

## SO FAR (SO GOOD)

### A Speculation // Schwalbe zkt Massa)

Six months ago there was the curiosity to see where the EMWAP-swaps were going, now I wouldn't know where to start. When Begüm Erciyas' crew (Ewa Bankowska, Felix Marchand and António Pedro Lopes) arrived from Berlin, we took the occasion to meet some more of the faces behind the projects. As we went to see Abattoir Fermé's piece in Kortrijk (GHOST, starring Çağlar Yiğitoğulları), the artists had the chance to speak about the ideas behind their pieces and installation.

Aside from the fact that all productions seemed to hint at the crises: the monetary problem (money, inflation, devaluation...), identity (collectivity, individuality, Europe versus nationalism) and the then recent revolutions, the ideas still seemed rather abstract at the time. Now that the pieces have been staged, things have gone from abstract to concrete in completely different ways.

Begüm Erciyas, for instance, chose to zoom in by putting the Euro to close examination. For *A Speculation*, she had Stefan Demming enlarge, multiply several bills with which show hosts Ewa Bankowska, Felix Marchand and António Pedro Lopes performed casino and magic-like tricks, making it sing, fly and disappear. The public, which divided around three tables each with a host, was asked to participate and play along: : 'Does anyone know what the arch stands for?'. (Someone who actually worked at the European Union knew).

Productiehuis Rotterdam's *Schwalbe zoekt Massa*, on the other hand, chose to zoom out and play with the idea of individuality and collectivism by having a small mass of 50 people run around in circles. Schwalbe's already very physical(ly challenging) theatre (cfr. *Spaar ze & Schwalbe speelt vals*) was further explored in *Schwalbe zoekt massa*, inexplicitly triggering associations with whatever we wanted: whether it be our society, the welfare state, human nature or just the emptying of the kitchen sink. A radically simple concept that (successfully) proved rather versatile.



*Schwalbe zkt massa* © Pepijn Lutgerink



*Eine Spekulation / A Speculation*

