



ARK 1

COLETTE SADLER

# ARK 1

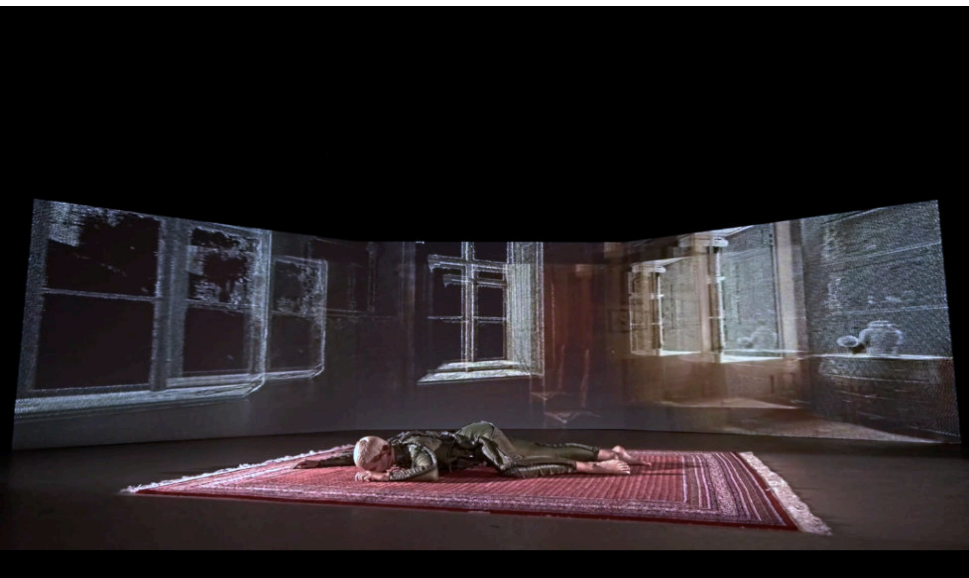
ARK 1 is a multimedia installation composed and directed by the Berlin-based Scottish artist and choreographer Colette Sadler. Comprised of a live solo performance within a video installation made in collaboration with Mikko Gaestel, ARK 1 explores the precarious futures of human culture amid the life-altering interventions of artificial intelligence and ecological crisis. The video establishes a science fictional narrative to which a dancer responds: set in the future, a fictitious bio-technology corporation VESSELS INC created the spaceship “ARK 1” to preserve the distant memory of human life. As Earth’s resources became depleted and its ecosystems threatened human extinction, VESSELS INC launched ARK 1 into deep space,

equipped with the technology for sustaining artificial life. Onboard, an algorithm digitally reconstructed the dancer Leah Marojevic to preserve the muscle memory of human experience. Halfway through the film, Marojevic appears live to perform as the humanoid specimen against the video installation’s virtual backdrop. The live dimension of the performance collapses the temporal distance between our pandemic present and the video’s post-catastrophic future; its simulated world emerges and is embodied through the dancer’s uncanny movements.



The multimedia scenography of ARK 1 proposes an archaeology of the future that questions: how will the history of humanity be archived, remembered, and technologically retrieved in the aftermath of coming catastrophes? Through Sadler’s deliberate use of technology and science fiction across performance and film, ARK 1 is aligned with contemporary art practices that speculate on the post-human condition, artificial intelligence, and the future of the archive. The animation and 3D aesthetics employed in the video evoke current modes of techno-scientific visualization, while the video immerses viewers into simulated architectures of churches, libraries, and museums—the repositories of human civilization. As Marojevic performs a creaturely choreography of machinic movements, she voices a text that Sadler composed using artificial intelligence software, whose poetic character belies its algorithmic origin. From its standpoint in an imagined future, ARK 1 reconstructs the bodily proof of human existence in the aftermath of catastrophe, as its post-human performer gestures towards humanity’s next destination.

