

# Ronald Bal

Visual and Performance Artist

[www.ronaldbal.com](http://www.ronaldbal.com)

[r.ph.bal@gmail.com](mailto:r.ph.bal@gmail.com)

## Work

P. 2: How to Fold a Crisis?

P. 3: Potential Body's

P. 4: Re-carving Body Plant Image

P. 5: Moving Landscape

P. 6: From the Physical to the Social

P. 7: L'homme léger

P. 8: Reflex

P. 9: Pulse

P. 10: Multiplicity

## Information

P. 11: Artist statement and Biography

Title: How to Fold a Crisis?  
Year: 2019 (in process)  
Duration: 20 minutes  
3-Channel Film Installation

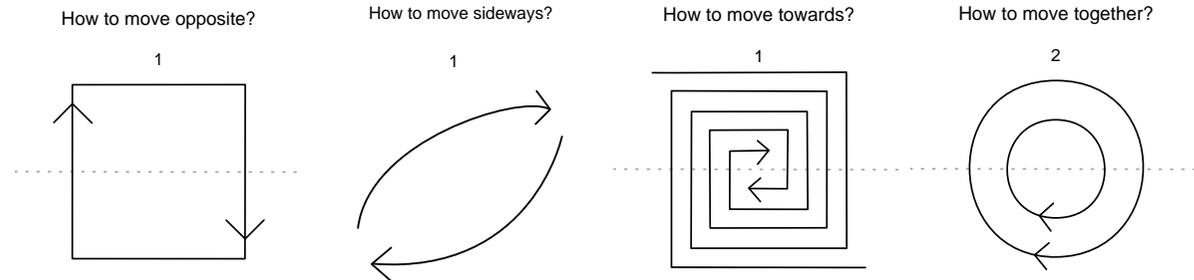
The film installation researches the folding of the body and its physical grammar, which not only shape the skeleton but our connection with others as well. The performance is based on non-verbal communication, a physical choreography of mathematical messages between two performers. The film installation will be ready in December 2019.



Title: Potential Body's  
Year: 2018  
Duration: 80 minutes  
Public performance

With *Potential Body's*, Bal creates a visual translation of space and body. It is a public performance with two performers next to the river Maas in Rotterdam. The two connect to the urban space and its physical presence. Bal applies shapes and lines, mathematical structures of the urban environment as a means to understand the world.

Supported by: CBK Rotterdam



Title: Re-carving Body Plant Image

Year: 2018

Duration: 120 minutes

Performance-installation

*Re-carving Body Plant Image* is rooted in Bal's interest in analysing global archives and personal data. What is the meaning of image making as part of our social, cultural and political lives. *Recarving Body Plant Image* focuses on the 'affection' and 'alienation' of data and image making through contemporary technology.



Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/272033804>

Code: Recarving2019



Title: Moving Landscape

Year: 2017

Duration: 20 minutes

Performance and film

*Moving Landscape* unfolds as a multidisciplinary investigation into the concept of landscape in performance art. Bal transforms Cloud Danslab, a self-organized group and studio dedicated to the research into movement and performance art in The Hague, into a hybrid place, where performers from various disciplines (dance, circus and visual arts) explore how to represent with their body the concept of landscape. The outcome is a performance installation, shaped by sculptural and abstract dance, illustrating the connection between painting and performance art.

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/ew05xOyAXPw>



Title: From the Physical to the Social  
Year: 2017  
Duration: 5 hours  
Interactive performance and installation

*From the Physical to the Social* is an investigation into the physical grammar and social system of the body. Bal created an interactive performance installation at the European Culture Centre Palazzo Mora in Venice. He invited the audience to adopt a posture to shape the fiction of spectator and of performer in the museum and in our daily environment. By doing so, he intended to reveal the movements that connect one person with another.

Thanks to: Vest&Page and Marilyn Arsem and CBK Rotterdam



Name: L'homme léger  
Date: 2017  
Time: 5 minutes  
Work: Film, without sound

The black and white film *L'homme léger* shows the machinery of movements in daily rituals that shape both reality and fiction. Exposing the kinetics behind folding and unfolding of material in relation to its surrounding and bodily affect.



Title: Reflex

Year: 2017

Duration: 2 hours

Performance-installation

Reflecting on the 'performative body', Bal explores the potential of language and its visual translation. It is a performance of 2 hours, with a body in three repetitive stages, standing, walking and running, at different speeds and rhythms. The scenography constructs a screenplay of words and time. The words change every thirty seconds, enabling the reader to interpret the words and actions in order to construct short sentences over time. The scenario shows in total 40 words, often used as a repetitive directions, which directly challenges the body. The words are repeated every 20 minutes, each time showing a different interpretation of the body.

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/216966903>

Code: Reflex2017



Title: Pulse

Year: 2016

Duration: 30 minutes

Performance and film

Based on Gene Youngblood's ideas that that "man's ongoing historical drive to manifest his consciousness outside of his mind, in front of his eyes", Bal is working on a method to use recordings, archiving and film as part of his performances. This method focuses on 3 levels: recording body movements, reading film scripts and investigating and mirroring body movements.

In his work, the body functions as a scenographic machine that directs and archives images and 'shares' them online. During the performance Bal asks the audience to participate and record the event. After the festival, the audience can send in their footage, which Bal translates into a film.



Title: Multiplicity

Year: 2016

Duration: 20 minutes

Performance-installation

In the project *Multiplicity*, Bal plays with an ambiguous space that functions both as cinema and exhibition space. He made an installation, a combination of a 20 minutes film and a live performance. The performance is an encounter between audience, installation and film. The film can be read as a 'script' of abstract characters and sound. The performance is based on the choreography that investigates the transition, dynamics, direction and poses in motion through the use of repetition. The varying tempos and rhythms of the movements were recorded and re-enacted on screen.



## Artist statement

Ronald Bal is a Netherlands based visual artist mainly focusing on live art, storytelling, installation and lens-based media. His work deals with *distance* and *proximity* in intimate systems and natural events. Inspired by social exchange, cyborg, history and ecology in the field of anthropology, he is currently focusing on the organic body and a digital text. Simulating the physical and the virtual by re-animating personal data combined with live events, on the border of theatre and visual art. His work often leads to installations where repetition of images and body movement are combined to support its narrative structure.

## Biography

Ronald Bal has been awarded with the 'Best of graduates' exhibition at Gallery Ronmandos in Amsterdam and the first prize at LISFE artist competition in Leiden and a residence at C. Rockefeller Center for the Contemporary Arts in Dresden. His work is exhibited in several museums and project spaces. Those include museum CODA in Apeldoorn, 21 Rozendaal in Enschede, the National Palace of Culture in Sofia, the Grimmuseum in Berlin, the European Culture Centre Palazzo Mora in Venice, and Contemporary Art Znaki Czasu in Torun. In addition, Ronald Bal participated in various festivals and academic conferences - such as Dhaka Live Art Biennale in Dhaka, Performance Art Oslo in Oslo, Creature Live Art in Kaunas, Venice International Performance Art Week in Venice and the academic conference at Leiden University. He graduated BA ArtEZ in the Netherlands as a visual artist. Further, Ronald Bal is the founder of the Open Performance Academy and Performance Art NL.