time to fight the knight, fly together and visit a mythical sea creature that has long dancing hair. The magical trip closes off with a miraculous salvation from the belly of an underwater monster.

© 5 CHF



## **LE PROJET F COMPAGNIE.SH (SWITZERLAND)**

● 18:30 (60')

📍 ALTE REITHALLE AARAU

Artists die too. A lion-tamer can be eaten by Lions. An acrobat can break his neck break doing a triple summersault. The appendix of «La merveilleuse histoire du cirque» by H  nry Th  tard, published in 1947, neatly chronicles where and when and how circus performers died and in which circus the tragic events occurred.

The stories inside compel an actor, a musician and three other artists to think about the risks of their profession, about what happens when things don't go as they are supposed to. What does one do when serious mistakes happen? When you have already fallen.

The performance is a journey of discovery for the five artists, a quest to find answers.

Ⓞ FRENCH WITH GERMAN SUBTITLES

  10 CHF



## **FIDELIS FORTIBUS CIRCUS RONALDO (BELGIUM)**

● 20:00 (75')

📍 TENT BY SCHLOSSGARTEN AARAU

It's not funny. A circus family is dead, the graves stand on the manege and only a distraught usher in his disheveled uniform is still on stage. Suddenly circus music begins to play and the usher starts to tell stories, stories about the deceased, about the strongman, the magician, the beloved rope dancer. He kind of shows us what the other performers could do but he only succeeds in spells as if by accident. He has particular difficulty playing the virgin who is sawn in two. At another point, he somehow manages to start the Manege on fire during his "ring of fire" act. In the end, despair finally catches up with him... which really isn't funny, or is it? The slightly morbid tale becomes a sparkling spectacle through Danny Ronaldo who himself comes from an old circus family. Maybe that is why he completely dismantles well-known circus tricks and numbers and why he does it in such a warm-hearted way.

  15 CHF



**VORTEX  
CIE NON NOVA (FRANCE)**

● 20.00 (50')

📍 KUK - SAAL 2

Become what you already are. The beginning is harmless, playful, cheerful - almost a dance of life. If it wasn't for a strangely grotesque figure standing behind everything, misshaped, breathing heavily, moving awkwardly. The gradual transformation, the evolution, is unpredictable in a very poetic yet sinister way. Complete. It expresses everything inside out and the ending shows what it's really like. As it has to be. The performance artist Phia Ménard - herself born as a man - stages the struggle of the human soul in dreamlike images, expresses the indescribable pain in expressive actions and shows her transformation as a sequence of indispensable, combative dances with herself. Unmistakable human vulnerability wins.

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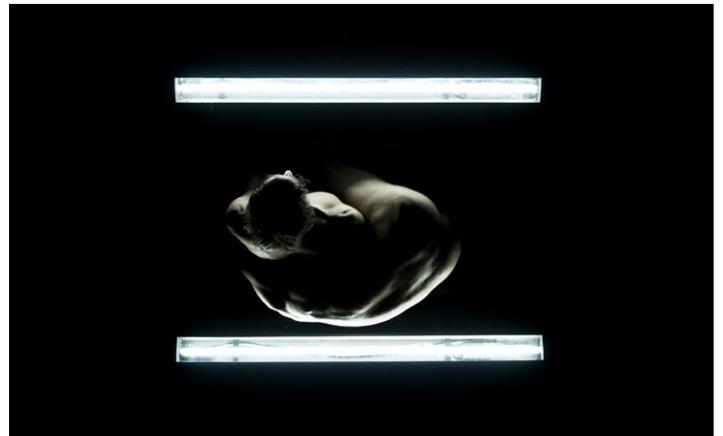
**STICKMAN DARRAGH MCLOUGHLIN (IRELAND)**

● 22.00 (30')

📍 ALTE REITHALLE AARAU

A man balances a long, thin stick and comments appear behind him. "What do you see on Stage?" You see what the stick does, what the man does, and you begin to contemplate. Are you reading what you see? What exactly is the man doing with the stick or is the stick doing something with the man? The juggler and performer Darragh McLoughlin creates his fellow entertainers from objects, objects which are in a curious way - almost naturally - connected to him. At least that is what you think, until comments appear which directly address the audience. With careful movements and crisp humour, the artist encourages the audience to see things in detail and from new perspectives.

