

PRESS KIT



Archipel

Created by Frédéric Lepaffe,
Charles-Henry Bolland
& Emmanuel Tête



Introduction

ARCHIPEL combines music and drawing in a unique show.

It is a dreamlike initiatory journey. A man finds himself embarking on a strange odyssey that takes him to microscopic islands. On this journey, he will be confronted with past events that are eating away at his heart and will try to free himself from those.

On stage, five musicians will perform compositions oscillating between folk, world music and jazz, while a cartoonist will perform a graphic and plastic performance, thus deploying an insular universe made of sounds and images. The story unfolds as a many-faced musical comic strip.

The islands the hero will discover on his journey are deserted and forgotten by civilization. Devoid of any culture, Archipel offers them an imaginary folklore, both graphic and musical. The audience is invited to enter the universe of each of those. At no time is the continuity of this extraordinary and moving journey interrupted.



An Anti-Modern Tale

Archipel tells the tale of an ordinary man. Not much is known about him, not even his name. Thus he emerges at the start of the show, unknown, almost impersonal, the exact template of the modern specimen, whose identity is rendered invisible by the system giving him a place among others. That incarnation -this sad picture of our times- is harnessed within the story.

Archipel questions our overwhelmingly-connected modern world, ever-expanding, a considerable force with the ability to absorb and dissolve both men and things. How could we offer a radical alternative to it? The first answer to come up isn't political, it is simply a survival response. It is the necessity to find a place, a space both geographical and spiritual where escaping the machinery is still possible. We need areas that can be fully observed with one look but can be crossed from end to end. We need the individual to feel familiarity towards that space, like an animal living on its territory without developing a possessive relationship.

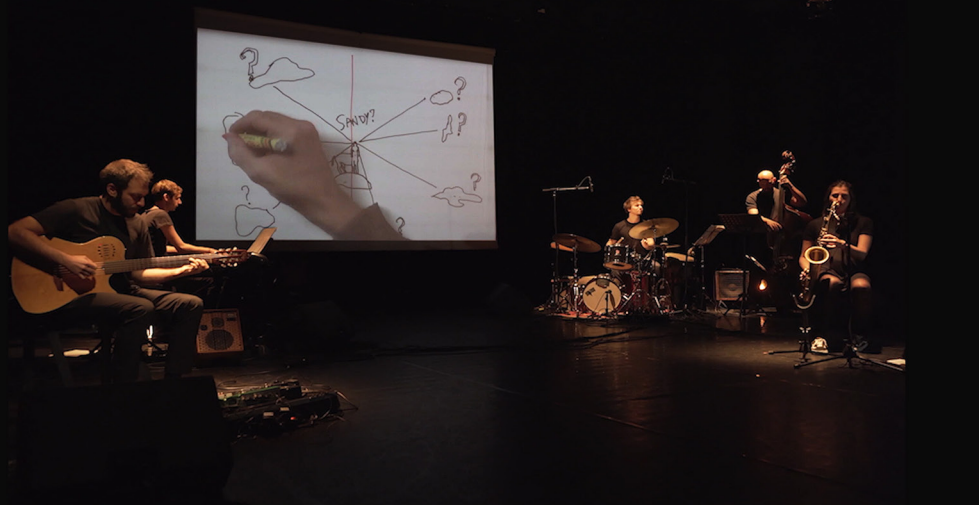
The image of the island is the answer to that escape from modernity, as a place of thought and possibilities. It is a stretch of land, isolated but not gated. Bounded by water, it represents above all a protective environment. It offers itself as a shelter to the person in search of freedom and exploration. By doing so, the island asserts its own wandering as a way of life, in diametrical opposition with the image of the Western sedentary man, so typical of our present-day society.

It is the journey as an end, that moves through the land as much as it is moved by the land, that doesn't own places but is owned by them. It is about several islands, an archipelago which exist only because of the multitude it contains, without ever creating unity. If the modern human finds a continent for themselves, the wanderer gets lost in the archipelago.

A Sonic Journey

The music of Archipel is made of thirteen compositions by Frédéric Lepaffe. It is an acoustic sound imbued with folk, jazz, classical and even tribal colours with touches of electronic effects. Even though some compositions show features found in traditional music – the role of trance, the use of modes, polyrhythms – they refrain from any show of exoticism. The music of Archipel is meant to be connected to the world without ever enclosing it in a coarse representation. On the contrary, it carries the listener in a fantasy folklore, to strange, and yet familiar sounds. It underlines the events in the story just as it comments on our character's experiences. It is meant to be the sensitive and intimate prolongation of what he goes through.

