Blurring performance and participation:
Developing a music practice at a walk-in house for people with dementia

Karolien Dons | 20.10.2016
Arts Without Borders, Helsinki
Karolien’s PhD study

AIM:
Understanding the ways musicians and participants of collaborative music practices with vulnerable people together shape the collaboration to something that is meaningful for both.
share your talent. move the world.
Music at the Odensehuis

WHO
7 classical musicians (1 composer)
Studying or recently graduated

OUTCOME
Song cycle + performance

INSPIRATION
Musicians becoming members of the house

DURATION
3 months
Preparational phase

ARTISTIC LEADER
Project design
Leading the implementation, musician team and artistic process

share your talent. move the world.
BEING HERE

I put my arms around my life
embracing it slowly

I am painting a house
I feel the autumn around me

I sit with familiar faces
some smiles some frowns

Somebody’s pouring tea into my cup
and I can hear people singing
“Don’t forget to live”

I put my arms around my life
slowly embracing it

I can visit the past
but I can’t live inside it

That’s ok –
I can be here right now.
Moment 1: Artistic leader exploring
Moment 2: Musician introducing himself at the house
Moment 3: Sharing work-in-progress at the house
A continuously transforming collaborative format

- Project design is contextualised: developed bottom-up;
- Musicians and audience explore and respect each other’s territories;
- Forms of meeting where music and reciprocity stand central;
- Mixing forms of presentation and participation.

Fostering the following results:

- Roles of musicians and audience fade and intertwine;
- Invisible wall that traditionally divides musicians and audience is questioned;
- Co-created and tailor-made artistic products emerge.
Karolien Dons
k.s.k.dons@pl.hanze.nl


* share your talent. move the world. *