

CAIRNS



CAIRNS is a journey through Space
and Time.

CAIRNS is a tale.
CAIRNS is a story of architects.
CAIRNS is about building and rising.

CAIRNS is Babel.



CAIRNS is an original creation for saxophone quartet and stage performer.
It is part of a transdisciplinary performances trilogy : GLITCH, CAIRNS and SHOUT.
CAIRNS was premiered in the Zürcher Hochschule der Künste, in a shorter version, on the 21st of September 2017.

Performers :
Emmanuel Michaud - visual artist

Toni Sax Quartet :
Charles Ng - soprano sax
Amit Dubester - alto sax
Valentine Michaud - tenor sax
Joan J. O. Arcos - baritone sax

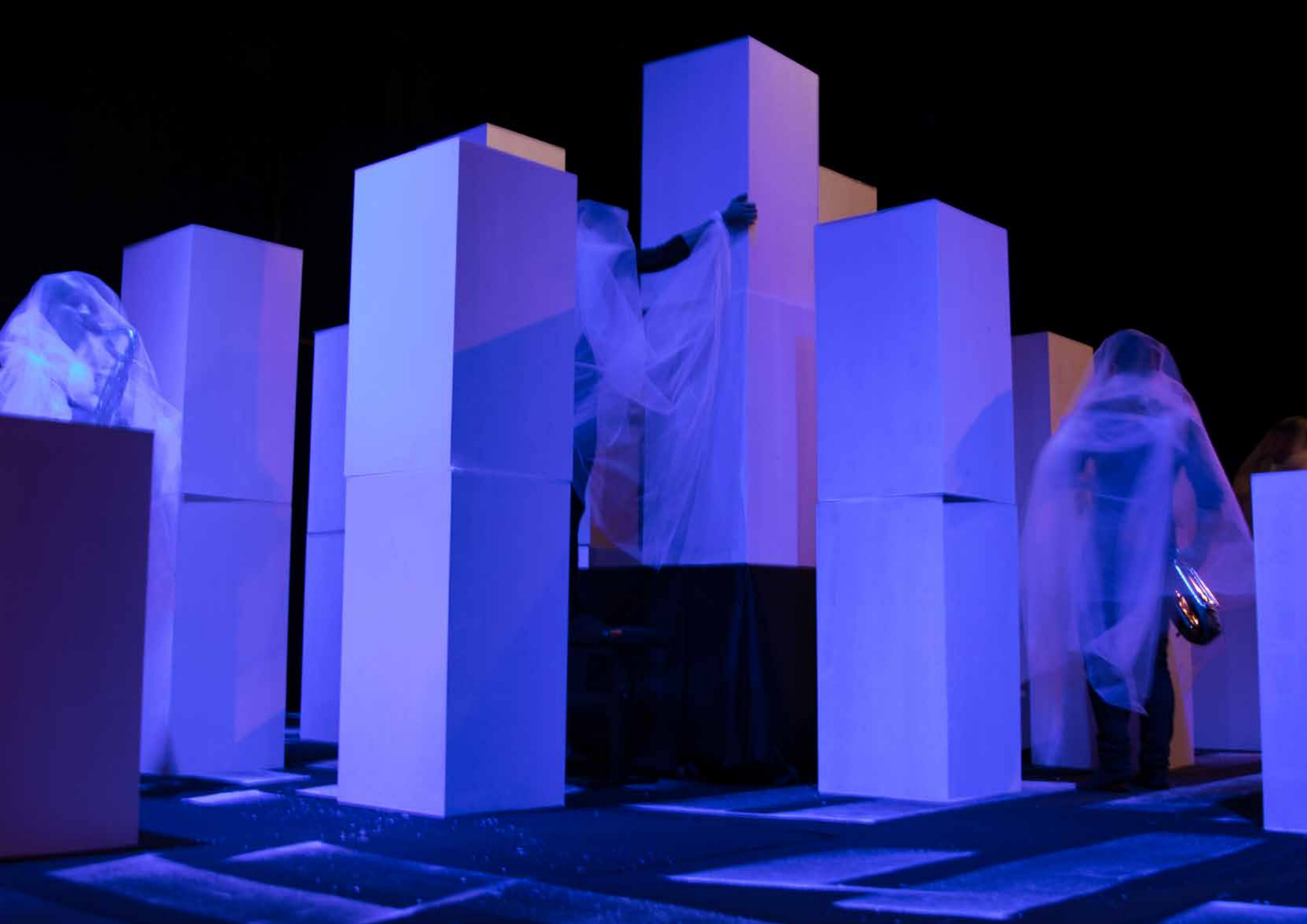
This 50 minutes performance is based on a soundtrack gathering minimal music and improvisation. The visual and the musical part are both using reduced material constantly evolving and shaping the stage.