Behind this musical saga stands a team. It is made up of Frédéric Lepaffe, also guitarist, Fanny Perche on the saxophone, Julien Gillain on the piano and violin, Guillaume Malempré on percussion and Boris Schmidt on bass. The jazz background of these musicians adds a key factor to Archipel : improvisation. It allows every performance to be spontaneous so that every show is different.



A Graphic Journey

Archipel is a musical journey, but also a graphic one. The hero's epic is unveiled by way of a comic throughout the show. Emmanuel Tête's pencil style gives the story a tender and expressive style. The story unfolds as a fragile tale devoid of any kind of heroism. He only goes through, contemplates and changes.

Along with the comic, Emmanuel Tête produces some graphic and plastic performances live. Through his realizations, he brings us visual elements illustrating the hero's journey to the islands and their folklore. On stage, he improvises with various visual forms, combining materials like graphite, watercolors or sand. His spontaneous movements breathe life into the protagonist's travels.

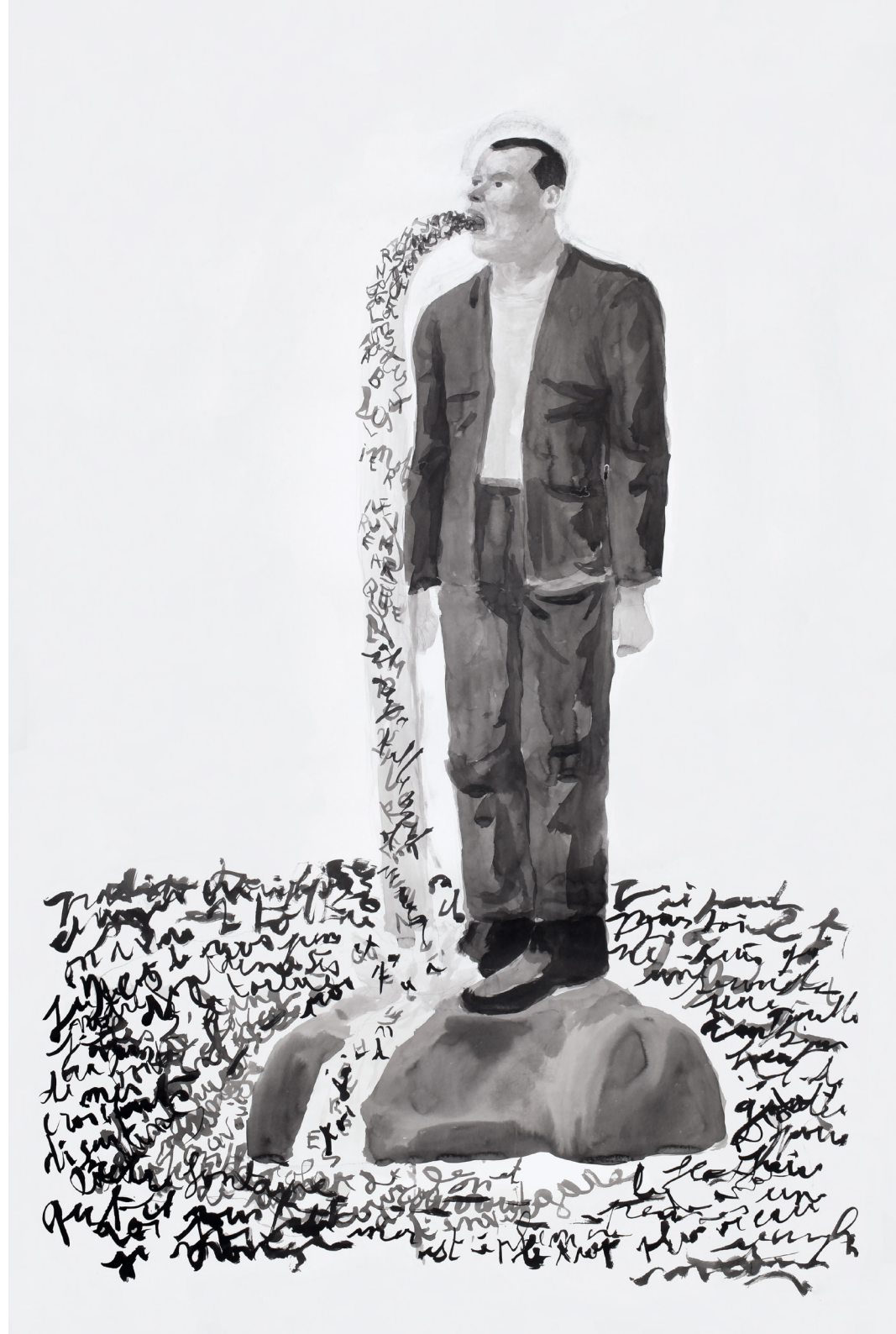


Archipel On Stage

Both the musicians and the cartoonist are on stage. Emmanuel Tête draws on a desk while a downward-viewing camera reproduces his work live. Framing is set up so that both his hands and the work he's doing are shown. His drawings, paintings and sculptures are shown on screen.