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**VACUUM CIE PHILIPPE SAIRE (SWITZERLAND)**

● 22.00 (25')

📍 THEATER TUCHLAUBE AARAU

Perfect aesthetics: Two bodies appear between two glaring tubes of light and disappear again, showing up again before dipping back into the dark, creating bizarre images, asserting weightlessness in a quiet, worn rhythm. You lose yourself looking. Philippe Chosson and Pep Garrigues from the Swiss dance company Philippe Saire show an almost unearthly harmony and elegance. The dance is full of references to art history and quotes from the Renaissance to the Modern Age.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup>



### **WO IST TOBI? - FAHRAWAY ZIRKUSPEKTAKEL (SWITZERLAND)**

● 19:00 (75')

📍 TENT BY ZIRKUSQUARTIER, ZÜRICH

Oh no! Tobi is missing. Wait. They've found a substitute: he as a bit clumsy but he sure loves the limelight and he will do anything. The poor actress has her work cut out for her fitting him into the program though: he is supposed to accompany her musically in the diabolo game but he is a little too independent. He doesn't really play his part on the bike either; he more or less does what he wants. Her talent for improvisation is needed in this show.

In their uncut, playful piece, the two Swiss artists Solvejg Weyeneth and Valentin Steinemann demonstrate an extraordinary wealth of ideas and a lot of independent humor. They do however, need all their artistic skills to manage the misadventures in the manege. The show is unpretentious, witty, fresh, hilariously human.

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### **LONELY ARE THE LONELY ROADS - COMPAGNIE ICI'BAS (SWITZERLAND) / WORK IN PROGRESS**

● 17:30 (50')

📍 ZIRKUSQUARTIER, ZÜRICH

«Icaric games» is an acrobatic discipline in which one artist lies on a ramp and hurls another acrobat into the air. The second acrobat executes daring jump combinations while being spun and thrown through the air. The Compagnie Ici 'Bas cleverly deconstructs this discipline by fusing it with dance movements. The two artists struggle with their identity and their relationship to each other in the execution of this piece, and we see their creative process in a raw, evolutionary form.

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### **CHINA SERIES #1 - JULIAN VOGEL (SWITZERLAND)**

● 21:30 (20')

📍 ZIRKUSQUARTIER, ZÜRICH

Julian Vogel completes his training as a juggler at ACaPA in Tilburg this year. His research has focussed on the construction of Diabolos with exceptional materials and on the expanding the role of the audience in performance. He shows his on-going exploration work in both Aarau and Zurich.

A six by six-meter square is marked on the floor with white tape. A maximum of 48 spectators enter the square as does the actor. With the help of diabolos which incidentally are built from porcelain shells, the artist develops a dialogue with the audience.

Ⓜ LIMITED SEATS!

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SATURDAY, JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup>

**CHINA SERIES#7**  
**JULIAN VOGEL (SWITZERLAND)**

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● 10:00 (20')

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📍 ALTE REITHALLE AARAU

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The audience takes the stage, where large bowls, rebar, ropes and small rolls are lying around. A performer drills, assembles, hangs up and builds his object.

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© FREE

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**PLAY NICE - ARIANE & ROXANA (GERMANY)**

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● 16:00 (50')

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📍 THEATER TUCHLAUBE AARAU

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Lie on your back and juggle with hands and feet. Refuse to allow the associated restrictions on your freedom of movement to stop you. Try to move forward, to join the game together, maybe even support each other. Remember that structure means freedom and that restrictions create spaces. Ariane Oechsner and Roxana Küwen are two artists that are committed to exceptional circus discipline. The self-evident way in which they expand and play with the vocabulary of this discipline is astonishing.

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FESTIVAL  
PROGRAMME  
CIRQU' SATURDAY  
& SUNDAY



**DYSTONIE - CIE DEFRACTO (FRANCE)**

● SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> 17:00 & SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> 16:30 (50')

📍 ALTE REITHALLE AARAU

Motion, flow and movement: Jumping, dancing, and falling, all in a rhythm - a loose, controlled and uncontrollable rhythm. Two jugglers search the stage for the ultimate pattern of movement and get entangled in interplay, as if by accident. A third artist seems to wander in other worlds. He joins the performance only when necessary. Using a catwalk as a stage and with an engaging nonchalant technical brilliance, DeFracto make it clear to the audience that balls flying through the air can serve as a purpose in life.

