

# STATION HOUSE OPERA

## DOMINOES

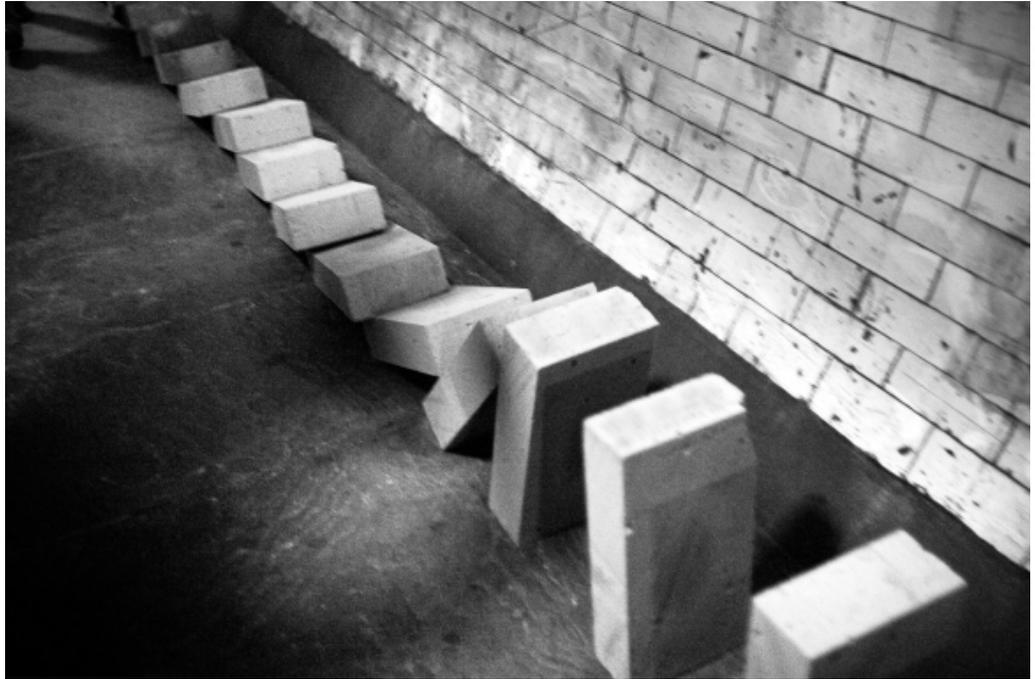


PHOTO BY SIMON CORDER

Site specific, art and the city, participatory, city scale project re-invented in each city

Created by Station House Opera  
Artistic Director Julian Maynard Smith

Produced by Artsadmin

Ania Obolewicz  
Artists' Producer  
ania@artsadmin.co.uk

t +44 (0)20 7247 5102

artsadmin.co.uk  
stationhouseopera.com

**ARTS  
ADMIN.**



PHOTO BY SIMO KARISALO

## **A MOVING SCULPTURE**

Dominoes is a site-specific installation, a moving sculpture with possible performative elements, which can be recreated and adapted for different cities and contexts.

It takes as its starting point the simplest of ideas... a line of dominoes. Thousands of breezeblocks are used to create a moving sculpture which runs across the city, unfolding over the course of the day. On streets, through parks, buildings and even on water, occasionally disappearing and then resurfacing, sometimes pausing for sculptural performances, the domino line threads its way through historical and everyday parts of the city, linking its diverse communities in a symbolic as well as physical chain of cause and effect.

The journey can be enriched by performances, stops, sculptures, unique ceremonies and other bespoke ideas which would be developed in partnership with the venue, designed particularly to complement the specific context.

## **ART, ARCHITECTURE AND PUBLIC SPACE**

Dominoes creates an alternative vision of the city: counterpointing, complementing and playing with the architecture. For a brief moment the city streets are reclaimed for the inhabitants and the public to enjoy for one special day.

What makes this day so unique is not only the fall, but the build up of over the course of the day, from when the blocks are first dispersed to when the volunteers start arriving to help build the sculpture. As the blocks are positioned the public and local residents become more and more curious, speculating on what is about to happen and eventually witnessing for themselves this extraordinary piece that snakes through the corners of their city.



PHOTO S BY NICOLAS JOUBARD



## PARTICIPATION AND COLLECTIVE MEMORY

Hundreds of volunteers and audience members gather together to make this an exceptional and unique event. **Dominoes** has the power to bring communities together through participation and engagement. Hundreds of volunteers have the opportunity to become involved and to be responsible for a major art event in their city. Participation in **Dominoes** doesn't require particular skills or significant time investment; everyone has the opportunity to take part and to be at the centre of this memorable event.

