

# MILL'S REALTY SALON

*A Needcompany Fellowship*

with support of **the Flemish Government**

BEAUTY

**BEAUTY /REALITY is a poem – it uses language, it is a formal investigation and above all it is a game. There is no choice made in one direction. — Maarten Seghers**

## #4 OPEN CALL FOR NOISELESS TIME

In theory, there is no difference between Michelangelo, Louise Bourgeois, Martha Graham and Simone de Beauvoir: they all start out from that empty moment, that blank canvas, and then decide when they will let the world in. The time Michelangelo spent staring at his block of marble before he carved the Pietà: that is noiseless time.

Nowadays, when art is systematically being associated with the realm of commodities, when the work of art needs to meet the demands of production and deliver results sellable on the market, with **MILL's Beauty Salon**, we want to mark out the moment of noiseless time – when the realms of beauty and reality come together and feed the artistic process.

With **MILL's Reality Salon**, we want to address the question of whether the era of BEAUTY is over and whether REALITY has now become the main topic of artistic interest. Is it the case that the true moment of exploration occurs when one word is mistaken for another? We wish that the artists of the salon, instead of going in one direction or another, remain open to the clash of these two notions – in its poetic and formal quest.

## WHAT IS MILL'S REALTY SALON ?

**MILL'S REALTY SALON** was born in 2020 out of the desire to continue the multidisciplinary artistic exploration that Needcompany began more than 30 years ago. We want to create a space in which to keep heritage on the move and open ourselves up for new encounters with artists of different generations, experiences and visions. As an independent theatre organisation in Flanders, we feel an urge to share resources in the current crisis, to create possibilities for those in need and to create awareness of the sensibility and precariousness of those who keep the arts alive.

**MILL'S REALTY SALON** is related to MILL – Needcompany's artistic house in the heart of Sint-Jans-Molenbeek – which has been a place for thinking, creating, rehearsing, connecting and exchanging since March 2017.

**MILL'S REALTY SALON** is neither a residency nor a production-oriented programme. We are explicitly committed to supporting artists in thinking, dreaming and creating timelessly. Our wish is to support the artistic process by providing an environment and the required resources. A fellowship of 10 000 euro will be awarded (or divided) to the selected person(s). This amount is meant explicitly to support artists by giving them the opportunity to think and create timelessly and not in a result-oriented way. Therefore, it can, but doesn't have to be spent on production expenses. Each proposal will be analysed in terms of the specific needs indicated by the artist.

# WHAT DOES NEEDCOMPANY STANDS FOR?

Needcompany is “we need company”

Needcompany is about collaboration.

Needcompany means creating art – particularly theatre – in a direct, dialectic relationship with the society in which it is created. By respecting the different art disciplines autonomously and yet connecting them, boundaries are shifted. This creates a search for a new radical poetics.

Needcompany is artistic autonomy and authorship. Art is separate from commercial purposes and from ideology.

Needcompany is a group of people whose collaboration and research puts forward the idea of “white canvas” creations. The artistic process emerges from a white void that represents the whole world.

Needcompany is transdisciplinary, transcultural, transnational and cross-generational.

Needcompany is its own ecology, a system of life driven by diversity, self-organisation and collaboration. Rather than institutionalising, a studio form remains the base. An open atelier where people work together to question reality and beauty.

Needcompany is a positive conflict. We do not believe in an iconoclastic approach to history. By studying history and learning from it, new questions can arise.



Needcompany is questioning.

Needcompany believes that the living arts require a generous openness and a constant curiosity.

Needcompany is a house where the human being is central. Both in its daily operations and in the creative process, the human being with his métier, knowledge, individuality, soul and corporeality is the only true content.

## WHO CAN APPLY?

MILL'S REALTY SALON is open for artists from all over the world of all nationalities & ages. We want to especially support artists who have already developed an independent body of work. This year we address the open call to all artists who aims for new radical poetics for live art, through performance, musical composition, movement, playwriting, (audio)-visual art - whether individuals or collectives.

To apply for MILL'S REALTY SALON , we are only inviting artists who have never collaborated with Needcompany before. We encourage applications from artists who have a link with Brussels, the heart of transnational thinking.



# HOW TO APPLY?

Send us the following information:

- 1) Your name, date of birth and place of residency
- 2) Your CV outlining your artistic experience (max 5000 characters)
- 2) Your digital portfolio (max 25 MB)
- 3) Your artistic statement (max 5000 characters). Please address the following questions:
  - Why are you applying?
  - What does your artistic practice consist of today?
  - What do you propose? (describe your concrete plan and its implementation)

Please submit your application via googleform:

<https://forms.gle/Z9nBDKWxsEfHvXNR6>

Alternatively, you can provide your application as one video file instead of a written file.

Please provide a working vimeo-link, youtube-link or wetransferlink.  
Any questions?

Email: [millsalon@needcompany.org](mailto:millsalon@needcompany.org)

**The deadline of the call is 15 September 2024, 23:35 CET.**

# THE SELECTION PROCESS

The jury will consist of representatives from the artistic core, staff and board members of Needcompany with a guest jury member, who has the final descension.

The results of the open call will be communicated in October 2024 - date to be announced.

## **PREVIOUS MILL'S REALTY SALON JURY'S AND FINALISTS**

**2021: Luk Lambrecht** (*external jury*) / **Helen A Flanagan + Shatha Al-Deghady** (*fellow's*)

**2022: Michael Fliri** (*external jury*) / **Nana Bilus Abaffy + Noluthando Mpho** (*fellow's*)

**2023: Junior Mthombeni** (*external jury*) / **Nana Bilus Abaffy + Noluthando Mpho** (*fellow's*)

# **NEEDCOMPANY**

**Gabrielle Petitstraat 4/4, 1080 Sint-Jans-Molenbeek**

**Artistic director GRACE ELLEN BARKEY, MAARTEN SEGHERS, JAN LAUWERS**

**Company Manager PIETER D'HOOGE pieter@needcompany.org**

**Dramaturgy ELKE JANSSENS elke@needcompany.org**

**Technical Production RUNE FLORYN rune@needcompany.org**

**Tour management & Communication VIBE STALPAERT vibe@needcompany.org**

**[www.needcompany.org](http://www.needcompany.org)**