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**OPTIMUM - ZIRKUS CHNOPF (SWITZERLAND)**

● SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> 18:30 & SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> 16:30 (60')

📍 BAHNHOFPLATZ AARAU

A huge machine-like structure and a few extremely athletic young artists: This show is about optimization, about whether you should seek to improve yourself using mechanical devices and prostheses. Is it better to team up with machines or would it be better to equip yourself to fight against such developments? The circus Chnopf is dedicated to the promotion of youth participation in Swiss circus. Together with theatre professionals and young people, they develop a new and elaborate open-air spectacle each year. This summer they are touring with the show "Optimum" which offers budding artists the opportunity to taste "real circus life".

© HAT COLLECTION



## DE STIJLE, WANT - TONI RONALDONI

● SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> 18:30, 21:00 & SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> 18:30, 20:30, 00:00 (60')

📍 FESTIVAL CENTRE

Old-fashioned circus music blasts out of clanging speakers. A jovial impresario with imposing sideburns eloquently entices an audience into a tiny tent with space for around a dozen spectators. The performance only lasts two minutes but that is all we can reveal for now. Make sure you don't miss it!

© 2 CHF

📌 PURCHASE THE TICKETS DIRECTLY FROM TONI RONALDONI  
NO ONLINE BOOKINGS POSSIBLE  
TONI RONALDONI WILL BE PRESENT FOR 60 MINUTES, BUT THE SHOW  
ITSELF ONLY TAKES 2 MINUTES.

## END? END! THE PARTY

● SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> FROM 22:00

📍 ALTE REITHALLE AARAU & BAR IM STALL

The longest night is also the last night: before the Alte Reithalle is transformed, we celebrate it. The family around the cirqu 'festival, the Bar im Stall and the theatre Tuchlaube invite you to a great party! A look back at eight summer adventures. Swing your feet into our skates and let yourself be seduced. Duration: from early evening to a brunch the next morning.

© FREE (A SMALL RENTAL FEE IS REQUIRED FOR SKATES AND HEADPHONES)



## LE VIDE - ESSAI DE CIRQUE / ASSOCIATION DU VIDE (FRANCE)

● SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> 20:00 & SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> 19:30 (60')

📍 ALTE REITHALLE AARAU

The struggle itself is enough to fill your heart: A lone man climbs a rope, higher and higher, driven to reach his limits and then compelled to let himself fall. With each movement, he reaches boundaries and possibilities, climbs further and further, struggles calmly and steadily, completely devoted. When he reaches extremes, he carries on regardless of danger and risk. As time passes, he slows down but never stops. He breathes, lives, knows. Nothing is certain.

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## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### VENUES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

📍 **Alte Reithalle Aarau / festival centre**  
Apfelhausenweg 20  
5000 Aarau  
[www.cirquaarau.ch](http://www.cirquaarau.ch)

📍 **Theater Tuchlaube Aarau**  
Metzgergasse 18  
5000 Aarau  
[www.tuchlaube.ch](http://www.tuchlaube.ch)

📍 **Forum Schlossplatz**  
Schlossplatz 4  
5000 Aarau  
[www.forumschlossplatz.ch](http://www.forumschlossplatz.ch)

📍 **Zirkusquartier Zürich**  
Flurstrasse 85  
8047 Zürich  
[www.zirkusquartier.ch](http://www.zirkusquartier.ch)

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Since 2003, Circostrada Network has been working to develop and structure the fields of circus and street arts in Europe and beyond. With more than 100 members from over 30 countries, it helps building a sustainable future for these sectors by empowering cultural players through activities in observation and research, professional exchanges, advocacy, capacity-building and information.



ARTCENA is the French National Centre for Circus Arts, Street Arts and Theatre. It works towards its missions in three main areas: the sharing of knowledge through a digital platform and activities of documentation, the support to professionals via mentoring and training, the development of these three artistic fields by providing funding to authors and carrying out international development. It coordinates the Circostrada network and has a permanent seat on its Steering Committee.



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