

CELIA STROOM



2018-2022

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DIGITAL ART

CURATION

VOCAL PERFORMANCES

INSTALLATIONS

CHOREOGRAPHIES



<< I am an independent art producer, an artist & artisan who creates sound, visual, and tactile microcosmos. My practice spans visual arts (installations, drawings, videos), digital arts (animated, graphic & sound artworks), performing arts (polyphonies & choreographies) and writing (scenario of exhibitions, scripts of new museums, scenarios of festivals, poetry, essay, texts for others). Born somewhere, my country is the space of my body and how I relate to the environment through hypersensitivity. From lyrics to polyphonic performances, installations, digital artworks, to dances, everything is about creating a poetic, sensitive, synesthetic and imaginary device where the viewer feels released & inspired. Enter my personal kaleidoscope>>

For a full discovery of my work, check on [celiastroom.com](https://celiastroom.com)

## DIGITAL ART

<< Initially, I started designing graphics and digital web-worlds to simply create a personal website that would represent the cornucopia, the tree-like mind. The web allowed me to draw/translate this multifaceted kaleidoscope accurately, clearly and organised.

I have learnt, by myself, slowly, like a craftsman, for the past 15 years, and designing web environments has become one of my favourite way of silent expression. >>

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### **2022 THE W(E)AVE**

mobile app about queer intimacy

### **2021 LE JARDIN CLOS**

digital poetry essay

### **2020 THE ENCLOSED GARDEN #2 (TEG2)**

online exhibition for 31 womxn

### **2019 THE HEROINES WAVE**

website of the collective

### **2018 PANEGYRIQUE**

collages for upcoming database online

# THE W(E)AVE

2022 app

**DIGITAL ART**

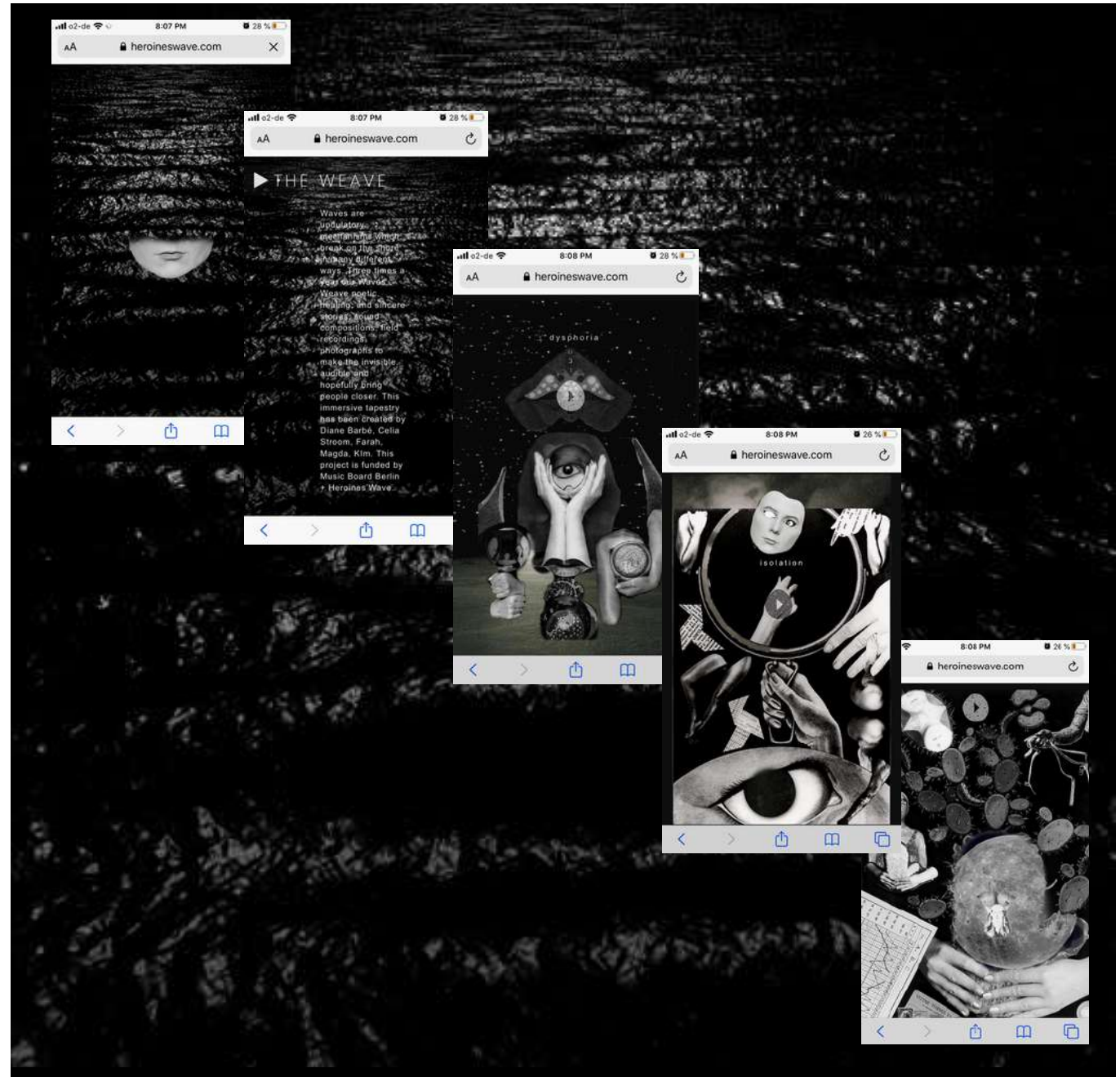
concept, design & art direction

<< I have designed a visual and sound  
immersive digital device where intimate stories  
of queer people worldwide are woven. >>

Experience the project here:

[www.heroineswave.com/theweave1](http://www.heroineswave.com/theweave1)

This podcast program has been produced by  
Heroines'Wave and Music Board Berlin.





# LE JARDIN CLOS

2019 ...

WORK IN PROGRESS

This multimedia artwork weaves:

>> Intimate stories collected in Berlin, Tbilisi, Bangkok, Tashkent of womxn

>> a meticulous investigation of Literature about isolation & depression (till now, 40 authors worldwide, like Fernando Pessoa, Marina Tsvetaeva, Virginia Woolf, Anna de Noailles, etc.)

>> a diary made of poetry, notes, videos, and photos collected for 3 years of nomadism.

Written only in isolation, enclosed in nature.

- In the Jungle (KhaoSok NationalPark - Thailand)
- In an orthodox monastery (Solan - France)
- In a retreat for writers (Rhodos - Greece)
- In the house & garden of Balzac (Paris)

Multimedia essay weaving hundreds of texts, photos, videos. To be released in 2023.