“It was exciting and madness at the same time, making it a very memorable event, also it was incredible the amount of people who were involved and as one of the volunteers I want to thank everyone for a rather unique Sunday.”

– Participant, Helsinki



PHOTO CREDIT: MARINE THEVENET

## PREVIOUS TOURING

Winner of the Bank of America Merrill Lynch CREATE09 Art Award, Dominoes was originally created in London on 26 July 2009, linking the five 'host boroughs' for the 2012 Olympics. The 8000 blocks made an eleven kilometre journey, which included an opening event, a block 'picnic' and a performance finale: a structure of thousands of blocks brought to life by a group of performers.

Other performances include:

**LJUBLJANA, 2011**

**HELSINKI, 2012**

**BAILLEUL-POPERINGE, 2013**

**COPENHAGEN, 2013**

**COVENTRY, 2014**

**MULHOUSE, 2014**

**MARSEILLE, 2014**

**MONS, 2015**

**RENNES, 2015**

**STOCKHOLM, 2015**

**CLUJ-NAPOCA, 2015**

**MELBOURNE, 2016**

**MILTON KEYNES, 2016**

**LONDON, 2016**

**BORDEAUX, 2016**

**MONTPELLIER, 2017**

**HULL, 2018**

**GHENT, 2019**

Mladi Levi / Bunker

Night of the Arts / Helsinki Festival

Festival Nord Magnétique

Metropolis Festival / København

Coventry Mysteries Festival

Scènes de Rue Festival

Lieux Publics

La Ville en Jeu(x) / Mons 2015 European

Les Tombées de la Nuit

Stockholms Kulturfestival

Alt-Art

Melbourne Arts Centre

IF Festival

London's Burning

Festival International des Arts de

Bordeaux Métropole

Zone Artistique Temporaire Festival

Absolutely Cultured

Festival of Architecture



PHOTOBY GUILLAUME DUPONT

## STATION HOUSE OPERA

With past projects ranging from spectacular site-specific works created with concrete blocks to simultaneous performances across continents using live internet streaming, Station House Opera is an internationally renowned performance company with a unique physical and visual style. Founded in 1980 it has produced over 30 productions of widely varying scale and focus, all rooted in an interest to make work that brings together theatre and the visual arts in a single unified vision.

Led by artistic director and co-founder Julian Maynard Smith, Station House Opera have created projects in a variety of locations all over the world, from New York's Brooklyn Bridge Anchorage to Dresden's historic Frauenkirche and Salisbury Cathedral, and have toured the world, from Azerbaijan to Kosovo, China to Brazil working with over 100 performers in various projects.

Station House Opera have pioneered the use of telematics in performance with works such as **Life on Paradise** and **Play on Earth**. They link spaces and performances via live stream, and recently with **Dissolved** merge together people and spaces, creating new encounters and exploring identity.

## TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

### ROUTE

The route, installation and performances will be decided by artistic director Julian Maynard Smith alongside the commissioning partner's programmers and production manager. The length of the route depends on the available budget, the choice of the route itself upon the visual impact, space for audiences and permissions to cross streets, stop traffic etc.

### BLOCKS AND EQUIPMENT

The commissioning partner needs to provide the blocks, in agreement with artistic director Julian Maynard Smith during a pre-production visit.

- Our Standard sized Block is 600mm x 200mm x 125mm with a density of 500kg/m<sup>3</sup>. The blocks need to be flat and smooth on all sides no ridges or grooves.
- The suppliers have been H+H, Ytong, Cellumat.
- 2500-3000 blocks per kilometres.

Rest of the equipment: see Technical Rider

### VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are managed and recruited by the commissioning partner and are organised into teams, each of which is led by a team leader (usually one team leader for ten volunteers). The volunteers are required for one training meeting before the event, and then on the day. They are usually responsible for laying out and stewarding around 30-40 blocks each. We ask for 100 volunteers per kilometre.

### AUTHORISATIONS AND LOGISTICS

The commissioning partner needs to obtain the relevant permissions from local authorities and the authorisation to stage the project in public spaces. The commissioning partner deals with the management of the blocks, transport and cleaning.

### STAFFING

The commissioner will have to supply dedicated staff to produce the project: Local Producer, Local Production/Technical Manager, Volunteer Coordinator and Volunteer Assistant, Assistant Builders, Section Managers and Drivers.

### FILM

The event can be filmed, and an additional pre-film in other areas of the city than the route of Dominoes on the event day can be added to the project.

### TECHNICAL RIDER

The full Technical Rider provides all the information needed and is crucial to read in order to understand the scale of the project.

### ACCESS

**Highly visual work.** This work is largely visual and is suitable for deaf audiences.