

Iden

Using musical, poetical recordings and documentary accounts, the electro-acoustic opera *Iden* takes us through the story of the Curonian Spit in Lithuania, “a temporary geographical phenomenon listed as UNESCO's World Cultural and Natural Heritage site”. The performance casts doubts and raises questions about whether our way of intervening in nature and creating habitats is really appropriate, necessary and honest. Are environmental organizations and nature park merely a reaction to our feelings of guilt, which only take over when we recognize with all our senses that we are harming her while she keeps us alive and full? One day we are destroying her, the next day we worship her again and try to make it recover. Nature feeds us with the resources on which we depend, and we are destined, as her creation, to transience and changes that make us afraid. Is every human being a tiny piece of nature that should not only hear nature but also grant her wishes?

The continuous flow of the performance, which at times becomes turbulent, and the effects that mimic the sound of the Curonian Spit, allows us to relax and get closer to the habitat. We visualize our own landscape using imagination and sound impulses. The performance has to be experienced – seeing it on video just doesn't have the same effect on the viewer. We want to offer this experience to the festival audience, which in 2020 – just like the rest of us – has an even greater need of sensory experiences and of art that is not consumed via screen. The audience of Drugajanje is diverse and of all possible ages, but I still believe that the performance will lead everyone to new reflections and findings that we may not have been aware of or contemplated due to potential passivity and a sense of powerlessness in the fight against climate change and environmental destruction.

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