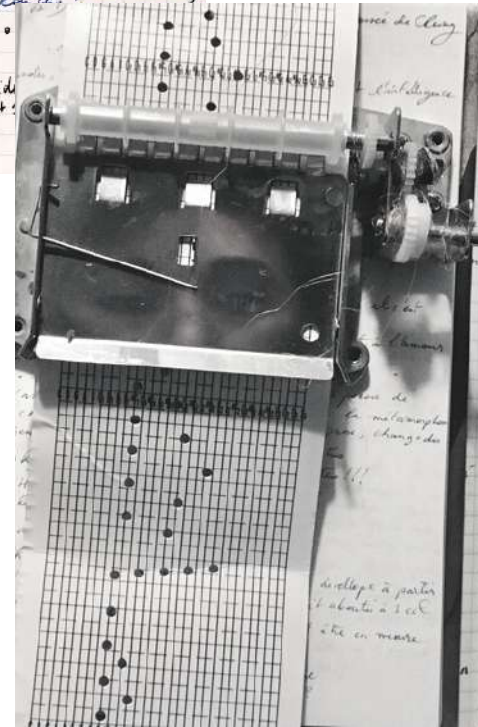
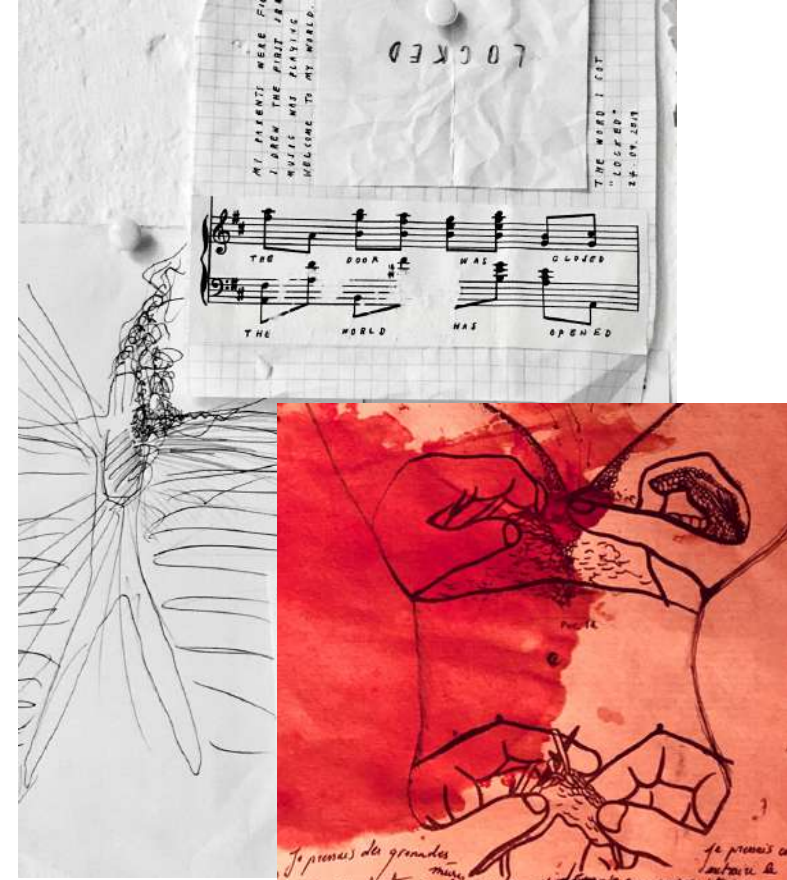
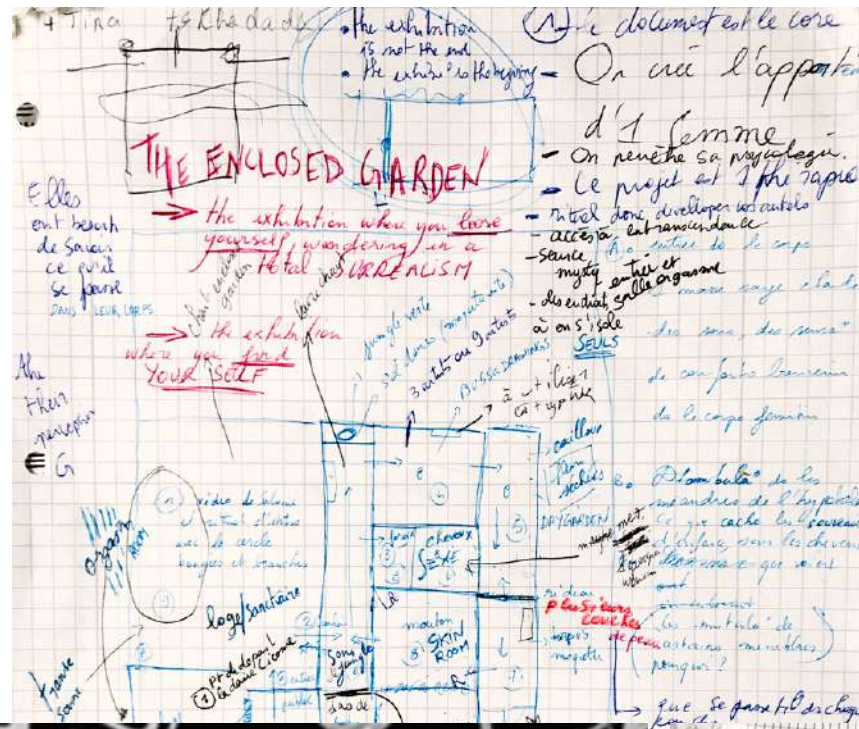


## DIGITAL ART

solo artwork realised from A to Z





[illegible]



**2018... graphic design / website of sound archives**

<< I started to live and work in Georgia in 2017, studying the polyphonies, travelling in villages, developing research on rituals with the documentary film director Salome Jashi.

After 5 years of immersion, I am digesting the experience by designing an immersive website with videos, sounds archives, photos and these visuals. Here are some sketch of collage that will draw the aesthetic of this platform where these years of research will be finally released>

Here is one extract of the series of videos made about the vocal tutors I met in villages.



## THE ENCLOSED GARDEN #2 2020

## DIGITAL ART

concept, design & art direction

Creation of a digital labyrinth where everyone could immerse themselves from a laptop during the lockdown and get to know the intimate thoughts of womxn from 23 countries.

[www.heroineswave.com/online-enclosedgarden](http://www.heroineswave.com/online-enclosedgarden)

