

## **THE ZKB PRIZES 2024**

### **STATEMENTS OF THE JURY**

We believe that all struggles for a better world are interrelated – whether they seem close or far, whether they have space to be made visible or not, whether they are audible or not. From our different perspectives, we as a jury would like to acknowledge all the artistic works that have been nominated. They have challenged our knowledge and awareness as well as our differently situated gazes in their own artistic ways. They disrupt dominant narratives in their own local or wider contexts. We are aware that the dismantling of privileges, binaries, power structures and mindsets that have been carried and promoted for centuries is a long, ongoing process; a process that we ourselves might not see evolve in its entirety. Therefore, we also highly appreciated those works that project less violent times ahead to be shaped by future generations, communities as well as unbound, liberated peoples, souls and spirits.

### **ZKB PATRONAGE PRIZE FOR «WHITEWASHING» BY RÉBECCA CHAILLON**

With «Whitewashing» Rébecca Chaillon brings to us a compelling and critical reading of societies that are structured around *whiteness*, through the brutal racist realities experienced by Black women. We highly value how the performance brings to the fore the issues of racialized and gendered division of labor and care work that are too often taken for granted. We admire how the work intentionally challenges the audience's cultural perception of time and stereotypes, while patiently and silently unfolding simple and direct actions on stage. We are captivated by the remarkable presence of both Chaillon and co-performer Aurore Déon who powerfully activate and progressively take over the space. The sprawling scenography operates as an extension of the human body and mind. The performers freely and cheekily play with many different gazes, provoking, questioning power dynamics, jauntily engaging members of the audience by their choice. We experienced a multilayered work that speaks through highly poetical and poignant texts, rugged humour, evocative and captivating images. Here, theater is no longer an institution meant to reproduce schemes we are used to, rather a place where a new, empowering world emerges, in which we are given the agency to constitute and reinvent our own myths. A brilliant and outstanding masterpiece.

## **ZKB ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PRIZE FOR «GPO BOX NO.211» BY CHUN SHING AU**

Out of all the diverse and remarkable fresh works that were nominated, we would like to acknowledge the piece «GPO Box No.211» by Chun Shing Au for its unique quality in crafting a world of both architecture and choreography. This performance triggers our curiosity by inviting us to enter a space where the main material, through which the story unfolds, is paper. We were fascinated by the manifold landscapes that are revealed on stage and merge with the body of the performer. We appreciate the ethereal choreographic conversation between the animated objects and the human subject as well as the original imagery that offers various layers of interpretation. It stimulates ungraspable emotions, questioning the limits of communication between humans. Through very sensitive yet unexpected artistic choices, the work weaves a canvas for (the many) invisible people in prisons to appear. Beside its poetry, we esteem the ways in which the work transports our gazes and unpretentiously searches for a theatrical language that can speak for itself when words are not allowed, bodies are controlled and oppressed, public as well as private spaces are constantly watched over.

## **THE INTERNATIONAL JURY**

The independent jury of five experts decided on awarding the ZKB Prizes. The jury panel was chosen by the programme board and was presided by one of its members, who was not entitled to vote. The 2024 jury was composed as follows:

**ANIKÓ RÁCZ** Anikó RÁCZ is the artistic director of SÍN Arts Centre, Budapest. She also co-programs the dance venue of Sziget Festival. She leads workshops internationally on artistic career development.

**KATHARINA GERMO** Katharina Germa has been co-director of Fabriktheater Rote Fabrik Zurich since 2023. Previously, she was programme dramaturg at ROXY Birsfelden. As a dramaturg, she also works with independent theater groups.

**KRYSTEL KHOURY** Krystel Khoury is a dramaturg and researcher from Beirut. She is head of the ISAC arts and choreographies department in Brussels and programme associate of Mophradat, a feminist art organisation, working with artists from the Arab world.

**YSALINE ROCHAT** Ysaline Rochat is an independent curator and cultural worker in the field of performing arts. Most recently, she was co-director of festival Les Urbaines in Lausanne.

**NIA AGUSTINA** Nia Agustina is a dramaturg, author and curator. She works for the Indonesian Dance Festival. In 2014, Nia co-founded Paradance Platform in Yogyakarta, dedicated to nurturing young dance practitioners.