

Exhibition

# **SUPERIMPOSITION**

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05



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Press kit

# SUPERIMPOSITION

By Polisonum

04/05/2024  
— 30/06/2024  
11:00 - 19:00

Cercle Cité  
Luxembourg

Free entrance

**SUPERIMPOSITION** is an artistic project by Polisonum that investigates the theme of listening and is realised through the encounter of multiple disciplinary fields including sound, data analysis, fashion, and visual arts.

**SUPERIMPOSITION** explores the concept of earworms - those sonic agents that coercively graft themselves onto the brain until they become parasites and provoke mechanisms of cognitive control. Already known at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the phenomena were later defined as brainworms by Oliver Sacks. Sound worms are linked to mass culture such as pop music, advertisements, video games and TV theme songs. They also inhabit airports, bars, shops, gyms and shopping centres, and are characterised by sequences of redundant melodies that are difficult to escape. Recognising these mechanisms is complex, due to a weak, if not absent, general education in listening.

Based on this research, **SUPERIMPOSITION** launched a data analysis of more than 10,000 music tracks featured in the popular international charts from 2000 to 2022. This analysis - which is based on the quantity and repetitiveness of the music - has been automated with a specially developed software. Algorithms and data analysis techniques were used to select the most characteristic lyrics. Their mathematically generated superimposition composes the work **SUPERIMPOSITION** - a composition in which no melody is recognisable. The work is presented through a performative act conceived as a fashion show that recalls ancient rituals, in which the performer and the audience become a single body on stage. The garments made of sound-absorbing fabrics, which look like sculptural dresses, will be presented in a fashion-show-like choreography. The textile materials, identified with the technical-scientific support of the Politecnico di Torino, are capable of refracting and absorbing sound pressure. These armour suits are designed as empirical protections for the ear and the body. The fashion design of the garments has been developed with the MARIOS brand through shared experimentation and a creative contamination that intends to look from the avant-garde supremacist models to the oriental tradition.

The scenic and sound dramaturgy of the performance, which will be presented in the Great Hall of the historic Cercle Cité in Luxembourg, is also the subject of the video work realised through a multi-point direction. The performative act will be followed by an exhibition presenting the video work, as well as some costumes and research elements.

**Polisonum** (Filippo Lilli, Donato Loforese) is a collective that uses sound as an investigative method and tool to explore processes and metamorphoses related to the present time. They create sound installations and performances in dialogue with visual language. Thanks to their hybrid identity, which brings together multiple disciplines, they build projects that rely on a dense practice of study and analysis with the aim of experiencing active listening and visualisation.

Polisonum has been invited to various institutions and festivals: A Breath of Art (AV), Fondazione Volume (RM), Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen (CH), Palazzo Altemps (RM), Palazzo Pallavicini (BO), Romaeuropa Festival (RM), OTO Sound Museum Zurich (CH) among others.



**SUPERIMPOSITION**

**SUPERIMPOSITION** is supported by the Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity of the Italian Ministry of Culture under the Italian Council program (2023) and will be presented at \*Alte Fabrik (Rapperswil, CH), Ars Electronica (Linz, AT), Careof (Milan, IT), Haus der Kunst (Munich, DE), Iklectik (London, UK), Politecnico di Torino (Turin, IT), OTO SOUND MUSEUM (Zurich, CH).

**SUPERIMPOSITION** will enter the collection of MAMbo - Museo d'Arte Moderna Bologna.

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| Organisation                              | Cercle Cité with the support of the Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity of the Italian Ministry of Culture under the Italian Council program (2023), and the Italian Embassy in Luxembourg |
| Artists                                   | Polisonum  |
| Location                                  | Small room of the <i>Ratskeller</i> exhibition space   |
| Co-curators                               | Francesca Ceccherini and Anastasia Chaguidouline   |
| Data curator                              | Elisa Bernardoni   |
| Fashion design                            | MARIOS Collective  |
| Research of material and phono-resistance | Marco Carlo Masoero, Louena Shtrepi, Politecnico di Torino, DENERG   |
| Scientific support                        | Francesco Nucci, neuroscientist  |