Web design

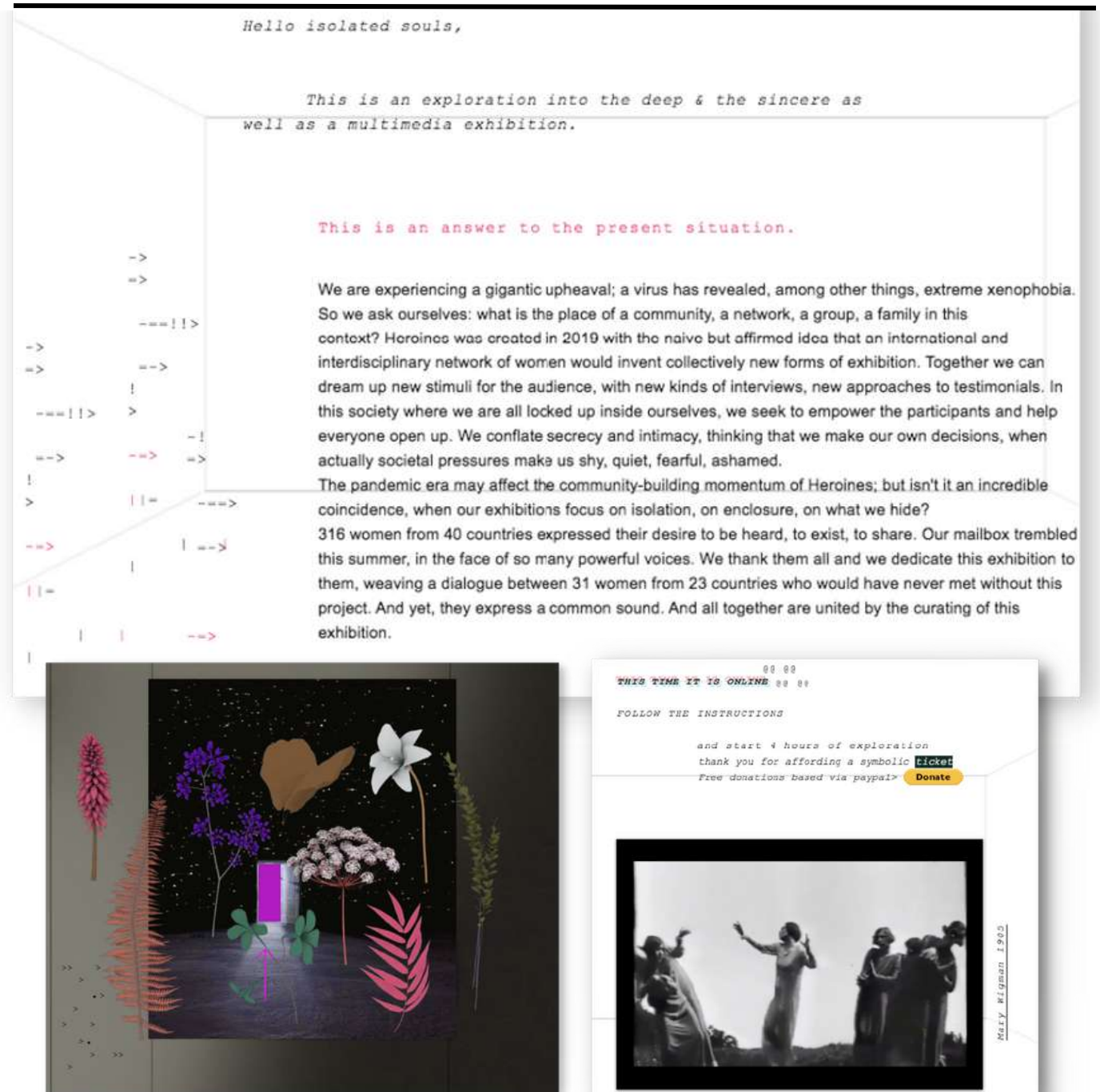
Sound design

Selection of 31 artists & Curation / Weaving their artworks together / Writing texts.

Discover:

▷ VOCAL CURATORIAL STATEMENT TEG#2

▷ ONLINE EXHIBITION TEG#2



# THE HEROINES WAVE

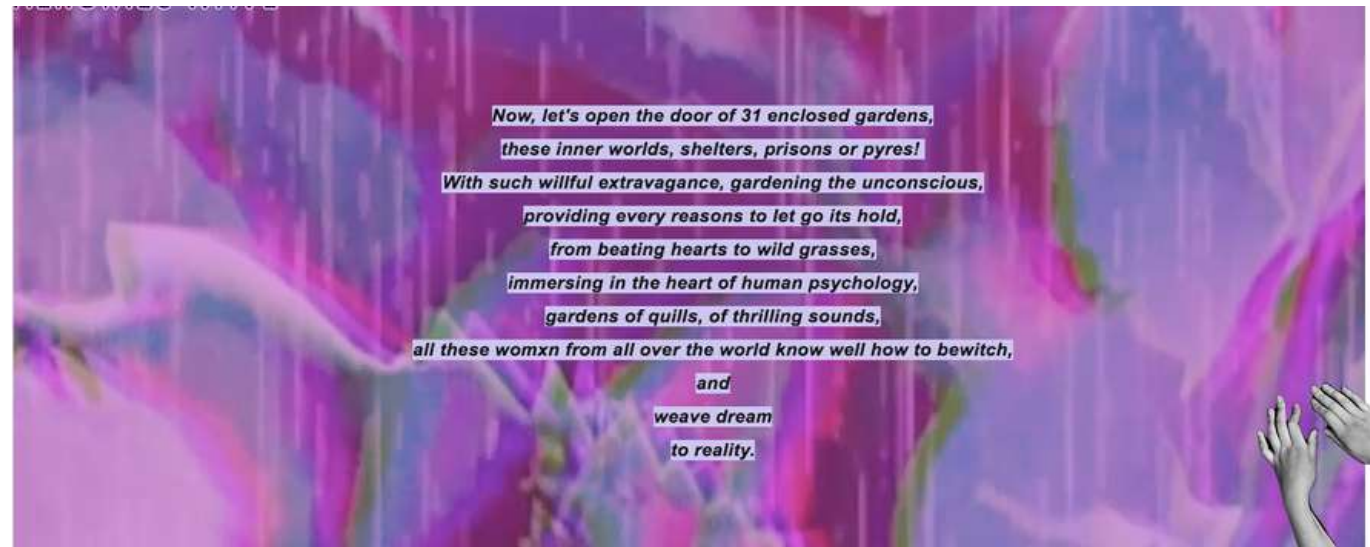
## 2019 website

**DIGITAL ART**  
design & art direction

<< I have designed a visual and sound immersive website for a Berlin-based feminist collective.

Experience the project here:

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



### WHAT?

HW is a creative and foresight studio that imagines new formats of art projects to increase the sensitivity of all the senses of the participants (artists and audience), such as sight, sound, touch and smell. Founded in 2019 in the multicultural Berlin, **HW\*** is an independent research and experimentation platform that produces fieldwork on artists struggles, podcasts, digital projects, festival of performances, exhibitions, residency programs.

### WHY?

- > We Investigate : About women artists' struggles in countries in crisis.
- > We Produce: **LIVE & ONLINE** projects about real intimacy.
- > We Connect: People that can't travel, to deconstruct ethnocentrism.
- > We Empower : Talented Artists who create secretly and who never got grants.
- > We Learn: Through art residencies, exchanging skills, and knowledge.
- > We Create: Artworks with a specific curatorial method to get people closer.
- > We Heal: Our projects are devoted to emotional processing & collective healing.

### HOW?

Our artistic line is to focus on collecting, sharing and creating on intimate stories to connect people deeper. Until now, HW is producing 3 projects

- **The Enclosed Garden** (TEG) : the annual & nomadic festival of performances & visual arts for women,
- **The Eddies** a series of posts (texts, sounds, videos) about their fieldwork on women artists struggles in countries where TEG happened and,
- **The Wileaves**, a podcast program on queer intimate stories.



HEROINES' WAVE

ABOUT

PIONEERS-HEROINES

ENCLOSED GARDEN

RESIDENCY PROGRAM

EXPPOSITIONS



## CURATION

<<I am a researcher-curator\* who has been exploring different ways of reinvigorating exhibition formats in contrast to the traditional collections-centred museum models. To me, exhibitions can play a massive role in how we learn how to create a community. Therefore, I am interested in solo exhibitions or solo artists' processes of work; I rather stimulate collective projects. >>

*\*For me being a curator is about merging my four professions in one: a researcher, a designer of spaces, a mediator, a choreographer.*

*I design multisensory labyrinths, a series of alcoves, where every artwork can be touched, smelt, listened to bring the body (of the audience & the artists) to the core of exhibition format. I have to live with the artists to perceive how to weave their unique languages, and be able to design an exhibition journey made of several personalities that dialogue with each other in a coherent & harmonious whole. At the beginning of the retreat, I share resources about the exhibition's theme, and coordinate research collective brainstorming. Later I write the curatorial statement and create a video art about the exhibition process.*

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**2022 THE ENCLOSED GARDEN #5 (TEG5)**  
exhibition 2023 in UZBEKISTAN

1st preparatory trip done in 2021 > 2nd next Oct 2022

**2022 THE ENCLOSED GARDEN #4 (TEG4)**  
exhibition 2022 in GREECE

1st preparatory trip done in 2021 > 2nd next July 2022

**2021 THE ENCLOSED GARDEN #3 (TEG3)**  
exhibition for 12 womxn in THAILAND

**2020 VANITY BY THE SEA**  
exhibition @DAADGALERIE

**2019 THE ENCLOSED GARDEN #1 (TEG1)**  
exhibition for 12 womxn in GEORGIA

## THE ENCLOSED GARDEN #3 2021 - THAILAND

### CURATION

concept, exhibition design & art direction

- > General management of the festival
- > Curating / Storytelling ([article about my method](#))
- > Exhibition design / Scenography
- > Workshops in vocal & body performance
- > Vocal Score composition / anthems of the festival

<< After 15 years of working for museums, dance companies and music ensembles, I have mixed several approaches to bring the audience's body to the core of my exhibition device. Far from the clinical white cube format, the visitor's body is immersed in a labyrinth of spontaneous artistic proposals that grow 3 weeks before during an intensive art residency. This brand new format of exhibition is called an EXPLOSION. It's an exhibition of visual & sound artists who perform live their freshly created artworks in front of the audience.

