

Andrea Mancini & Every Island
A Comparative Dialogue Act





MUDAM

The Contemporary Art Museum of Luxembourg

mudam.com

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26.09.2025 – 01.02.2026

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The exhibition

A Comparative Dialogue Act, originally created for the Luxembourg Pavilion at the 60th Venice Biennale in 2024, is the result of an unprecedented collaboration between Italian Luxembourgish artist and musician Andrea Mancini (1989, Luxembourg) and the Brussels-based multidisciplinary collective Every Island, formed by Alessandro Cugola, Astrid Lykke Nielsen, Caterina Malavolti, Juliane Seehawer and Martina Genovesi. Mancini uses sensorial mediums, as well as sculptural and spatial interventions to create environments that invite active engagement and embodied listening. Focusing on the role of performativity in architecture, Every Island's research uses space as a design tool to negotiate expanded common grounds and to question inherited binary, normative models.

Mudam's new iteration of *A Comparative Dialogue Act* turns its pavilion into an experimental production site at the intersection of visual art, performance and sound. Acoustics and architecture are in tune as the floor and a set of modular glass walls act as speakers to immerse audiences into a visceral experience. Through production phases and live performances – all together framed as short residencies –, four international artists hosted by Mancini and Every Island expand the sonic library started in Venice by the first four residents. At Mudam's pavilion, new experiments with the library's acoustic archive materialise as performances, turning the exhibition into a generative platform. Bringing together a range of positions, this platform probes the potential of sound as a medium for negotiation, intervention and cross-pollination – and its potential to challenge the notion of individual authorship through collective creation. By combining live formats with the archival dimension of the library, the comparative dialogue unfolds as an exchange between artists who never met yet connect through their shared language.

Sonic installation and library

A Comparative Dialogue Act started with four residents during the 60th Venice Biennale and it continues evolving with four new residents welcomed by Mudam. A sonic library stands at the core of the project and is assembled by the invited artists, whose practices are varied yet informed by sound and performance. Prior to their residency, each guest artist provided fragments to the library, which included snippets of previously recorded performances, newly produced digital tunes, field recordings or spoken word. Intertwining production, experimentation and performance, the short residencies allow each participant to present new pieces drawn from the library. During the intervals between the public performances new recordings are played, alternating with archived fragments.

Infused with a metallic aesthetic, the installation is conceived as an infrastructure for the transmission of a knowledge embodied as acoustic cooperation in an ongoing working process. Four transducers mounted to glass panels on stainless steel trolleys at the centre of the stage create mid-range frequencies, forming one of the various layers composing the installation. The transducers on trolleys – also referred to as ‘Sound Walls’ – are rearranged by each guest artist on the aluminium tiled flooring, whose elevation enhances the idea of a stage, as do the surrounding curtains and a central light structure. The tiles’ metallic coating is engraved with text extracted from works’ descriptions and, beneath them, a network of bass shakers – another type of transducer – transmits low frequencies. These turn the stage into one large sound system, whose vibrating surface accommodates all activities taking place throughout the duration of the exhibition.

Guest artists and live programme

A Comparative Dialogue Act's short residency programme was initiated by Andrea Mancini and Every Island. This collaboration has instigated the live exploration of sound as a medium from which generative dialogues can emerge. Venice iteration in 2024 brought Bella Báguena, Célin Jiang, Selin Davasse and Stina Fors together as guest artists. Inspired by intuition, motivation, pop culture and personal experiences, Báguena weaves sounds together. Humanities and digital technologies intertwine in Jiang's work, from a decolonial cyber-feminist approach. Davasse repurposes disparate literary and performative techniques to reinterpret miscellaneous characters as feminine beasts that drive an exploration of the ethics of hospitality. Fors' choreographies, performances, percussions and vocals unleash a voice whose force alternates between the lethal and seductive, to explore the depths of a ‘sounding body’. Their contributions to the library and the recordings of their performances resonate and fuse with the new contributions through the so-called ‘Sound Walls’.

