

Artist Statement

I rarely feel like an 'artist'. There are moments of art in my life, just like moments of love. Perhaps it is with 'being an artist' just like with drunken people. If you are really drunk, you can't say that about yourself. Being an artist is a static concept, making theatre is action. That is more for me. I am a theatre maker 24/7.

My mother was an actress and died several times on stage, so when she finally died when I was 7, I didn't know whether this was for real or not. What I did understand was that stories can be brought to life and that people are full of stories waiting to be told. I also understood that there is little difference between what is real and what is invented, between the tangible and the untouchable. I later learned that stories have power, that they can bring people together but also drive them apart. I understood how vulnerable our own story is and how desperately we seek to connect with the stories of others.

I listen to the personal, small, unfinished, searching stories of people. I collect grains of lives. I want to discover the hidden common and search for what unites us. It is one continuous movement between me, the other and the world. Who am I, who are you and what do we do here?

In my work the audience often doubts what is real or not. They wonder if it has been staged, but they also see that no tricks are being applied. After the experience, people often look differently at their well known surroundings, at their city, at the path they walk every day.

I experience the world around me as a theatre play. One story follows another and never stops. I close my eyes and the curtain closes. And then I open my eyes and the spectacle begins. My body is the edge of the stage. I am the spectator, but I also participate.

I am touched by the versatility, the dynamics, the drama, the comedy, the horror and the subtlety that pass me by. It is so intense and much that I can't understand it.

I make theatre to stop time in order to better watch and listen to each other and the world. The theatre in which I receive the audience has no walls, even if it is in a theatre hall.'

Petra Ardai