The timbers of the four different saxophones become one sound whirling around the stage and the audience.

[Click here to see the premiere \(short version\) at ZHdK Highlights](#)

[Click here to see the trailer](#)





The show explores the relationship between opposites : Order / Chaos ; Geometric / Organic. These opposites are to be seen in the evolution of the setting, but also musically and through the musicians and performer movements.

The performance is built around 36 identical white «bricks» (50x50x100cm), on an approximately 12x12m stage. Its duration is 50 minutes.

The bricks, made of thin wood, guide the whole choreography.

The show starts in the strictest order : the bricks are placed on the floor, everything is symmetrical.

The stage evolves afterwards, the bricks (moved by the visual performer) creating different architectural spaces.





The space, at the beginning mainly horizontal, starts developing itself vertically, becoming more and more complex. In the center, the piles of bricks can reach between 3 and 4 meters. The ghost of what could be a city is rising from the ground. As time goes on, the show progressively leaves absolute order and symmetry to slide into something more organic. The perfect symmetry of the choreography is altered, musicians start exploring the structure. As a final act, the four musicians and the performer disappear within the structure, swallowed by its power.

This city is an architecture for the mind. It is a space where the the spectator's thoughts can find a way in, supported by the meditative harmonies of Philipp Glass' music and the warm sound of the saxophones.







JOAN JORDI OLIVER ARCOS - BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Joan Jordi Oliver was born in 1994 in Campos, Mallorca, Spain. In 2012 he started his Bachelor studies in the Conservatorio Superior de Música de Aragón in Zaragoza with Mariano García as main teacher. In 2014, after receiving an scholarship from the Erasmus international program, he started a full-year studies in Konservatorium Wien Privatuniversität in Vienna with the renowned saxophonist Lars Mlekusch. In 2016, after finishing his studies with honors, he started his Master studies in Music Performance in the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK), where he is currently prolonging his formation with Lars Mlekusch.

During his studies he has received lessons and advices from the most renowned international saxophone players, including Claude Delangle, Vincent David, Jean-Denis Michat, Christian Wirth, Marcus Weiss, Simon Diricq, Andrés Gomis, Miguel Ángel Lorente, Marie-Bernadette Charrier or Arno Bornkamp. He has also an strong interest for free improvisation and for jazz, and has received formation from Frank Gratkowski, Manon Liu-Winter, Lucas Niggli, Peter Jacquemyn and Christoph Grab.

J. J. Oliver has performed many concerts in different european countries, such as Spain, Austria, Switzerland, France, Germany and Belgium, with different chamber music formations, orchestras and as a soloist.

His most remarkable interventions with orchestra includes a CD recording with the Vienna Saxophone Ensemble, with music by Karlheinz Stockhausen conducted by Lars Mlekusch and supervised by the Stockhausen-specialist Kathinka Pasveer; the zarzuela production and recording of El Sobre Verde by Jacinto Guerrero, included in Las Jornadas de Zarzuela de Cuenca in 2016, conducted by Nacho de Paz, as well as different interventions with the Orquestra Simfónica de les Illes Balears, conducted by some prestigious international conductors.

In 2016 he created the project Duo Demian, with the pianist Magí Garcies, dedicated to perform the classical repertory as well as free improvisation.

He has participated also in academies for new and experimental music, like Impuls International Academy (Graz) or LAbO #5 (Antwerpen), and has performed in festivals like Radical dB (Zaragoza) or Laokoon Festival (Zürich). In his concerts he regularly performs his own compositions, mixing electroacoustic music, audiovisual media and improvisation.

Insatisfied with the traditional profile of the saxophonist and constantly exploring new ways to transform the concert format, he regularly collaborates with artists from many different fields, including dance, painting, visual art or photography.

