

BIOGRAPHY OF NICOLAS FIELD

Born in London in 1975, Nicolas Field arrived in Switzerland at the age of 6 and grew up between Basel and Geneva. He started playing drums at the age of 12 and over the years discovered the instrument's vast potential. At the age of 20, he decided to move to the Netherlands to study percussion at the Amsterdam Conservatory (1996 - 2002) and sonology at the Hague Conservatory (1997 - 2002). He followed Joël Ryan's teaching and experimented during these years with multiple musical techniques, in a permanent desire to extract new sound material from the drums.

Since the late 1990's, he has been very active on the contemporary music scene. He plays on all five continents as a drummer (jazz, free-jazz and improvised music) with internationally renowned artists such as Keiji Haino, Jacques Demierre, Peeesseye, Morten Olsen, Fritz Welch, Otomo Yoshihide and ONJO, Cactus Truck, Anthony Pateras, John Hegre, Jasper Stadhouders, Tetuzi Akiyama, Jeff Carey and the Rova Saxophone 4tet. He is a founding member of the N-Collective - an international collective of musicians created in Amsterdam - which for about ten years has organised events all over Europe around sound practices. At the beginning of 2000, he created with Alexandre Babel (CH, percussion) the duo Buttercup Metal Polish, which has to its credit numerous international tours, a series of records and multiple collaborations.

Among Nicolas' current flagship projects is his collaboration with one of Japan's jazz legends, Akira Sakata (JP, alto saxophone, clarinet, voice, 1945). Let us also mention the duets he forms with the Geneva musician Gregor Vidic (CH, saxophone, 1984) and more recently with Thomas Florin (CH, piano, 1990), as well as his trio with Albert Cirera (E, saxophone) and Rafal Mazur (PL, bass, 1971) whose first opus will appear in spring 2019 on the Nottwo label. In 2018, benefiting from a carte blanche from the AMR, he created the N-ensemble, a group with a variable geometry mixing local and international musicians around a music that is half written and half improvised. Since 2010, Nicolas has also been performing alone on stage, with a vast electronic device and composing pieces for drums.

In parallel, in 2008, influenced by Max Neuhaus' work and the writings of Douglas Khan and David Toop on sound art, Nicolas created his first installations with the idea of materializing the interaction between sound, space and human presence. His works have been exhibited at the Lift Conference in Geneva (2010 - Think Thrice), the Saint-Etienne Design Biennale (2010 - Think Thrice), AIR Antwerpen (2011 - NoBAC), the Burgtheater in Vienna (2012 - Shimmering Beast), the Network Contemporary Art Centre in Aalst (2014 - Shimmering Beast and All Tones), at the Maison des Moines in Romainmôtier (2016 - Shimmering Beast), at the MEG in Geneva (2016 - Contes Sonores) for the exhibition *Le chamane et la pensée de la forêt*, at the Embassy of Foreign Artists in Geneva (EoFA) (2017 - This is one of the ways you claim land) and at the Festival Novas Frequenciãs in Rio de Janeiro (2017 - To the Bone).

Nicolas has also worked for several years in dance and theatre performances as a composer, musician and performer. In Switzerland, he has collaborated with the dance company 7273, the dancer Mohamed Toukabri, the "Sugar-Free" collective as well as with the performers Marie-Caroline Hominal and Gilles Furtwängler. He also works regularly with the Belgian company Needcompany, as a composer and musician ("OHNO Cooperation and Caligula at the Burgtheater in Vienna in 2012), but also as a performer (Rhythm Conference feat. Inner Splits in 2015), (O, or the Challenge Of This Particular Show Was To Have Words Ending In O in 2016) and (Concert by a Bans Facing the Wrong Way in 2018). In 2019 he will take part in the show *Alice au théâtre de Vidy* and *Les Halles de Sierre* with the CATATAC company.

Whether through music, the creation of sound installations or during performances, Nicolas questions the possibilities of interaction with the *Other* as well as the relationship between the present moment and its historical continuity. He is interested in the phenomena of separation, exclusion/inclusion and parasitism.