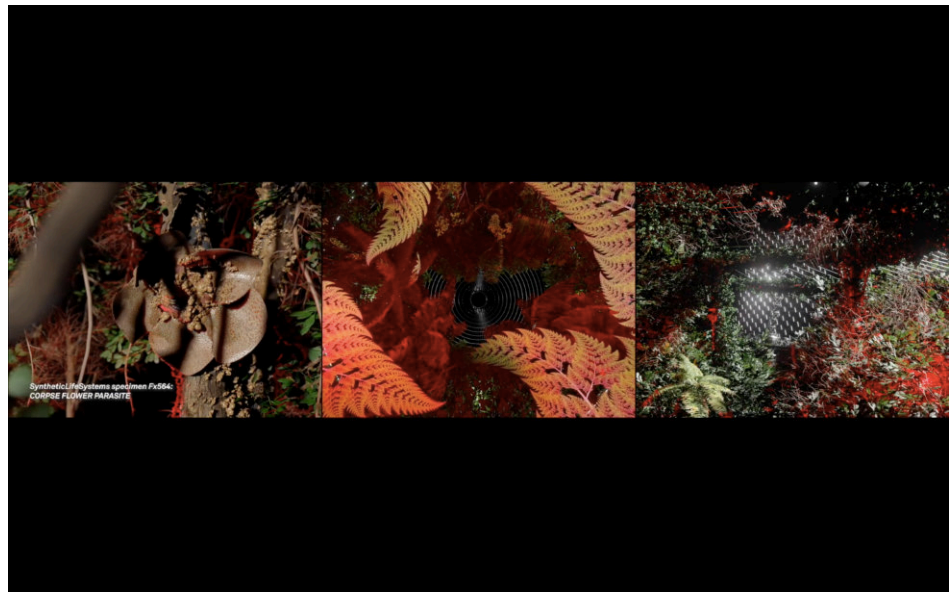
Text: Carlos Kong | Carlos Kong is a writer and art critic based in Berlin. He is a PhD candidate in Art History at Princeton University. He frequently contributes to Flash Art and Texte zur Kunst, and his writing has been published in various exhibition catalogues, artist books, and curatorial projects.



PREMIERE

Tanz im August  
13-16 August 2021  
[www.tanzimaugust.de](http://www.tanzimaugust.de)

14th + 15th January 2022  
Temps D'Image Festival Tanz NRW



## ARTISTIC TEAM

Artistic Direction, Installation, Video, Text and Choreography Colette Sadler

Video Design and Direction: Mikko Gaestel

3D Animation and Design: Alexander Pannier

Performance: Leah Marojevic

Sound: Heiko Tubbesing, Mikko Gaestel and Samir Kennedy.

Video Voice-Over: Alicia Matthews

Costume Design: Colette Sadler and Theo Clinkard

Management: Catherine Launay

Funded by: Nationale Performance Netz "Stepping Out" Fund, funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media within the framework of the initiative NEUSTART KULTUR, Assistance Program for Dance. With additional investment from CREATIVE SCOTLAND open fund. Residencies supported by The Work Room Glasgow, Tanzhaus NRW and Fabrik Potsdam.

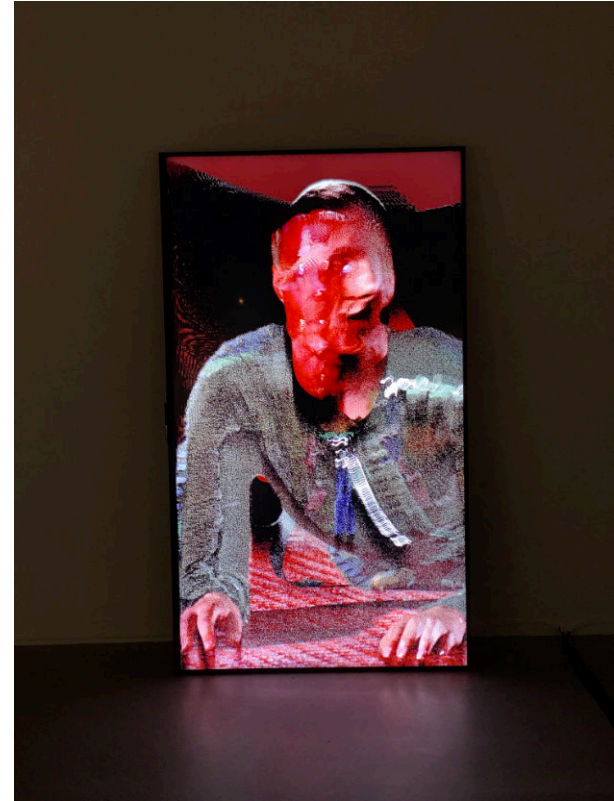
Produced by: Tanz im August International Dance Festival Berlin in cooperation with Sophiensæle and Kultur Büro Elisabeth.

# ARK 1 – TOWARDS AN ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE FUTURE

"Growing Body of Evidence"

Exhibition at Nordic House Reykjavik  
Iceland 11.9 -23.12.2023

Expanding upon the original video and performance installation premiered at Tanz Im August International Dance Festival Berlin 2021, this exhibition commissioned by Nordic House Reykjavik Iceland proposes an archaeology of the future that questions: how will the history of humanity be archived, remembered and technologically retrieved in the aftermath of coming catastrophes?





## MEDIA

ARK 1 (Full length) — [vimeo.com/818323190](https://vimeo.com/818323190) > PW: Outerspace

ARK 1 trailer (1 minute) — [vimeo.com/629130505](https://vimeo.com/629130505)

ARK 1 trailer (3 minutes) — [vimeo.com/629138829](https://vimeo.com/629138829)

## BIOGRAPHY

### COLETTE SADLER / Choreography

Colette Sadler is a Scottish choreographer and multi-disciplinary artist based in Berlin.