Of those interdisciplinary projects are remarkable Momentos Wien 7, Bahnhöfe des Lebens, a production of music theatre with two performers, dancers and photographers, premiered in Vienna in 2015, and the project Islands together with the spanish painter and artist Mireia Tramunt, performed in Mallorca also in 2015. Those and many other projects include his own experimental compositions.

CHARLES NG - SOPRANO SAXOPHONE

Born in 1991, Charles Ng is regarded as a prominent and emerging classical saxophonist from Hong Kong. Charles received his Bachelor of Music degree at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts with First Class Honours. During his undergraduate studies, he attended an exchange programme at Taipei National University of the Arts studying with saxophonist Jia-Shou Tsai. He is currently residing in both Zurich and Vienna, completing his graduate studies under the guidance of Lars Mlekusch at Zürcher Hochschule der Künste and Musik und Künste Privatuniversität Wien.

As a soloist, Charles has worked with numerous orchestras such as the Krakov Academic Orchestra and the HKAPA Academy Orchestra, performing concertos by Debussy, Ibert, Tomasi and Glazunov. Various music festivals have invited him as a guest artist around Europe such as the Rauma Festivo, Vienna International Saxfest and Zürich International Saxfest.

In the past, he was invited to give recitals at the Escola de Música do Conservatório Nacional in Lisbon, Mahidol University, and Xinghai Concert Hall in Guangzhou. His performance can be heard on the Stockhausen Press, "LINKER AUGENTANZ." Recently, he has worked with American composer Alvin Lucier and recorded his work, Hannover, on a vinyl released in 2017.

Charles Ng is a member of the world-renowned saxophone quintet Five Sax. He enjoys travelling, contributing new ideas to the programme and performing in different cities with the group.

Besides Five Sax, he is also part of a duo with Soprano vocalist Suvi Väyrynen, as Duo Sung. Together as a duo, they have won the First Prize in the Fidelio Competition. Lately, he has found a saxophone percussion duo, The Sounding Pulse, along with percussionist Karen Yu.

Dedicating himself to modern music, Charles has been working closely with composers and premiering new compositions. He believes music performance is not only an auditory experience - the visual aspect is also a substantial part of it.





VALENTINE MICHAUD - TENOR SAXOPHONE

Valentine Michaud is a saxophonist who was born in France in 1993 and has lived in Switzerland since 2010. Her repertoire encompasses a wide range of styles, including contemporary works, baroque and classical transcriptions, and improvisation, all of which she performs with passion. Aiming to bring her instrument to a wider audience, promoting its largely unknown repertoire, and helping to create new works in innovative formats are some of her key values as an artist, along with enthusiasm and curiosity for exploring different horizons.

She has been awarded numerous prizes at international competitions. In 2016, she won first prize at the Jurjans Andrejs VI Woodwind International Competition in Riga (Latvia) and the Prix Credit Suisse at Lucerne Festival, while her duo Akmi with pianist Akvilė Sileikaitė received first prize at the renowned Orpheus Swiss Chamber Music Competition. Since 2015, she has been supported by prestigious Swiss grants such as the Leenaards foundation cultural grant and Migros' Pour-Cent Culturel, which saw her added to their concert management programme in 2016.

She performs regularly as a soloist, in chamber music groups and in orchestras on some of the most prestigious stages in the world: Great Guild Hall (Riga), Gnessin Academy (Moscow), Wiener Konzerthaus (Vienna), Philharmonie Hall (Odessa), Esplanade (Singapore), Tonhalle (Zürich), and in Lausanne, her home town, at the Festival Bach, Festival de la Cité, Lavaux Classics, the Opera of Lausanne...

In 2016, she had the opportunity to perform with the Mariinsky Orchestra directed by Valery Gergiev and the Orchestre des Continents under Thierry Fischer, as well as a solo performance with the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra.

Valentine began her studies in Nantes following the French school of saxophone with Joël Hérissé, before moving to Switzerland at the age of 16 to study with Pierre-Stéphane Meugé at the Haute Ecole de Musique in Lausanne.

She is interested in both contemporary repertoire and works from older periods such as baroque and renaissance. She obtained her Bachelor's degree in saxophone in 2013, while simultaneously studying for a Bachelor's degree in musicology at Sorbonne University in Paris. After completing her first Master's degree in instrumental pedagogy, she continued her training in 2015 with a second Master's degree specialising in solo performance with Lars Mlekusch at the Zurich University of the Arts.

