

2020

Creation document

Benjamin Beaujard

"I juggle frozen water"



## *"First snow"*

*"Under a large blue sky, the white mist follows up the wind that has built a landscape of ice. As only possession a caring gaze, we venture into a new and frozen nature.*

*But it's not an ordinary snow, it's a piece of art that prevails and changes our perception as a new shade of our landscape.*

*It's pure...*

*It's fragile...*

*It only takes a hot breathe to deconstruct this painting, bring it to life and see the green leaves of the trees. An ephemeral beauty that collapses nad starts it's own fall, fast and unpredictable.*

*Slow and irreparable..."*

**I wrote this text during winter 2016, after having a walk in a parc. 3 years later, in 2019, this text was the starting point of my creation...**



## Which structures am I looking for ?

The creation of "*I juggle frozen water*" took beginning during a research project in my 3rd year of university in Stockholm. This research was 10 weeks long and ended up with a public presentation in December 2019. The aim of my project was to understand more my creative processus in a particular challenge : The creation of my first solo show.

This experience confirmed my wish to continue this work, the goal being to have a final product to share.

I conceive the continuation of the creation either by weeks of **residencies**, or by public representations of the project in the form of **work in progress**. I'm also looking for **foundings** to work with an outside eye and have money to live during the creation periods. The creation and development of this show will mainly take place in **France** and **Sweden**, since I already have some supports there and it's where I'm mostly planning to play the show.

## Format and theme of the show :

"*I juggle frozen water*" is a contemporary juggling show of about 50 minutes. The first theme of the show is simple: **The snow, the winter...** But there is a deeper theme, explored in the juggling aswell as in the writting of the piece, that gives a powerfull artistic value to this show. **abstract and concrete, imaginary and real, the mind and the senses.**

Those 2 themes together created the tittle, "*I juggle frozen water*".

The word "*I*" is really abstract because every "*I*" is different.

The word "*juggle*" gives more of a frame, we speak about this skill of throwing a catching things often associated with circus.

The terms "*Frozen water*" finishing the tittle, are terms that wants to be more concrete and precise than "*ice*" which could be interpreted as a ice cream at least in the french language.

## A theme and a writing that opens to reflexions

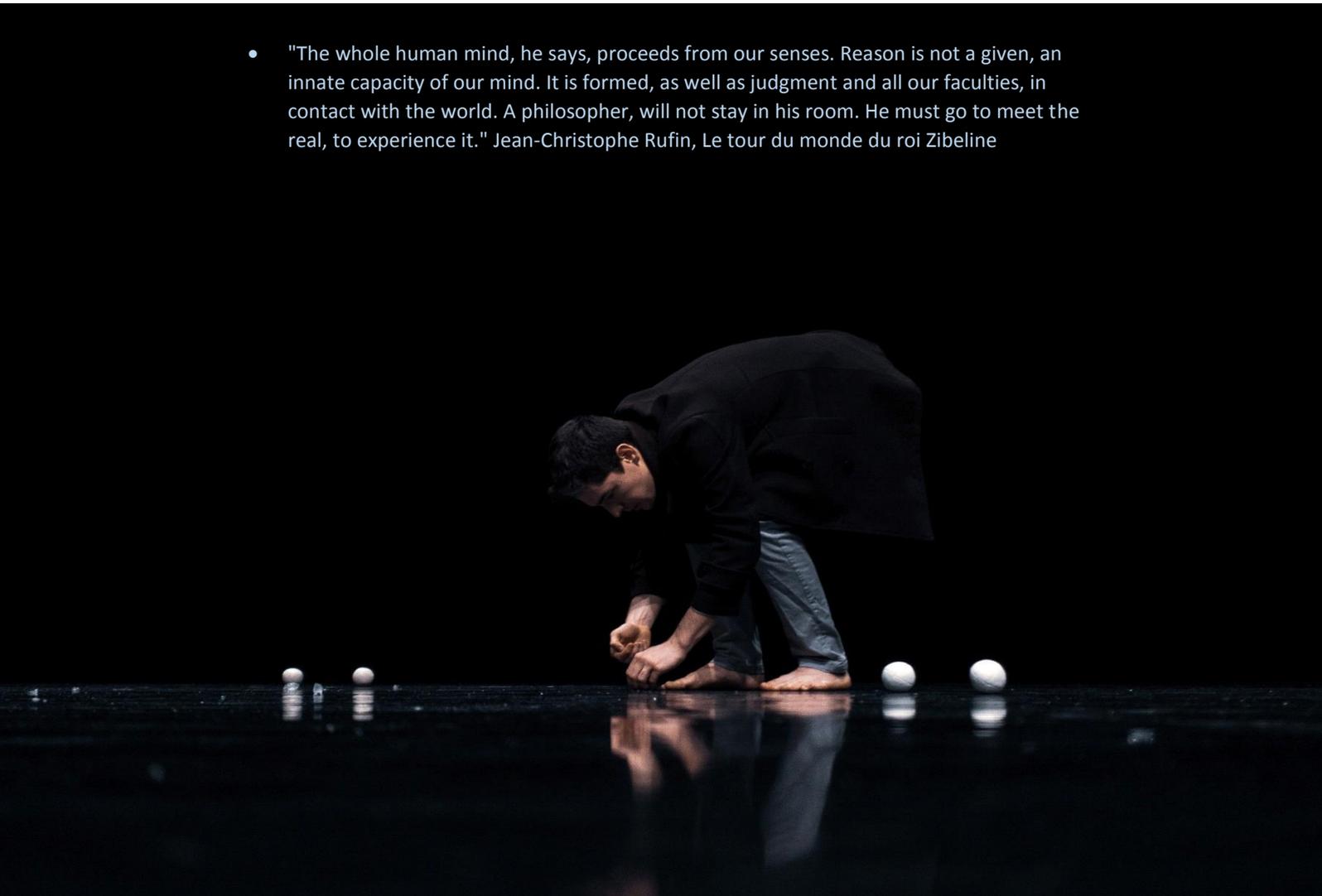
Ice in itself already carries meanings, since the actuality of the global warning has never been that strong. It's a choice I made to not share it the same ways we see them in social medias or news.

