

## PRESS RELEASE

Eindhoven, 13 December 2016

10<sup>th</sup> Storioni Festival

**Genevieve Murphy & Lucas Maassen**

### **Le malade imaginaire**

Thursday 19 January, 8 pm

Sectie-C, Daalackersweg 2, Eindhoven

**Storioni Trio**

**Twan van Bragt** scenographer/narrator



The Dutch province of Brabant has become recognised as the design centre of the Netherlands, with Eindhoven as the capital of Dutch design. This celebratory 10<sup>th</sup> annual Storioni Festival will include collaborations with renowned designers who have already demonstrated that they can extend artistic boundaries and break down traditions. One of the most unusual productions to be presented will be the world premiere of *Le malade imaginaire*, a music theatre performance by the young Scots composer Genevieve Murphy and the Eindhoven designer Lucas Maassen. This production is a perfect fit for this coming Storioni Festival and its theme of designing new traditions. *Le malade imaginaire* will be performed in Sectie-C, a former factory where now more than one hundred artists and designers have their studios.

### **Le malade imaginaire**

Composer and visual artist Genevieve Murphy (1988) and designer Lucas Maassen (1975) present their own version of *Le malade imaginaire*, Molière's renowned comedy from 1673. The principal character is the hypochondriac Argan, who engages a series of doctors to cure his supposed intestinal problems. Argan creates his own obstacles, as it were, in the form of illnesses. Murphy and Maassen use the play to explore the theme of handicap and limitation. Their interest in this was sparked by the fact that both have a handicapped brother, which has become the foundation of their collaboration and of this work, *Le malade imaginaire*.

The musicians are provided a physical limitation that is also a challenge in the form of unusual instruments; Maassen has designed their instruments in such a way that limits their playing capacities. Genevieve Murphy: "We see the musicians struggle with their handicaps. The music suffers from this and doesn't sound as it should, except that we start to hear how the music adapts itself to the instruments. It changes as a result of these limitations, or rather thanks to them. The music that we then hear is beautiful".

Creators impose limitations on themselves by taking on the work of others: the designer composes and the composer designs to create a result that transcends their individual fields of expertise, an integration of music with design. Genevieve Murphy's music will be alternated with excerpts from the original dance and incidental music composed for the play's first production by Marc-Antoine Charpentier.

The world premiere of *Le malade imaginaire* will be performed by the Storioni Trio, in collaboration with scenographer and narrator Twan van Bragt. The premiere will be held in Sectie-C, a former factory in Eindhoven and currently the city's design hot spot.

### **The performers**

**Genevieve Murphy**'s music extends much further than the notes themselves: her work is highly theatrical and strongly dosed with irony, through which she often makes use of non-musical means. She is open to collaboration with and integration of new stylistic devices.

Music in design and design in music: a logical topic for conceptual designer **Lucas Maassen**, whose *The Singing Chair* has been exhibited in the Museum of Modern Art in New York. He attempts to bring objects to life and thus to give the work a whole a new significance.

**Twan van Bragt** creates theatre; he is a director, writer and musician. *Jazzballet*, his first book of short stories, appeared in 2015. Van Bragt has worked previously with Lucas Maassen on the cross-media production *The Sitcom* (2015). His feeling for the absurd and his affinity for music and design created immediate links between himself, Maassen and Murphy.

The **Storioni Trio** (**Wouter Vossen** violin, **Marc Vossen** cello, **Bart van de Roer** piano) has an extremely wide repertoire that ranges from works from the Classical period to today. The Trio performs both in the Netherlands and abroad and is also a frequent guest ensemble at international music festivals. Bart van de Roer teaches piano at the Rotterdam Conservatory, Wouter Vossen is concertmaster at the Filharmonie Antwerpen, whilst Marc Vossen is solo cellist with the same orchestra. The Storioni Trio not only originally created but still hosts the Storioni Festival.

### *Le malade imaginaire*

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