The dynamic and generous young saxophonist now teaches at several music schools in the Canton of Vaud, in Geneva Conservatory, and passes on her passion to other young musicians at instrumental training courses such as the saxophone camp Sax Up, which was founded in 2015.

AMIT DUBESTER - ALTO SAXOPHONE

Amit Dubester is an Israeli saxophonist, born in 1990 in Kfar Saba. He began his studies at the Conservatory of Kfar Saba, then in Tel Aviv with Mr. Gan Lev, principal saxophonist of the Israel Philharmonic and founder of the ensemble «Nikel».

Amit took part in international master classes, in France (XASAX, Nicolas Prost, in Saint-Maur-des-Fosses), the USA (Idit Shner, University of Oregon), Switzerland (Markus Weiss, Hochschule für Musik Basel) and Israel (Pr. Ken Radnofsky, NEC). Amit holds a scholarship from the America-Israel Cultural Foundation - both in solo and quartet - with distinction for years 2005- 2014.

At 18, he began his compulsory service in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), where he serves as an «Outstanding Musician». He also plays for soldiers, as well as for hospitals and schools for disabled children. During his military service, he is also involved in raising funds for the welfare of soldiers, playing, for example, for the Jewish community in Toronto, Canada.

Amit has also played with many orchestras recognized in Israel: the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, the Israel Symphony Orchestra, the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, the Symphony Orchestra of Ramat Hasharon Campus and in the Israel Festival 2009, as a member of All Elysium, led by Gil Shohat.

He recently played as a soloist creating the Concerto for Saxophone Shimon Cohen, composer, pianist and Israeli conductor. Amit has a passion for the creation of contemporary music and works with young composers.

He founded in 2010 a saxophone and percussion duo with percussionist Oded Wager. This unique ensemble played works of the best young Israeli composers, as well as music from composers worldwide. He recently played as a soloist with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg, and with the Saxophone Ensemble of the Conservatory of Strasbourg.

Sensitive to dance as theater, Amit took part in the creation of several interdisciplinary performances as the show «Monsieur Adolphe Sax» he created quartet in Strasbourg in 2014, or a performance with dancers at World Saxophone Congress Strasbourg in 2015. After a bachelor at the Strasbourg Conservatory of Music with Philippe Geiss, Amit is currently studying in Zürich in the class of Lars Mlekusch.

In 2015, Amit won in Tel Aviv the contest «François Shapira» for wind instruments.





EMMANUEL MICHAUD - VISUAL ARTIST

Emmanuel Michaud, born in 1997, holds a Baccalauréat STD2A (Applied Arts), followed by a preparatory class at the Graphic Arts EPSAA (Ivry-sur-Seine). He now holds a Bachelor's Degree in Arts (DNA), obtained in 2017 at the HEAR (High School for the Arts of Rhine) in Mulhouse.

Since 2015, he took part in several exhibitions, such as «Exhibition» (Kunsthalle, Mulhouse), «Yeah, I'm a Curator» (Motoco, Mulhouse), «Neo» (Dagobert Cave, Munster). He worked with three other painters on a command by UGC Cinema, which is permanently exposed in the center of Strasbourg since March 2017.

His work is before all the work of a storyteller. He uses a lot of different medias : besides a practice of painting, drawing and plastic art in all its forms, he develops links between disciplines, especially with music. With a theoretical and practical learning of music, and various experiences of group, he also involves in such practices as concert, sound performance, video.

This led him to be a part of a lot of shows and performances : «Crossfade» (Espace Gantner, Mulhouse), an expanded cinema exhibition, several concerts at la Scene Michelet and Le Ferrailleur (Nantes), and experimental music shows in Mulhouse.

He is a performer and one of the founding members of the performance trilogy gathering GLITCH, CAIRNS and SHOUT.

Always willing to work with or for young people, he is also taking part to projects that connect the arts to the world of animation, such as workshops with CHAAP classes (Class Schedules Arranged in Fine Arts), «Le tour du monde en 80 minutes», a painting performance with the Youth Orchestra of Wasselonne, or a wallpainting project with the APF (French Paralyzed Association).