The starting point of the show First snow is my experience of a walk, alone in a parc full of snow. This walk made me think about my concrete relation to nature and at the same time to my abstract interpretation of the world. That's what I want to share in "*I juggle frozen water*", a moment that stimulates **the senses and the mind**.

What is my relation to this little frozen flower ? What is my relation to this parc I know since 10 years ? What is my relation to this melting snow ? What is my relation to coldness ?

By applying this process around this meaningful element in my juggling, in an abstract and concrete way, I invite the audience to question their own relation to things. My conviction as an artist being that every answer we find about our own relation to the world, makes us understand it more, to be able to change it for better.

- "The whole human mind, he says, proceeds from our senses. Reason is not a given, an innate capacity of our mind. It is formed, as well as judgment and all our faculties, in contact with the world. A philosopher, will not stay in his room. He must go to meet the real, to experience it." Jean-Christophe Rufin, *Le tour du monde du roi Zibeline*



## Description of the show :

"*I juggle frozen water*" is composed of two main parts. Those two parts are two ways of experiencing something.

**The beginning of the show and the first part** are an invitation to imagine, interpret. The universe is **abstract**, but offers enough frame for the spectator to let himself follow his own interpretation without feeling lost in the performance. In this part I don't concretely juggle the "frozen water", but I use **concepts** that I associate with ice in my juggling.

Here is a list of concepts I used : Ephemeral, slow, melt, frozen, unpredictable, drop, transformation, fragile, snow game, winter, white, echoe, liquid, solid.

Here is an example of how I use them : There is in juggling the notion of transition. To pass from a trick to another, I should make a transition throw. This is usefull to make sequences without stopping between each trick, it's a strong concept of the contemporary juggling. I created in the show a sequence where those transitions aren't just a throw, but many throws, more than needed. It creates slow transitions where you can see every steps of the transformation from one pattern to another. I had this idea thinking about the transformation of the ice, which is a concept of my list.

In this way, the whole first part use those abstracts concepts. They are also the starting point of all my choice of composition : Music, ligts, costume, space... Those elements are a support for this universe in which I want the audience to be in.

**The second part of the show** is an invitation to feel, live the moment.

It's a discovery of the ice through the manipulation of it. "*I juggle frozen water*" becomes literal. I made the ice in a balls shape, which is one of the symbols of the juggling, with the clubs and rings. **The balls slipe, breakes, melt...** By applying this symbol to the ice, I offer a new reality to the ice, but also to the juggling. It's this new reality that I discover with the audience.

The 4th wall of the theater already broke when the first ice ball hit the floor. During this transition from the first part of the show to second part, the abstract universe becomes a real moment in which the artist is now a human curious of the world surrendering himself : **A freezer, pieces of ice, balls, audience...**

During this **second part** each ice balls is broken, until there is only left a lot of ice pieces on the floor. A changement of lights reveal the beauty of this landscape of ice and gives the audience a visuel and imaginary experience, and then comes the **epilogue...** The audience is welcome on stage to touch, feel and play with the ice... But before that, they must try to "feel" the coldness of the ice through their mind (I use the term feel and not imagine). It's a mental exercise which often ends up by : "it's more cold than I could imagine"

It's a final experience of those two concepts of abstract and concrete, which are two different ways of experiencing the world around us.





I was born in France in 1997 and I started exploring circus at the age of 7 at Cirqu'onflexe, the local youth circus school of Amiens. There, I discovered the art of juggling, and I also gained in self-confidence. I continued on to preparatory education at the CRAC of Lomme in 2015 and at the Fratellini Academy in 2016. I graduated from the Stockholm University of the Arts Bachelor programme in Circus in 2020. This formation has been rich in many ways, and I feel ready to live this artist life I dreamed about. I'm now developing personal projects, and I'm also working as an interpreter for international companies.

Circus and circus schools have always been a place I could express myself, learn and experiment. What I'm looking for in the future is to be part of projects that allow me to continue this creative process. "I juggle frozen water" is a project that gives me this feeling, which makes it really important for me to carry on.

"Benjamin has excellent abilities for analysis, reflection, and he is highly creative. He is precise and methodical and is well-disposed to challenge himself and test new methods. In addition to being an outstanding juggler, he is agile in acrobatics, he has an instinctive sense for movement and musicality."

Marie-Andrée Robitaille, Head of the Bachelor Program in Circus at DOCH (2009-2018)

## Contact and links :

Mail : [benjjonglage@gmail.com](mailto:benjjonglage@gmail.com)

Website (CV) : <https://benjaminbeaujard.fr/juggling-by-benjamin-beaujard/>

Short video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bWJ8rvot8PA>