Emmanuel engages in a dialogue with music as much as the musicians react to his works. At times, the pencil draws sheet music for the bass and the percussions make the brush tremble. Altogether, they form a tight crew. The stage becomes a bubble, an island, a ship, in short, a place where the audience can be a part of the journey.

Archipel is a project where different arts meet and create an introspective journey through island-universes woven from imaginary tales and folklores.



Creative Team

Guitar: Frédéric Lepaffe

Saxophone: Fanny Perche

Piano and violin: Julien Gillain

Upright bass: Boris Schmidt

Percussions: Guillaume Malempré

Drawing and Visual arts: Emmanuel Tête

Writing: Frédéric Lepaffe/Charles-Henry Boland

Composition: Frédéric Lepaffe

Light technician: Thibaud Decoene

Sound technician: Guillaume Vienne/Antoine Lambertz



Emmanuel Tête

ILLUSTRATIONS

Emmanuel Tête was born in France in 1973. He works and lives in Brussels. Through his commitment to the practice of painting and drawing, he provides a transposition of daily life into dreams where humour, poetry and protest merrily combine to deconstruct the world. Maintaining balance like a tightrope walker with dream on one side and reality on the other, he crafts a multi-resonant universe in which tenderness mixes with irony and the usual meets the extraordinary. There, lonely figures suggest interiority, opening the door to the emergence of poetic moments.

He has been a teacher at the painting workshop of the Académie d'Uccle since 2018. He is a founding member of Buktapaktop since 2013. He exhibits and performs:

2017 Jardingue, Rossicontemporary, Brussels; 2016 Dessinarrer, Rossicontemporary, Brussels; 2014 Credi Poetic, Rossicontemporary, Brussels; The Famous Painter Ping-Pong Tournament, Buktapaktop, Brussels; 2012 Le somnambule : la peinture a quitté son lit, Rossicontemporary, Brussels; Tout le monde n'est pas Cézanne (performance), Musées Royaux des Beaux Arts, Brussels; Zone de mobilité poétique (performance), Brussels; 2011 Images du monde flottant, Rossicontemporary, Brussels; 2009 Ticket provisoire, Troisième-étage, Brussels; Maître-achat, Cinéma Nova, Brussels; Salade tout, V-tro, Brussels; 2007 Voir, Ateliers Mommen, Brussels; 2005 A compléter par le chômeur, Bureau de pointage, Saint-Josse.

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Frédéric Lepaffe

COMPOSITION / GUITAR

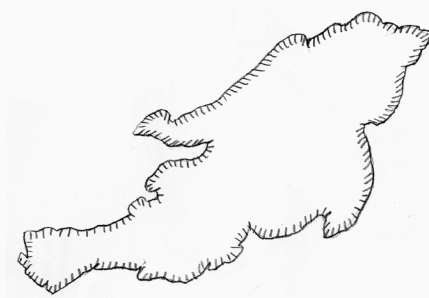
Frédéric Lepaffe was born in Brussels in 1986. Self-taught, he took his first steps in French chanson as a guitarist-singer with l'Arche Essentielle, where he set his father's poetry to music.

As a true all-rounder, he developed a particular interest in rhythm and percussion, both acoustic and electronic. He has performed for many years on the Brussels scene in groups with a wide variety of influences such as electro, jazz, French chanson, pop, African music, ... He was also hired as a composer for theatre plays and created the music for the trailer of the RICA festival, entirely recorded in body clapping.

He started to imagine the Archipel project in 2016 alongside Charles-Henry Boland. During bouts of sleeplessness, he started exploring world maps only to discover a range of little-known islands hardly touched by human life, for which he set out to create their musical folklore.

In addition to his work as a musician, Frédéric has been leading musical awakening workshops at the Jeunesses Musicales de Bruxelles since 2010 and has been a music teacher at the Singelijn inclusive active pedagogy school since 2019.

