



VERSANT VIVANT

a live-drawn & animated concert

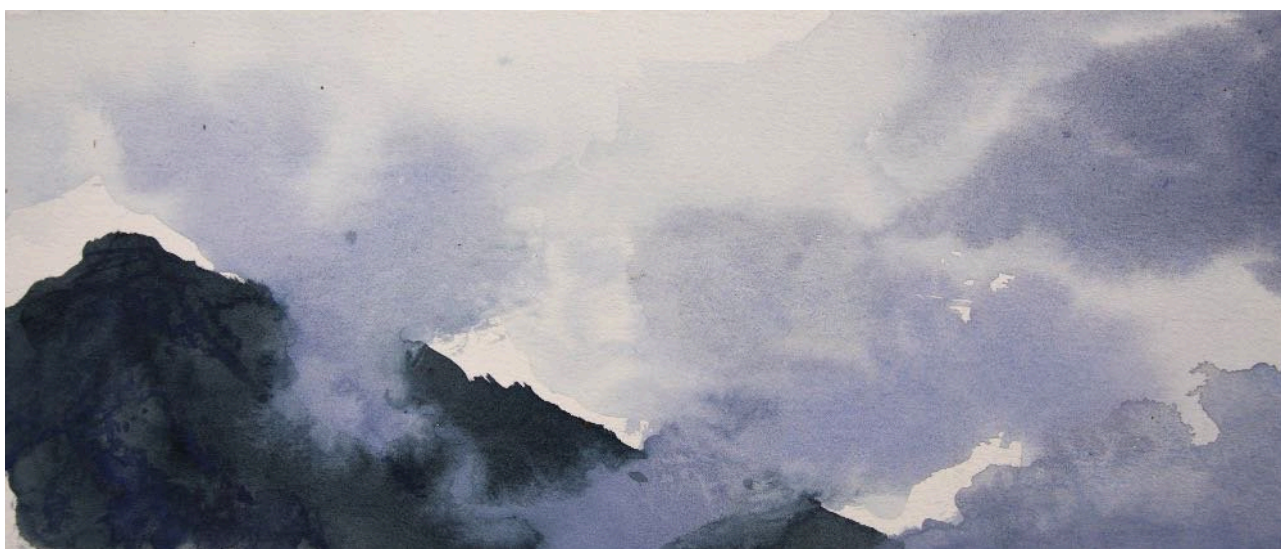


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VERSANT VIVANT [THE LIVING SIDE]

A live drawing, music and animation show,
created and performed by Emilie Tarascou and Simon Kansara

Co-production



Espace Jéliote, Centre national de la Marionnette
Parc National des Pyrénées
Communauté de communes de la vallée d'Ossau

Residencies at Le Préau, Centre d'art et de culture, Iseste
and at Espace Jéliote, Centre national de la Marionnette, Oloron

► [VIDEO TEASER - Versant Vivant](#)

Running time: 45 minutes
For all audiences aged 6 and up



Lulled by organic, hypnotic music, the creatures of the mountain fall asleep: humans and animals, tame or wild, prey or predators, all meet in their dreams for a welcome truce. In this shared territory, scales of time and space intertwine and blur: a wingbeat lasts a season, trees draw their sap from the light of the stars, stalactites grow before your eyes... While the timbres of acoustic instruments weave a canvas for daydreaming, the gesture of drawing follows the tempo of the music, and the bonds that unite the different cycles of life come to light, immemorial and unexpected.





Émilie Tarascou draws under the camera. Pencils, brushes, pen, chalk, watercolour, inks... As the line advances, the landscapes change and fill with animated loops. What will this line, growing before our eyes, turn into? The suspense of a drawing in the making sets the imagination going. We are not where, nor when, we thought we were. What seemed the right side turns out to be the reverse; time flows even within a still drawing. Live, hands-on work with the materials shifts the horizon of the daydream, and the gesture of drawing takes the viewer's inner eye for a wander.



Surrounded by some ten acoustic instruments, Simon Kansara performs, live, an original score that guides the drawing. Plucked or bowed strings, winds, keyboards, beats... the varied timbres blend their colours to suggest immersive worlds to the drawing and ease the audience into a gentle trance. The sound loops echo the animated loops, the layering of sound the sedimentation of pigments and materials. Stretches of instrumental improvisation suggest a wordless, dreamlike story. A dialogue between music and drawing takes shape around the question of time - of tempos - unfolding on either side of the stage.



◇ ARTISTIC STATEMENT

By layering music, live drawing and animation, *Versant Vivant* reveals the entanglements of the cycles of life that cannot be seen with the naked eye. For tempos to meet, they must collide: the passing of the seasons has to be sped up, and the flight of a bird slowed down. These radically different timescales can then coexist, letting us feel the grandeur of nature and the fragility of existence.

Versant Vivant stages that every-time and every-place that is the dream – here, the dream shared by all the beings who have the same physiological need for sleep. This moment of truce, suspended and necessary, connects them beyond their place in the food chain. They meet in a shared territory where values, and notions of time and space, are strange, intuitive, irrational: wild animals are gigantic, post-human ruins become the stage for natural miracles, and the tangle of geological and cultural time unfolds deep in painted caves, each one inhabited in its own way by its visitors from one age to the next.

The succession of scenes takes us on a sensitive and poetic journey, formal and symbolic, that initiates us into a certain “dream logic” - where there is room to link ideas and interpret images, without words. The music is the storyteller: its varied sounds are the voices of biodiversity, offering a choral narrative in which the emotions we usually expect from a story – tension, euphoria, joy or calm – spring from improvisation.

In a contemporary world saturated with information, *Versant Vivant* invites the audience – young and not so young – to rediscover a contemplative stance, to rest their eyes and ears for a moment on the passing of time, and to enjoy following something that – like the music and the drawing in the show – is “in the making”.

The show also seeks to contribute to a “culture of the living”, one that takes all beings into account – human and non-human. Offering an alternative to didactic environmental education, *Versant Vivant* invites us on a stroll to “the other side” of the living world, where the case for paying close attention to the environment is no longer only rational and scientific, but contemplative, intuitive and sensory.





◇ THE CREATORS

EMILIE TARASCOU – Writing and Drawing

After working in animated film, digital arts and comics, Émilie Tarascou wanted to bring her love of the living world to the stage through this live-drawing show. Her command of many techniques, on paper (watercolours, pastels, inks, cut-outs, natural materials) and digital (animation, video mixing), allows her to offer original and varied visual journeys.

www.emilietarascou.com



SIMON KANSARA – Writing and Music

Musician, comics writer and digital artist, Simon Kansara moves between different creative worlds. After classical violin training, his multi-instrumental practice led him to play in traditional, jazz and world music ensembles. He runs music workshops with the SMAC Ampli and the association Accès)S(cultures électroniques, in projects that combine music and multimedia. Versant Vivant gives him the opportunity to bring his passion for acoustic instruments to the stage: banjo, violin, accordion, guitars, mandolin, flutes, keyboards... Influenced by folk music from many countries, he summons Irish, Asian and North American sounds to evoke faraway places. For Versant Vivant he has devised an elaborate technical set-up that lets him build a musical performance on his own, playing some ten instruments in turn.





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+33 6 86 82 52 92
contact@lobservable.com