Every year, the project selects womxn from all over the world and takes place in countries where artists struggle to get paid and create freely on self-reflection and emotional processes.>>

Here is the full description of TEG project

[www.heroineswave.com/theenclosedgarden](http://www.heroineswave.com/theenclosedgarden)

Photo of the residency & the exhibition process here:

[www.heroineswave.com/thailand](http://www.heroineswave.com/thailand)



### CURATORIAL STATEMENT

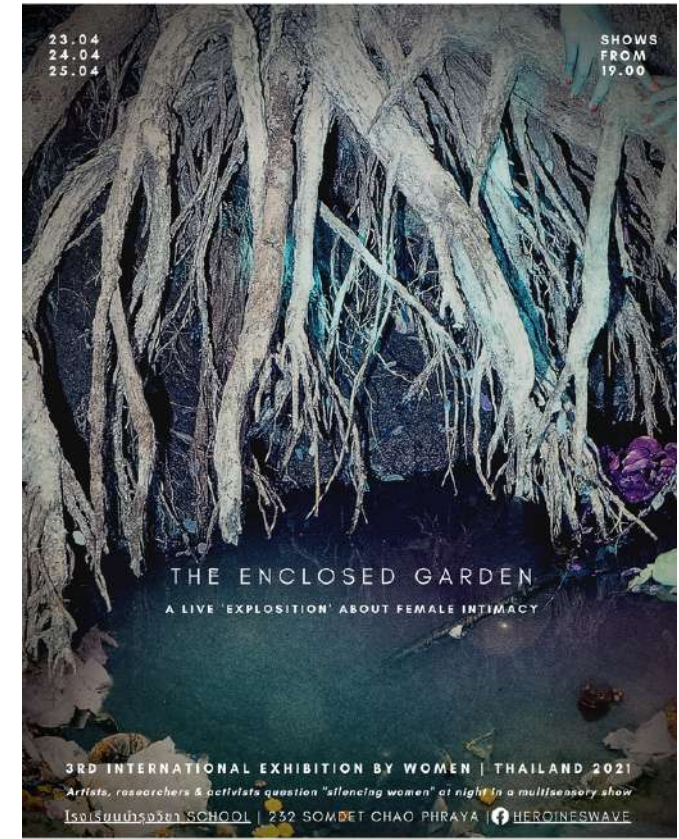
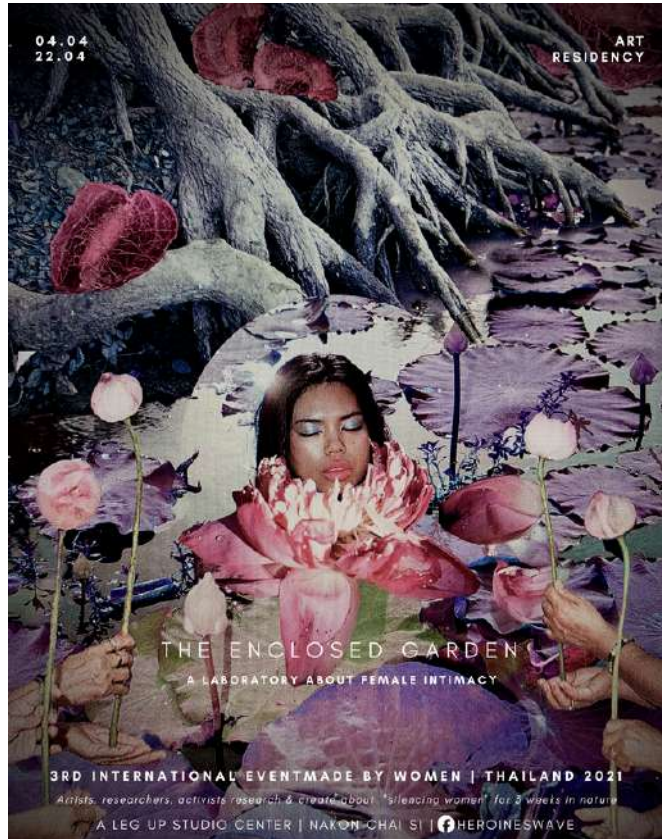
"Through lockdowns, rules, and oppression, we may have all become isolated in our fears and unrealised dreams. Is silence a shelter or a prison? Aren't the spaces that we consider intimate or private, in the end, shaped by the hierarchies of power? What does silence mean in the Thai Society, a place which is ruled by the religious, royal, and national hegemony?"



more about THE ENCLOSED GARDEN #3

2021 - THAILAND

posters & links



► TEG 3 = 3 EVENTS : A RETREAT + PUBLIC TALKS + EXHIBITION

► CURATOR REPORTAGE TEG#3 THAILAND

► VOCAL CURATORIAL STATEMENT TEG#3 THAILAND



<< I have designed a visual and sound immersive exhibition for the Georgian film director Salomé Jashi and DAADGALERIE. Vanity by the sea is about our film

"Taming the garden where I composed the soundtrack.>>

> 3 years collaboration

> Investigating with her in Georgia

> Recording sounds, documenting the filming with photo

> To write the scenario of an exhibition

> To imagine the [music direction](#) (article here +).

[TAMING THE GARDEN is a film by the Georgian Director Salomé Jashi, Berlinale 21, Sundance 21]

Teaser of the film

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=QomblwKQfoM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QomblwKQfoM)

#### VANITY BY THE SEA #EXPERIENCE

A female collective presentation about a single man enterprise.

Video: Salomé Jashi

Sound: Diane Barbé

Curating & photo: Celia Stroom

Salomé Jashi's new film, to be released in 2021, portrays a capricious pursuit of Bidzina Ivanishvili, a wealthy man and former prime minister of Georgia, who still rules the country from the shadows. He collects century-old trees, as tall as ten-floor buildings. His men uproot them along the coastline of Georgia and bring them to his private garden. The route lies through villages, forests and the Black Sea.

Before the film is released, Salomé Jashi has invited two collaborators – soundscape composer Diane Barbé and researcher Celia Stroom – to develop an art experience. An orchestra of altered field recordings, a video installation, photographs, texts of literature and dialogues of witnesses affected by the vicious project explore the film material in a multimedia and multisensory setting. The team proposes a surrealistic world order where reality has flipped, where nothing is stable and predictable. The different mediums are not additions of layers; rather, they are in fusion.

At the entrance the journey starts with a sound bath. Machines, insects, people, birds, trees are all stakeholders – but the voices of this polyphony orchestrated by Diane Barbé are not heard until we make a conscious effort to hear them. The audience starts the exploration by discovering photographs by Celia Stroom who has documented the filming session as well as extracts from dialogues of the witnesses whose trees were taken away. These elements mirror Salomé Jashi's video depicting uprooting and transportation juxtaposed with ordinary life happening like fishing.

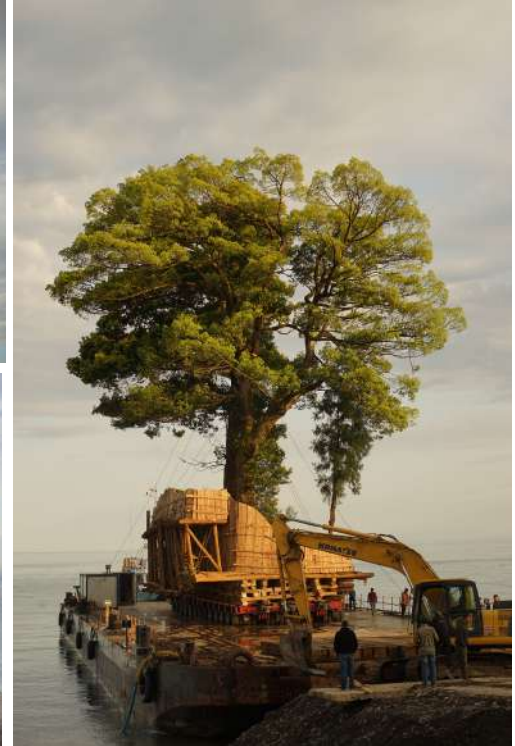
In Vanity by the Sea one element invades the other. And the perception of what is happening depends on the audience actively engaging in listening and reading. Here trees are moving, floating, sobbing, while humans are still, locked down in a deep despair. Like in Dulle Griet (Mad Meg) by Pieter Bruegel the Elder, this experience tries to appeal to all the senses in order to arouse anxiety, melancholy and create pleasure at the same time. The crooked perception of what reality is constitutes the core of the new film of Salomé Jashi.