During their residencies at Mudam, four newly invited artists engage with the installation, infusing it with their individual and collective signature – probing once again that empowerment is possible through collaboration. *Cucina Povera* – the work of Finnish Luxembourgish composer Maria Rossi – blends voice and field recordings to honour the banality and mysticism of the everyday. Inspired by simple sounds – creaking floorboards, whistling kettles or leaking water – and drawing analogies with the peasant cuisine they take their name from, they explore tensions between cultural identities, as well as between architectural and geographic spaces. *bela* takes on voice and composition to reveal non-binary-gender experiences and to re*build relationships between value systems and memories. They explore the liberatory potential of contemporary sound and movement, by performing rituals full of tactile and guttural sounds that reflect on the precarity of life, queer identity and survival modes in South Korea. The violinist, composer, producer and educator Katarina Gryvul uses timbre as a primary element to unify her eclectic approach spanning classical music and avant-garde, electronic and experimental sounds. These come together distinctively, by fusing polished melodies and distorted atmospheric noises. Her sound incorporates live electronics and extensions for instruments and voice, analogue synths – at times self-created – with spatial audio enhancing depth and presence. Engaging with the emotional dimensions of his spatial audio composition, Thomas Lea Clarke examines the temporal qualities of sound and how it transforms the environments in which it exists. He is particularly interested in the potential of sonic looping and layering to alter the listener's perception of duration and place.



SELIN DAVASSE

PERFORMANCES: 15 - 21



Andrea Mancini

Andrea Mancini (1989, Luxembourg) is a Brussels-based, Italian Luxembourgish artist and musician. His work explores the intersections of sound, space and materiality, transforming overlooked materials into resonating, performative surfaces. Using sensorial mediums, sculptural and spatial interventions, he creates environments that invite active engagement and embodied listening. His installations blur the boundaries between architecture, sound and presence – spaces that respond to movement, vibration and proximity. Whether activated by himself or others, they become sites of sensory tension, dialogue and shared experience, challenging how we inhabit and perceive the built world.

Every Island

Every Island is a collective founded in Brussels in 2021. Their spatial research focuses on the role of performativity in architecture, which translates into volatile building projects, design and installations. Each project develops space to enable unforeseen uses, thus questioning inherited binary and normative models. Space becomes a design tool to negotiate an expanded common ground, where perception, action and projection operate as a single field. The work of the collective has been shown in several institutions and performative arts festivals, including International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia (2024), BOZAR, Brussels (2023), Santarcangelo Festival dei Teatri, Santarcangelo di Romagna (2022) and VIERNULVIER, Ghent (2022), and Mudam Luxembourg (2022). It currently consists of Martina Genovesi, Alessandro Cugola, Caterina Malavolti, Juliane Seehawer and Astrid Lykke Nielsen.



Guest artists at Mudam

Cucina Povera

Opening performance
Thursday, 25 September 2025 | 20:30

Production phase
Friday, 26 September 2025 | all day

Performance
Saturday, 27 September 2025 | 16:30

bela

Production phase
Thursday, 6 and Friday, 7 November 2025 | all day

Performances
Saturday, 8 and Sunday, 9 November 2025 | 16:30

Katarina Gryvul

Production phase
Thursday, 11 and Friday, 12 December 2025 | all day

Performances
Saturday, 13 and Sunday, 14 December 2025 | 16:30

Thomas Lea Clarke

Production phase
Thursday, 15 and Friday, 16 January 2026 | all day

Performances
Saturday, 17 and Sunday, 18 January 2026 | 16:30

Cucina Povera

Finnish Luxembourgish musician Maria Rossi started their solo project, Cucina Povera, in 2017 and previously produced, composed and performed as part of Luxos with Daniel Magee (Lo Kindre), Green Door Studios' NEET and Tarantula band in Glasgow. They did audiovisual collaborations with Roos Dijkhuizen, Mary Hurrell and Katie Shannon and released LPs on labels including Night School, BAKK, Editions Mego and Primordial Void. Rossi did live appearances and mixes among others for BBC3, BBC6, NTS and Radio Raheem. They have done artist residencies in three national parks in the South of France with choreographer Frank Micheletti; and at WORM, Rotterdam; Hallo Festspiele, Hamburg; and Intonal Festival in Malmö with Emanuel Sundin and Maja Li Härdelin for SHAPE+ platform. They created commissions for Radiophrenia, Glasgow; Sonica, Glasgow; and Performa/Pioneer Works, NYC. Rossi performed in thirty countries worldwide.