## Biography of the artists

**Polisonum** (Filippo Lilli, Donato Loforese) is an artistic collective using sound as a method and device of investigation to explore processes and metamorphoses linked to the present time. It is characterized by a research-based approach directed at listening to and interpreting the spaces in which it operates through sound installations and performative acts in strong dialogue with visual languages. Thanks to its hybrid identity, Polisonum realizes projects that feed on a practice of study and analysis in relation to other fields of knowledge.

Polisonum's work has been shown in several institutions and festivals, among others: Una boccata d'arte (AV), Fondazione Volume (RM), Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen (CH), Palazzo Altemps (RM), Palazzo Pallavicini (BO), Romaeuropa Festival (RM), OTO Sound Museum Zurich (CH), The Others (TO). The collective collaborates with La Sapienza University of Rome Faculty of Civil and Industrial Engineering on the Green Network project for the Public Space Biennial. In 2018 Polisonum received the Special "Utopia" Award of the Talent Prize and in 2016 the Best Unpublished Work Award during The Others.

Over time the collective has released several vinyls, among the latest *Passi 13'36"* in collaboration with the artist Alfredo Pirri.

## Public program

### PERFORMANCE

#### **SUPERIMPOSITION**

by Polisonum

27.04.2024 from 18:00 until 19:00  
Grande Salle (Entrance: Place d'Armes)

Cercle Cité is pleased to invite the public to discover the work **SUPERIMPOSITION** by Filippo Lili and Donato Loforese of the Italian collective Polisonum, through the performance at the heart of this multifaceted project. The performance has been specially conceived for the Cercle Cité, where it will be premiered in the Great Hall. The event is graciously supported by the Italian Embassy in Luxembourg.

The **SUPERIMPOSITION** musical work, generated mathematically on the basis of algorithms and data analysis techniques, is presented through a performative act conceived as a fashion show that recalls ancient rituals, in which the performer and the audience become a single body on stage. The garments made of sound-absorbing fabrics, which look like sculptural dresses, will be presented in a fashion-show-like choreography. The five performers from Italy will interact with the audience and the historic space of the Cercle Cité, communicating with the public through an abstract and universal language of gesture and mime. In this choreography, they will also present clothing designed with the MARIOS fashion brand, made out of fabrics capable of refracting and absorbing sound pressure (identified with the technical-scientific support of the Politecnico di Torino). These armour suits are designed as empirical protections for the ear and the body.

The scenic and sound dramaturgy of the performance, which will be presented in the Great Hall of the historic Cercle Cité in Luxembourg, is also the subject of the video work realised through a multi-point direction. The performative act will be followed by a corresponding exhibition presenting the video work, as well as some costumes and research elements, which will open to the public on 4 May 2024.

*Free entrance*  
*Registration required on [cerclecite.lu](http://cerclecite.lu)*

### GUIDED TOURS

#### **Free guided tour every Saturday at 18:00**

04.05 (FR)  
11.05 (EN)  
18.05 (LU/DE)  
25.05 (FR)  
01.06 (EN)  
22.06 (FR)  
29.06 (EN)

15.06 at 15:00 (LU/DE)

*Free entrance and without registration*

## Practical information and press contact

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| Exhibition | « SUPERIMPOSITION » |
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| Dates | From May 4 <sup>th</sup> until June 30 <sup>th</sup> 2024 |
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| Opening hours | Free entrance, every day from 11:00 to 19:00 |
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| Venue | <i>Ratskeller</i> exhibition space, entrance via rue du Curé |
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| Accessibility | Exhibition accessible to people with motor disabilities and reduced mobility |
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| Press visuals | <a href="http://cerclecite.lu/en/press">cerclecite.lu/en/press</a> |
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| More information | <a href="http://cerclecite.lu">cerclecite.lu</a> |
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