*more about this project*

*Here are my photograph of the filming process*





## 2019 - GEORGIA

<< I have spent 5 years in Georgia, first as an ethnomusicologist who was conducting a research on forgotten polyphonies. I have been recording, writing, learning songs for few years travelling through the whole country. I later started to live in Tbilisi. I have been performing and exhibiting my installations (cf. L'OEIL ECOUTE), I also became the close collaborator Salome Jashi with whom I was working full time on 2 projects. The film Taming the garden and the exhibition The Enclosed Garden.>>

Here is the full description of TEG project

**[www.heroineswave.com/theenclosedgarden](http://www.heroineswave.com/theenclosedgarden)**

Photo of the residency & the exhibition process here:

**[www.heroineswave.com/georgia](http://www.heroineswave.com/georgia)**

We never organise our exhibitions in venues dedicated to art. We choose places where people are living. In Georgia, it was an empty old flat.

- ▶ **LISTEN TO A VOCAL VISIT** ≈ 5min
- ▶ **PRESS - EUROPEAN CULTURAL FOUNDATION**
- ▶ **CURATOR INTERVIEW TEG#1 GEORGIA**



## CURATION

concept, exhibition design & art direction



Curator's note

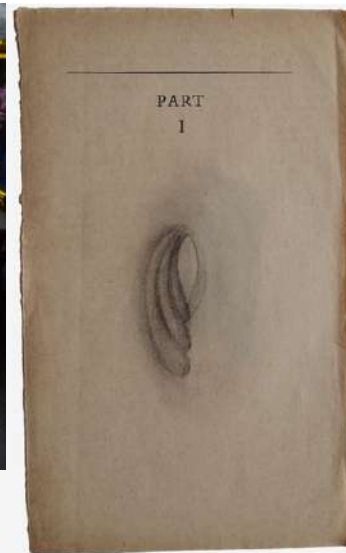
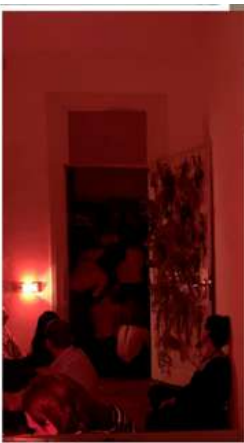
\* In a world governed by the excess communication, what place is granted to the intimate, its hidden witnesses, its corners of velvet and its secret tears? Is there a place to deposit the treasure of our fantasies and the richness of our singularity? The space of the exhibition **THE ENCLOSED GARDEN** carries this function. The curator has chosen to transform an empty flat, an intimate area of an immense building, a place where secrets have been exchanged, where one can isolate oneself, and feel free in a dark labyrinth.

The challenge of *Heroines* is to gather women who never met before and to provoke a catharsis in the mind of each artist. After days of intense exploration of our doubts, emotions, hidden thoughts during the residency in Art Garikula, we created a brand new kind of exhibition. In each room you feel at home, in the "room of one's own" of Virginia Woolf. 12 rooms, or enclosed gardens, represent the allegory of the Self. We have been living in this empty apartment for few days. It became our intimate space. In each room, you can immerse yourself in a dialogue between painting, vocal polyphony, installations, videos, photos, drawings, sound creations, expressive and twirling bodies, texts and even perfumes.

We observe intimacy in a spatial form, an inside separated from the outside. Here we tickle the boundaries between private and public, singular and plural, loneliness, observing modesty and shame in the face of vulgarity and obscenity. In this Enclosed Garden, everyone can loose themselves or find themselves. It is the place where you feel safe or hidden inside your psychological fences, this space from which you sometimes want to escape and discover the wild world beyond our own borders. Welcome in our home."

by Celia Stroom





## **ART DIRECTION of PERFORMANCES/ INSTALLATIONS**

<< I create [installations, performances, soundscapes](#) [vocal experiences](#). Each artwork aims at stimulating intimate, complex and unsettling feelings, seeking access to letting go and trance.

What do I create? I would not speak about medium, as I use many of them, I'd rather describe my artworks as multimedia cabinets of curiosities, a space, a volume, a perimeter within which a surreal, poetic and highly sensorial world floods the visitor's perceptive system. I have been trained initially as a dancer, singer and visual artist. Performing arts is my main way of expression. >>

**LAST PAGE = showreel of choreographies for choirs**

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### **2020 ONEIRONAUTICS**

Berlin

### **2019 KERATIN**

Tbilisi

### **2019 TOTEMIC DANCE**

Berlin

### **2018 FLESH**

Paris

### **2018 BROKEN COLUMN**

Tbilisi

### **2018 FRIDA**

Tbilisi

### **2018 PANEGYRIQUE**

Tbilisi



## ONEIRONAUTICS

2020 BERLIN - ARKAODA NIGHTCLUB

A multidisciplinary artwork made of

> objects created,

> videos,

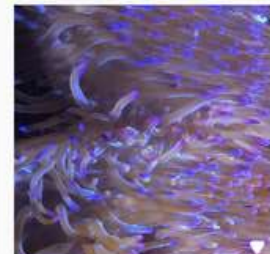
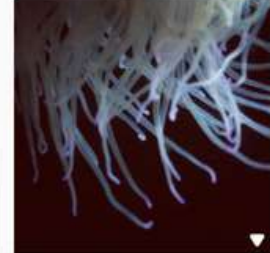
> live vocalscape

> Performing sound with objects coming from my installation / telling poetry

> Installation about the underwater world made of glass, plants, water, cabinet of curiosities.

Moodboard of the project

[instagram.com/cabinetofcuriositiesofanoctopus/](https://www.instagram.com/cabinetofcuriositiesofanoctopus/)