She worked Internationally as a dancer until 2002. Since 2006, Sadler's work has been shown in numerous International dance contexts and in the visual arts, including Tanz Im August, TRAMWAY Glasgow, Impulstanz Vienna, South Bank Centre London, Kaai Theatre Brussels, Nottingham Contemporary, Les Latitudes Contemporaines France, OGR Turin and Tokyo Festival.

In 2022 she was commissioned to create an exhibition expanding on ARK 1 for Nordic House Reykjavik Iceland. In 2021 She was one of the winners of PODIUM at Le Pacifique Grenoble in with her work "Learning From The Future" and in December 2022 presented "ORACLE LEAVES- Portraits of Daphne" at EBENSPERGER Berlin in collaboration with HAU with support from TRAMWAY Glasgow Nationales Performance Netz "Stepping Out" Fund.

Since 2016, Sadler has been developing "Present Futures", a cycle of curatorial events exploring themes of speculative futures and post-humanism in collaboration with CCA Glasgow.

## **LEAH MAROJEVIC / Performance**

Leah is a contemporary dance artist who performs, makes performance, directs and artistically supports other artists. Originally from south London, Leah spent three months with Sydney Dance Company's Pre-Professional Year after graduating from the Victorian College of the Arts with a Bachelor of Dance in Melbourne, Australia 2013. Leah collaborates regularly with Theo Clinkard and Colette Sadler, and has worked with choreographers, visual artists and companies; Sarah Browne, Paulina Olowska, Joe Moran, Sam Williams, Megan Rooney, Candoco Dance Company, Clod Ensemble, Seke Chimutengwende, Alice Heyward, and Becky Hilton among others. As a choreographer her work has been presented in Slovenia, Scotland, England, Wales and Australia.

## **MIKKO GAESTEL / Video**

Mikko Gaestel (Hamburg 1982) is a visual artist and filmmaker living in Berlin. He studied at University of the Arts Berlin and Iceland Academy of the Arts Reykjavik, finishing with a Meisterschüler degree. His works have been exhibited at institutions including Goethe Institute New York, Bremerhaven Art Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art Helsinki, Future Gallery Berlin and Dumbo Arts Center New York. His documentary feature debut »The Great Fortune« won the Grand Prize at Belgrade Documentary Film Festival 2016.

## **Alexander Pannier / 3D Animation and Design**

Born 26th July 93 in Bitterfeld-Wolfen, Germany  
2012-2020 Leipzig Academy of Visual Arts (HGB Leipzig) Prof. Peter Piller / Prof. Jochen Schmith  
Has worked on 3D animation video projects for Frankfurt Opera, Marta Gornicka and Colette Sadler.

# **ALGOYTHMIC HALLUCINATION**

[drive.google.com/file/d/1p5BK4ezRTi6yIJM4-\\_QaYBwKrtoFnAVF/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1p5BK4ezRTi6yIJM4-_QaYBwKrtoFnAVF/view?usp=sharing)

A text by Colette Sadler for Tanz Im August Magazine 2021

# TECHNICAL RIDER

> [drive.google.com/drive/folders/1njJWfzUD\\_6YJ42ElrJJO0Tguwv6CV8M-?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1njJWfzUD_6YJ42ElrJJO0Tguwv6CV8M-?usp=sharing)

## The company brings:

- 1 Carpet
- 1 wireless system with lavalier mic
- 1 vocal FX
- 1 computer for sound w/ audio interface
- 1 computer for video and LX
- 1 USB to DMX gadget

## The venue provides:

**LIGHT:**

- 2 x profiles, etc S4 or similar on tripods
- 3 x 1kW PCs
- L 201 or R 371 for all lamps
- 1 x 4 or 6 ch. dimmer and DMX cable
- Focus: all lamps on the carpet, not on the screens;
- profiles – see matching colours in the plot

**SOUND:**

- 1 x Subwoofer behind the screens
- 2 x speakers on tripods
- o.c. amps, if needed
- 1 x sound mixer (5 INs & 4 OUTs needed)

**VIDEO:**

- 3 x screens on the floor (~3 x 2.25m)
- 3 x projectors – please contact Mikko Gaestel
- for further information: [mikko@expander-film.de](mailto:mikko@expander-film.de)
- 1 x Matrox triplehead
- 3 x HDMI cables

**STAGE:** We had 15 cushions and 15 chairs in a semi circle for the premiere.  
This may vary in every other venue.

# BOOKING CONTACT

For fees and touring availability please contact

Colette Sadler  
[cs@colettesadler.com](mailto:cs@colettesadler.com)