bela

Originally from South Korea, bela is a musician, performance artist and DJ based in Berlin and Prague. In addition to their work as a musician and performance artist, bela also collaborates on audio visual performances with Theresa Baumgartner and Lukas Feigelfeld and performs improvised vocals with AKA HEX (Aisha Devi and Slikback). Their solo and collaborative live performances have been featured at Berlin Atonal; Trauma Bar und Kino, Berlin; Nowadays, NYC; Schauspielhaus Zürich; Lunchmeat, Prague; Cafe OTO, London; CTM Festival, Berlin; Ephemera, Warsaw; and Unsound Kraków. As a DJ, bela debuted in Seoul's underground scene in 2017 at Cakeshop and have since played at clubs like Tresor, Berlin; Säule, Berlin; ALL, Shanghai; and Ankali's Planeta Za, Prague. bela co-runs Sorrow Club, an event series combining music and non-music formats. They were nominated for the SHAPE+ Platform 2023/24.

Katarina Gryvul

Ukrainian-born, Krakow-based Katarina Gryvul studied in Lviv and Krakow at the Music Academy – Violin Performance and Composition. Currently, she is doing a MA Computer Music and Sound Art at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz.

In addition to her artistic practice, Gryvul is the founder of Gryvul School, an initiative dedicated to sharing her expertise with musicians worldwide. The school supports students and professionals, encouraging their growth and exploration of new possibilities.

Gryvul is a member of the first music catalogue of Ukrainian music; is a participant of Gaude Polonia – scholarship of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Poland; participated in the 37th General Assembly of the International Confederation of Electroacoustic Music. She has won the Scholarship of the President of Ukraine for young artists and writers; has won the Grand Prix of music and sound design 'Power of Young'; and was selected as an artist of SHAPE+ platform 2022/23. Her pieces were performed at festivals including Warsaw Autumn; Ars Electronica, Linz; Rewire, The Hague; CTM, Berlin; ZKM, Karlsruhe; Nuits Sonores, Lyon; Skaņu Mežs, Riga; Sanatorium of Sound, Sokołowsko.

Thomas Lea Clarke

Thomas Lea Clarke is a sound artist and electronic musician, born in Luxembourg and based in Berlin. He has released music on multiple record labels including Optimo Music, Offen Music, Neubau and Knekelhuis. He also runs Phase Group, a record label and platform dedicated to experimental and avant-garde electronic music. His work has been presented in a range of contexts across Europe, including exhibitions and performances at Casino – Forum D'Art Contemporain, Luxembourg; Hošek Contemporary, Berlin; Silent Green, Berlin; Berghain, Berlin; Tramway, Glasgow; Fuse Art Space, Bradford; and Cafe OTO, London. He is currently pursuing a MA degree in Sound Studies and Sonic Arts at the Universität der Künste Berlin, where he continues to develop his interest in the poetics of sound, spatiality, and the political and cultural dimensions of listening.

Acknowledgements

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Public programme

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Credits

All exhibition views:

Luxembourg Pavilion, *A Comparative Dialogue Act*,
Andrea Mancini & Every Island, Biennale Arte 2024
© Delfino Sisto Legnani – Dsl Studio, 2024

Portrait of the artists:

Photo: Alessandro Simonetti, 2023

Colophon

A Comparative Dialogue Act was a commission for the Luxembourg Pavilion at the 60th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia 2024.

The Luxembourg Ministry of Culture appointed Kultur | Ix – Arts Council Luxembourg as commissioner and Mudam Luxembourg – Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean as organiser of the Luxembourg Pavilion.

Curation

At the Luxembourg Pavilion in Venice, 2024:

Joel Valabrega assisted by Nathalie Lesure

At Mudam Luxembourg, 2025–26: Léon Kruijswijk

Artistic development of the installation

Artists: Andrea Mancini and Every Island

(Alessandro Cugola, Martina Genovesi, Caterina Malavolti and Juliane Seehawer)

Visual identity: Lorenzo Mason Studio

(Michele Bellinaso, Lorenzo Mason, Simone Spinazzè)

Typeface: Dialogue Regular, designed by Lorenzo Mason Studio

with Every Island, Andrea Mancini and Joel Valabrega

Executive producer: ARTER

(Leonardo Bucalossi, Lisa Delmas, Tiphaine Marquet, Renaud Sabari)

Guest artists

At the Luxembourg Pavilion in Venice, 2024:

Bella Báguena, Selin Davasse, Stina Fors, Célin Jiang

At Mudam Luxembourg, 2025–26:

Cucina Povera, bela, Katarina Gryvul, Thomas Lea Clarke

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