He holds a bachelor's degree in photography from INRACI in 2009 and likes to mix image and sound.



Julien Gillain

VIOLON / PIANO

Julien Gillain was born in 1993 in Liège. He has been going to music school from a very young age, being taught first in classical music, and then in jazz.

At 18, he went to Benin for four months to teach music. One year later, he was admitted to the Brussels Royal Conservatory in piano and violin (jazz section). There he obtained his Bachelor's degree in both instruments in 2015 and his Master's degree in 2017 with great distinction and the PalyRight+ prize awarded by faculty.

He performs in various European countries and in Brussels in particular, in various projects on piano and violin, but also on the Hammond organ.

He is very active in several groups such as: Ceci n'est pas un trio (album released in 2017), Carla Piombino Quartet (album released in 2017), Pauline Leblond Double Quartet, Dat Mess and the Gillain-Perche Quartet.

Beyond concerts, Julien Gillain has been working as a jazz piano and jazz violin teacher at the Marcel Désiron music school in Amay since 2017, and at the Jette music school since 2018.





Fanny Perche

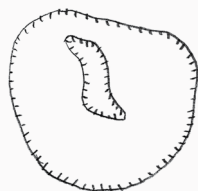
SAXOPHONE

Fanny Perche was born in Lille, France in 1990. She began her musical itinerary at the Lille Conservatory at the age of 7. She started with violin but quickly switches to saxophone in Yves Tanguy's class.

Having obtained her D.N.O.P (national diploma of professional orientation) in classical saxophone, she enters in 2012 the Royal Conservatory of Brussels in jazz section and studies with Fabrice Alleman, Stéphane Mercier, Manuel Hermia, Arnould Massart, Jean-Louis Rassinfosse, and many others. In 2013, Fanny goes to New York for three months to study with great jazz masters such as Bob Mover and Tivon Pennicott.

Today she holds a Master's degree in jazz saxophone from the Royal Conservatory of Brussels. Fanny performs regularly on the Belgian jazz scene in various formations, several of which in collaboration with pianist Julien Gillain.

In addition to her activity as a musician, Fanny also works in event management and the organisation of concerts throughout Belgium and France.



Boris Schmidt

Double Bass

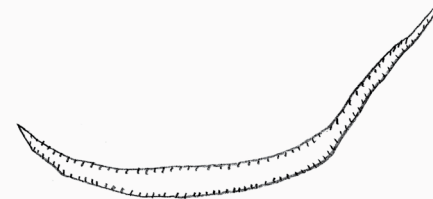
Boris Schmidt was born in Luxembourg in 1983 and began playing music at the age of 7. After making his debut on saxophone and piano, Boris started playing the electric bass in 1999 as a self-taught musician and then the upright bass in 2002.

He continued to learn this instrument by enrolling at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague (Netherlands) and obtained his bachelor's degree in 2007.

He is now very active as a jazz bass player in the Benelux, but has also recorded and travelled with the Grammy-nominated baroque music group "l'Arpeggiata" for about a dozen years and has performed in the most prestigious venues such as the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, the Wigmore Hall in London and the Carnegie Hall in New York.

After 25 albums as a sideman his first opus as a leader and composer entitled 'Now' was released on Homerecords in 2018.

Among the many musicians that Boris has had the chance to accompany are: Didier Lockwood, Randy Brecker, Felix Simeone, Steve Houben, Philippe Jaroussky, Avi Avital, Barbara Fortuna and many others.





Guillaume Malempré

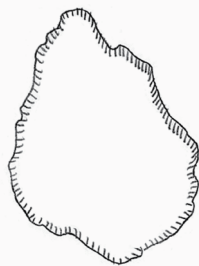
DRUMS / PERCUSSIONS

Originally from Namur, Belgium, Guillaume Malempré, 21, started playing percussions at the age of 5. Son of the musician Marc Malempré, he grew up in an musical environment. It is with his percussionist brother, Frédéric Malempré, that he envisions a professional future as a drummer. He played his first concerts at the age of ten.

In September 2014, he was admitted to the Royal Conservatory of Brussels where he is still enrolled. This was the opportunity to meet the pros: Thierry Gutman, Thomas Grimmonprez, Michel Hatzigeorgiu, Jean-Louis Rasinfosse, Arnould Massart, Manu Hermia, ...

The Oakstreet Trio gave him the opportunity to play in emblematic jazz venues such as the Brussels Jazz Marathon, the Sounds Jazz Club, the Chat-Pitre, the Blues-Sphere and this summer 2017, at the Gaume Jazz Festival.

