

Arco Renz



In 2000 Arco Renz founded the Brussels based company Kobalt Works and developed a body of work around the central concept of Abstract Dramaturgy: focusing on the confrontation of the body with the parameters of time and space he investigates the emotional potential of abstraction.

Kobalt Works' major productions include *Think Me Thickness* (2001), *states.* (2001), *Mirth* (2002), *Dreamlands* (2003), *heroïne* (2004), *Opium* (2004), *Bullitt* (2006), *il₂* (2008), *PA* (2009), *1001* (2010) and *DUST* (2011). Kobalt Works and Arco Renz are artist in residence at STUK Artcenter in Leuven.

Arco Renz performances are an interplay of movement, light and sound. They always go beyond pure, formal dance, and display "a graceful expressionism that can be situated somewhere between the German expressionist films of the 1920s and traditional Eastern dance- and theatre forms." (Sally De Kunst)

Next to Kobalt Works productions, Arco Renz has regularly created commissioned works. In 2006 Arco choreographed *Aubade* by Francis Poulenc for the Brussels Opera House. One year later he created, directed and choreographed *Les Madrigaux*, based on Monteverdi's Madrigals, at the Festival d'Art Lyrique d'Aix en Provence, France.

In 2009, he choreographed Bernd Alois Zimmermann's *Celloconcerto* with the Brussels Philharmonic Orchestra.

In 2010 he created *MAD* for the Norwegian National Company of Contemporary Dance – Carte Blanche. And in 2011 he created "2069" for Tanztheater NordWest/Oldenburger, Germany, as well as *CRACK*, in collaboration with Amrita Performing Arts, a performance for 6 classical Cambodian dancers.

Before the establishment of *Kobalt Works*, Arco Renz studied dance, theatre, and literature in Berlin and Paris and was one of the first generation of graduates of Anne Teresa De Keermaekers' P.A.R.T.S. in Brussels.

First as performer, then assistant, he worked with Robert Wilson from 1997-2001 on various dance, theatre and opera productions. In the field of opera, Arco worked with Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker on *I Due Foscari* (2003) and the world creation of *Hanjo* (2004) by Toshio Hosokawa, he further choreographed among others for Luc Bondy's productions of *Idomeneo* (2005), as well as the world creations *Julie* (2005) and *Yvonne, Princesse de Bourgogne* (2009).

An important aspect of Arco Renz' activities is his engagement in projects promoting the development of research and exchange between European and Asian artists. *Monsoon*, a series of research and performance platforms bringing together Asian and European artists is an ongoing project with editions in Korea (2006) and Belgium (2007 and 2010).

Arco Renz has taught workshops on dance and choreography in a large number of countries in Europe and Asia. As guest teacher he has been invited to Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore (2000), Watermill Center, New York (1999, 2001); Bali Purnati Foundation of the Arts (2000-2003) ; Compania Nacional de Canto y Danca, Mozambique (2002), Hooge Instiut voor Dans Lier, Belgium (2002), Conservatoire

Royal de Bruxelles (2003), Korean National University of the Arts, Korea (2005), RITS – Erasmus Hogeschool Brussels (2007), Taipei National University of the Arts (2009) a.o.

Arco Renz is currently artist in residence at STUK Artcenter in Leuven, Belgium.