BERLINARTLINK

ONLINE MAGAZINE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

MENU

STUDIO VISITS

FEATURE TOPICS

REVIEWS



# KERATIN

2019 - DRAMA CLUB - TBILISI

VOCAL PERFORMANCE

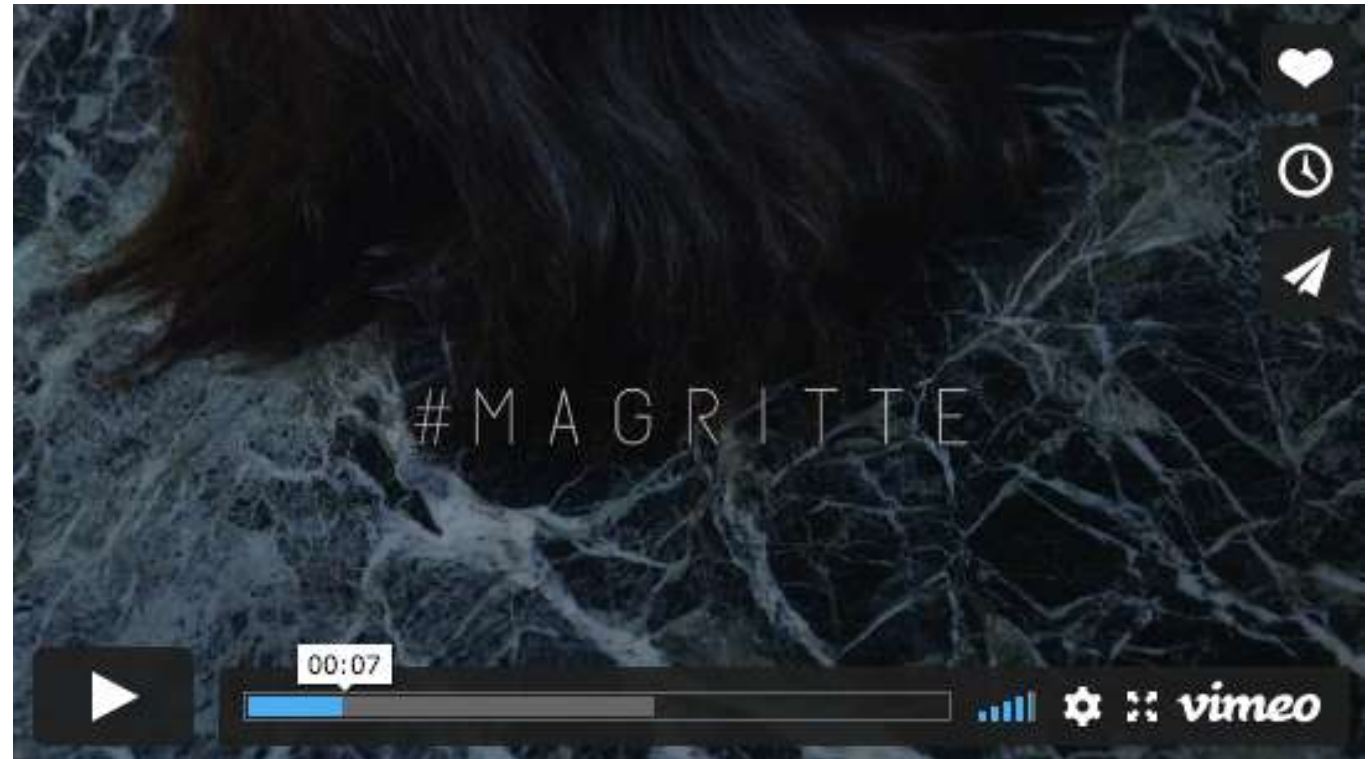
INSTALLATION

POETRY

- > General concept
- > Vocal Score composition
- > Choreography
- > Hair installation - Tapestry
- > Soundscape
- > Music created for music box

For 6 womxn performers part of the series  
L'OEIL ECOUTE | THE EYE LISTENS

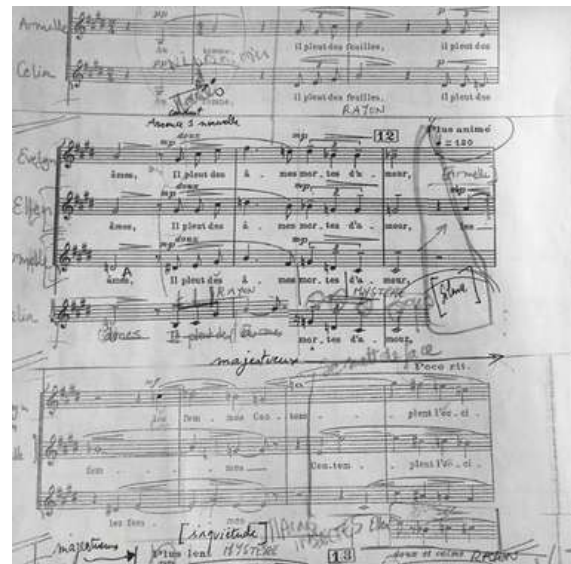
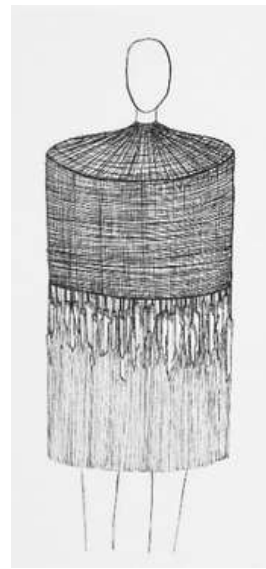
Piece is written for 4 to 8 performers. It has been created every year since 2017 till now. The score, the choreography, the decors are always modified. 23 versions of the performance exists till now. The show is made of 6 different musics for voices, music box and acousmatic soundscape. > Drawings of a polyphony for 4 voices.



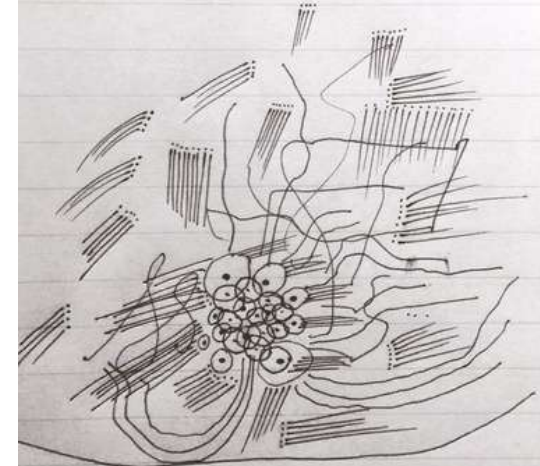
*A forest of hair.*

*This soft material, full of intimate fragrance is welcoming the audience in a huge vagina.*

*This piece is inspired by The Rape (Magritte). Magritte's work frequently displays a collection of ordinary objects in an unusual context, giving new meanings to familiar things. Even women are not human beings anymore in this piece.*



*score of the choreography*





*more pictures about this piece*





**TOTEMIC DANCE**  
**2019 BERLIN DELPHI TEATER**

VOCAL PERFORMANCE  
INSTALLATION  
POETRY

- > General concept
- > Vocal Score composition
- > Choreography
- > Wooden sculptures
- > Soundscape
- > Perfume of Burning forest created by GIVAUDAN PARIS