He also participates in other musical projects: Irish music (with The Rainy Four Seasons), Renaissance music, traditional music and world music.



Charles-Henry Boland

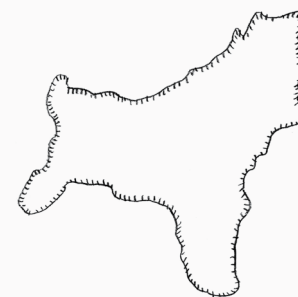
WRITING / DRAMATURGY

Charles-Henry Boland studied musicology and philosophy at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, two courses which he will complete in 2012 with a dissertation on the Liège composer Désiré Pâque and in 2013 with a research on the notion of space in musical phenomenology.

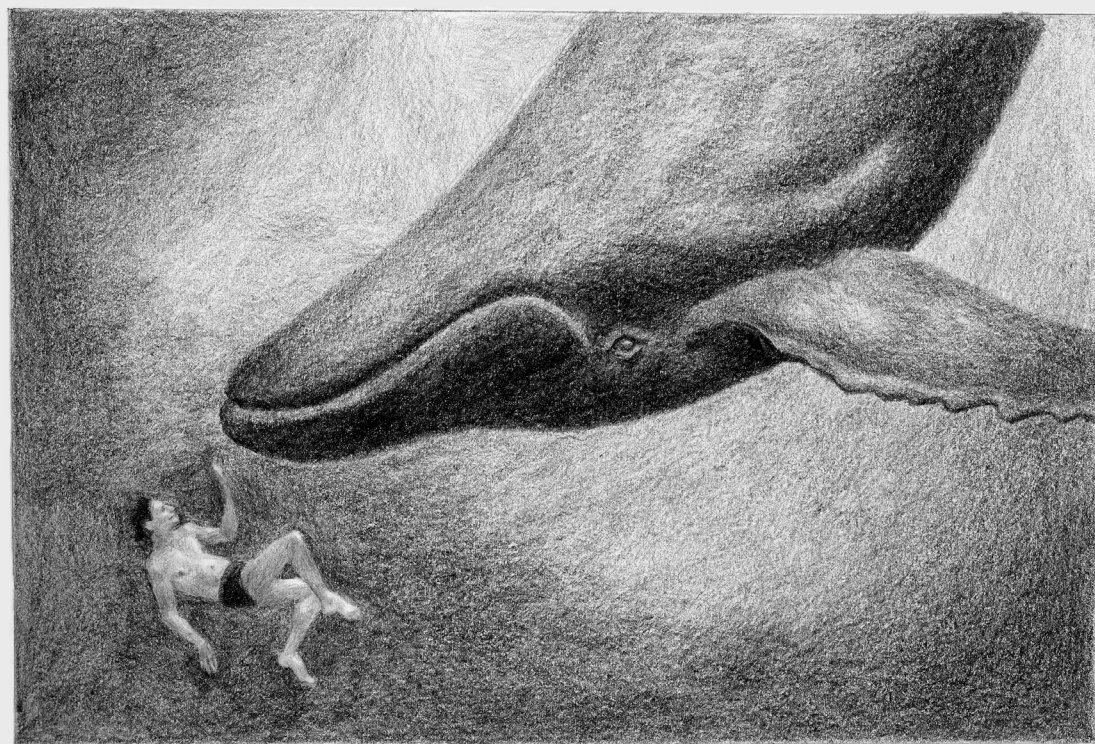
Between 2012 and 2018, he is hired by Bozar to write introductions to concerts for the audience. In 2016, he joins the team of pedagogical contributors at La Monnaie. The same year, he is hired by Outhere Music (music publisher and producer) in the digital distribution division, a job he now works fulltime. He has been giving guided listening lessons at the Conservatoire royal de Bruxelles, since 2021.

In 2017, he took over the direction of Voces Madrigalis, a vocal ensemble dedicated to music from the late 16th to early 17th century. He also works with theatre companies as a vocal coach and musical arranger (Cie Les Étrangers, Reflets d'un banquet, December 2015 at the Théâtre de la Vie / Le Groupe Sanguin, Plot Your City, March 2016 at Atelier 210 and Mare Nostrum, January 2019 at the Théâtre de la Vie).

Very present in the conception of the show since its beginnings, he brings an essential perspective to the scenography and creates the link between music and story by giving Archipel its narrative dimension.









Website:

www.projetarchipel.be

Teaser:

<https://youtu.be/8nVNq1ziPzI>

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