

## Silence #30 x Marc Mulders

The World After: Conversation Pieces

Kirstin Gramlich, organ / Maya Fridman, cello and electronics

*Reshape the love of God, design a chapel, sculpture silence, knit a tapestry, whisper today, paint a rosewindow, close your eyes and kneel down: re-design your thoughts.*

Marc Mulders (Tilburg, 1958)

I think of Clarence, the wise old Gwich'in from Fort Yukon, Alaska, my friend and dear conversation partner during all the years I lived in his village. I've always looked at him with amused eyes when he told me that everything was constantly *recorded*, and the forest was continuously *informed*. *Everything is being recorded all the time*, he repeated. Trees, animals, rivers, each part of the world remembers everything we do and say, and even sometimes what we dream and think. This is why we must be very careful with the thoughts we phrase, since the world forgets no thing, and that each of its single component part sees, hears, knows. What happened, what is happening, what is arising. There is a constant alertness from exterior beings to the human ones, always ready to overflow their expectations. Each thought-form that we place outside of ourselves joins and is added to the old stories that inform the environment, as well as to the provisions of those who inhabit it.  
from: *Croire aux fauves*, Nastassja Martin (Grenoble, 1986)

Silence #30 is a concert that will take place in the Oude Kerk in response to Mark Mulders' work for *The World After*. On 30 March 2020, in an interview with Mister Motley, Marc Mulders mentioned the end of male dominance, and talks about designing space, shaping silence, the activity of weaving, whispering, reshaping thoughts, the love of God. *L'apparition de l'église éternelle* by Olivier Messiaen is an overwhelming sound vision by a young composer and organ player, a vision of the presence of what the one calls God, whereas the other is lost for words. Music is for Messiaen like stained glass: colour harmonies, divine stories brought into the light. *Song of Songs* by Japanese composer Karen Tanaka is a composition for cello and electronics, written alongside the Bible book *Wisdom of Solomon*, in which heavenly wisdom is represented as a woman.

### program

L'apparition de l'église éternelle	Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)
Song of Songs	Karen Tanaka (1961)
Desseins éternels	Olivier Messiaen
Gramata Cellam	Pēteris Vasks (1946)
Light is Calling	Michael Gordon (1956)
L'apparition de l'église éternelle	Olivier Messiaen

### About silence

The Oude Kerk is located in the heart of Amsterdam's Red Light District. In the morning, when the sun rises and the city slowly wakes up and quiet reigns, the centuries-old neighbourhood shows its really striking beauty. Here, every first Friday of the month at 8 a.m., you can enjoy the *Silence* contemporary music programme. To create these concerts, musical tributes to the space and acoustics of the Oude Kerk, we work together with a new generation of musicians and artists: innovative spirits in search of adventure. The concerts take place in different parts of the church; sometimes there are and sometimes there are no fixed seats. Throughout the months of the year, visitors and musicians wander through the church together. They experience the exhibitions and the space in different ways each time, as interplay of image, space and sound. This creates a new tradition of spatial music in an ancient building, in changing contexts. The concerts are curated by Jacob Lekkerkerker, curator of music and organist of the Oude Kerk.

The World After: Conversation Pieces – Silence

Silence # 31 – David Helbich, 6 November 2020

Silence # 32– Geo Wyeth, 4 December 2020