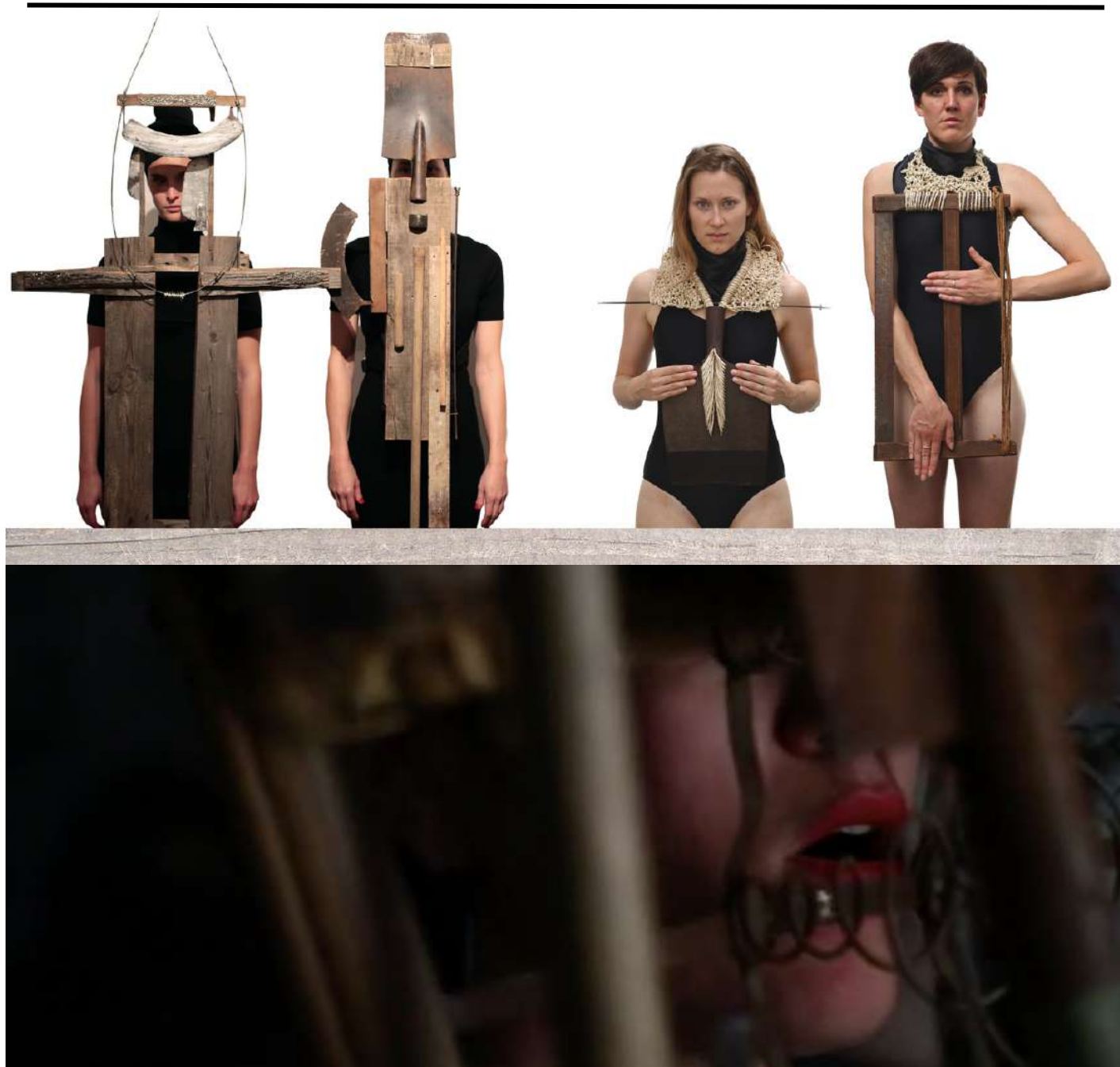
Piece created every year from 2017 till now  
The score, the choreography, the decors are always modified.

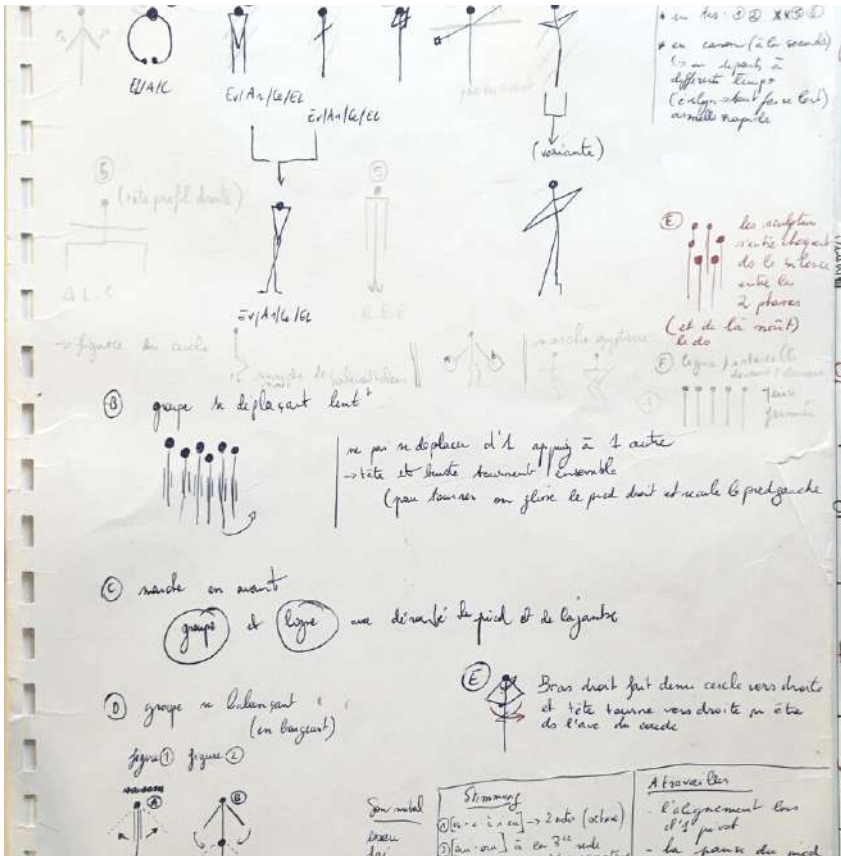
Part of the series  
L'OEIL ECOUTE | THE EYE LISTENS

6 versions of the performance exists till now.

**Video with audience reaction :**

<https://vimeo.com/237192723>







## FLESH

### 2018 PARIS PLACE VENDOME

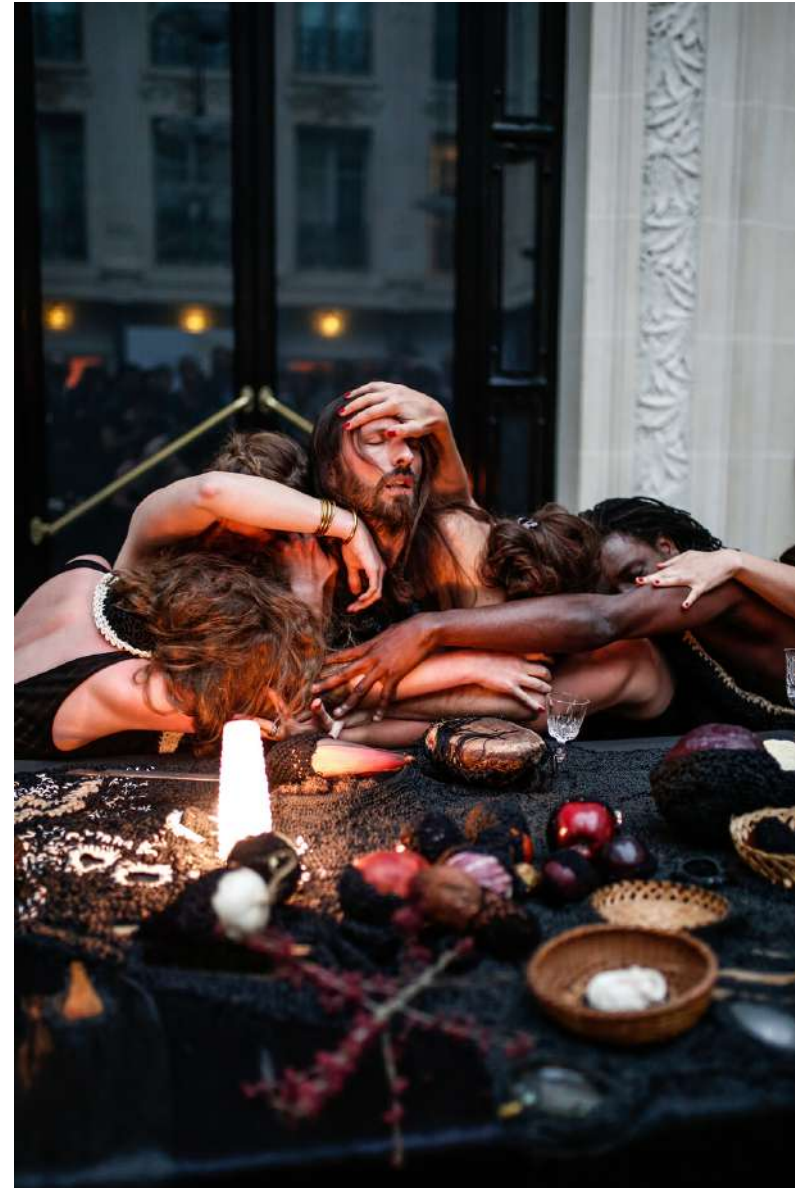
- > General concept
- > Vocal Score composition
- > Choreography
- > Textile installation that grows
- > Soundscape
- > Perfume of Skin created by GIVAUDAN PARIS

Piece created every year from 2018 till now  
The score, the choreography, the decors are always modified. Inspired by Georgian funerals. A panegyrique for this country.

Part of the series  
L'OEIL ECOUTE | THE EYE LISTENS

12 versions of the performance exists till now.

**Video with audience reaction :**  
<https://vimeo.com/235796349>.



## VOCAL PERFORMANCE

## INSTALLATION

## POETRY





**BROKEN COLUMN**  
**2019 TBILISI WRITERS HOUSE**

**VOCAL PERFORMANCE**  
**INSTALLATION**  
**POETRY**

- > General concept
- > Vocal Score composition
- > Choreography
- > Textile installation that creates sound
- > Soundscape
- > Perfume of Metal created by GIVAUDAN PARIS

Piece created in 2016 inspired by the Broken Column, Frida Kahlo.

The score, the choreography, the decors are always modified.

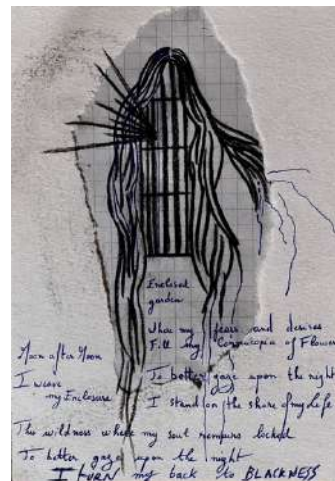
Part of the series

L'OEIL ECOUTE | THE EYE LISTENS

4 versions of the performance exists till now.

**Video**

<https://vimeo.com/264743218>



## ROOTS

### 2019 TBILISI WRITERS HOUSE

VOCAL PERFORMANCE

INSTALLATION

POETRY

- > General concept
- > Vocal Score composition
- > Choreography
- > E-Textile installation that breaths with red lights by Mika Satomi > sensors on the body
- > Soundscape by Loise Bulot
- > Perfume of Mud created by GIVAUDAN PARIS

Piece created in 2016 inspired by the Roots Frida Kahlo.

The score, the choreography, the decors are always modified.

Part of the series

L'OEIL ECOUTE | THE EYE LISTENS

4 versions of the performance exists till now.

#### Video

<https://vimeo.com/264742949>



## PANEGYRIQUE

2018 TBILISI DRAMA CLUB

VOCAL PERFORMANCE

TEXTILE INSTALLATION

VIDEO

- > General concept
- > Vocal Score composition
- > Choreography
- > Textile installation that grows
- > Soundscape
- > Perfume of Skin created by GIVAUDAN PARIS

Inspired by Georgian funerals. A panegyrique for this country. Male polyphonies performed by women

Part of the series

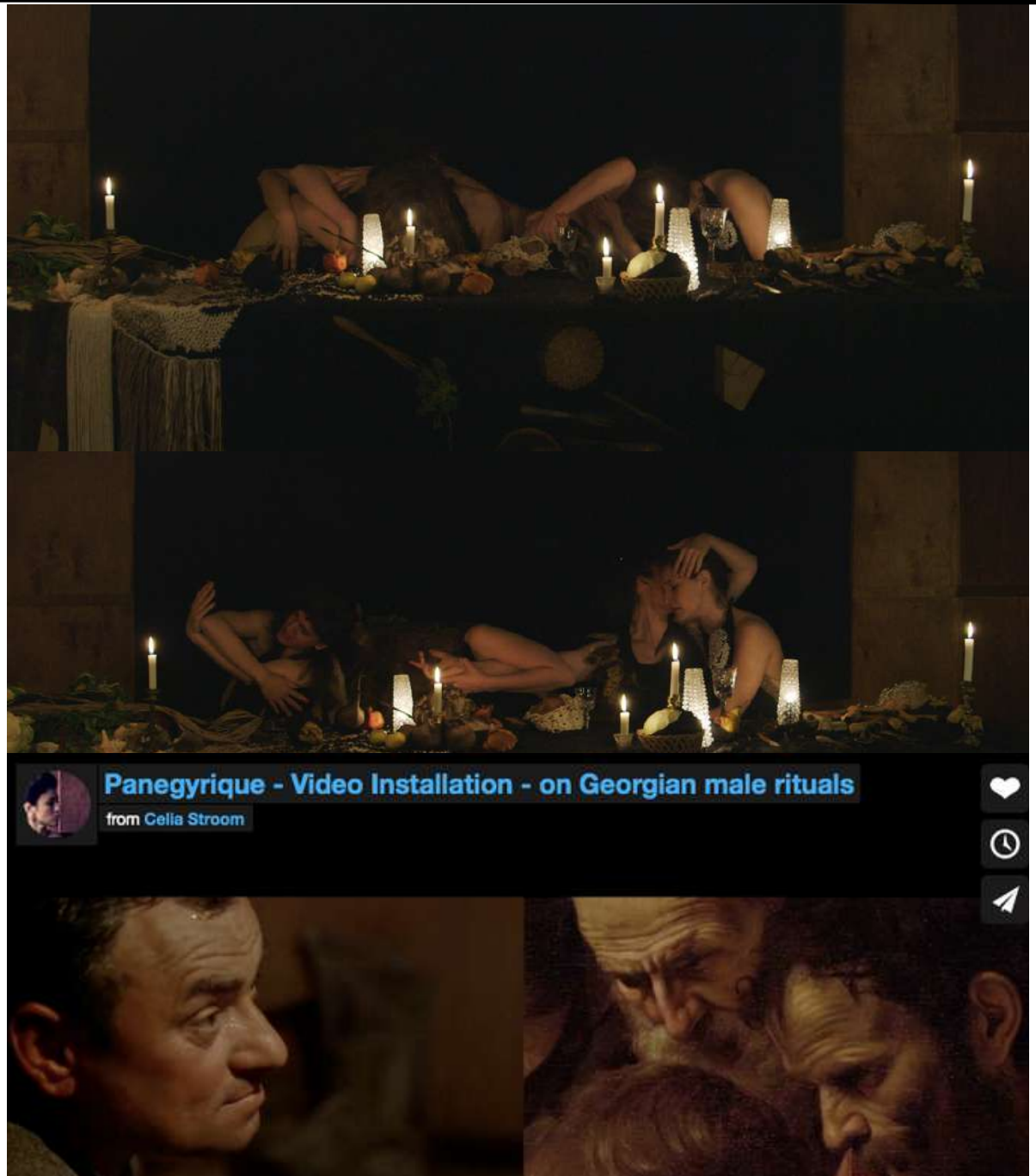
L'OEIL ECOUTE | THE EYE LISTENS

1 version of the performance exists till now.

*in 2020 / a video installation has been created and screened on the performance. Step 2 of the creation. In 2023, the step 3 will be created with an acousmatic sound installation in octophony in movement around the performance.*

### Video

<https://vimeo.com/712650867>



<< As I am singer and dancer, I started in 2012 to train singers and musicians to dance.

I have been choreographer for LA TEMPETE ensemble, trying to find the most organic way to sing and move within a space.

**Here is my showreel focused on making collectives dance**

<https://vimeo.com/402707565>

**Here is a video dance** in residency in Kolkata

Filmed by Salome Jashi - 2019

<https://vimeo.com/329216960>

And some pictures of solo dance.





*POETRY*

*CHOREOGRAPHY*

*FIELDWORK*

*MUSIC*

*MUSEOLOGY*

*DIGITAL ART*

*PERFORMANCE*

*INSTALLATIONS*

*CURATOR*



CONTINUE THE EXPLORATION ON

[WWW.CELIASTROOM.COM](http://WWW.CELIASTROOM.COM)