

press release

KUNSTHAL ROTTERDAM



Press release, 17 September 2026

Kunsthal Rotterdam and Theater Rotterdam translate successful dance performance *(Sur)render* by Alida Dors into immersive exhibition

How can you transfer a live performance to an exhibition space? Taking the successful performance *(Sur)render* by theatre maker and choreographer Alida Dors as their point of departure, Kunsthal Rotterdam and Theater Rotterdam have joined forces to engage in an extraordinary experiment. The multidisciplinary theatrical production will be translated into an immersive exhibition; visitors will not only experience the performance's subject matter as spectators, but will become part of it themselves. *(Sur)render* will be on display in Kunsthal Rotterdam's HALL 4 from 17 October.

Weaving together dance, music, poetry, and video art, *(Sur)render* reflects on the systems we live in and the impact they have on humanity and the planet. In this joint production, Kunsthal Rotterdam and Theater Rotterdam are exploring ways to give theatrical productions a new lease of life within the context of an exhibition. The immersive installation at the Kunsthal is a spatial translation of the artistic and social themes running through the theatrical performance. Central to the project is the relationship between human beings and nature: How did we become so estranged from each other, and how can we restore our connection?

"This collaboration with Theater Rotterdam ties in with the Kunsthal's ambition to explore new presentation formats. The performance (Sur)render left a deep impression on me and I am therefore very much looking forward to what this collaboration will bring. I believe the manner in which this project has come into being to be equally worthwhile: two leading Rotterdam institutions jointly entering into something without first determining what it should end up as. This requires mutual trust, and to me that is exactly what makes this collaboration so powerful."

- Marianne Splint, general director Kunsthal Rotterdam

Known for her multidisciplinary work that brings together dance, music, spoken work, and social engagement, Alida Dors is one of the leading theatre makers in the Netherlands. Dors on *(Sur)render*:

"I believe our current view of humanity is bankrupt. The unnatural systems we've built keep grinding away, leaving us burned out, exhausted, and disconnected – from each other and from the world around us. But it's not too late. (Sur)render is about yielding to a 'new us,' recognising our deep dependence on each other and on nature."

A compelling set design developed by Elsemarijn Bruys guides visitors through six sensory spaces that represent various stages in the relationship between human beings and nature. The spaces evoke alternating feelings of detachment, oppression, confrontation, and tranquillity. *(Sur)render* is a journey that invites visitors to contemplate their own position in the world.

The exhibition *Theater Rotterdam: (Sur)render* will be on view from Saturday 17 October 2026 until 17 January 2027 at Kunsthall Rotterdam.

Friday Night LIVE x Theater Rotterdam

16 October | 17:00 – 22:00 hrs

Each third Friday of the month, a Rotterdam cultural partner takes over the Kunsthall for an exciting evening programme: Friday Night LIVE. On Friday 16 October the collaboration between the Kunsthall and Theater Rotterdam will take centre stage, bringing to life the exhibition *(Sur)render* in surprising ways. More information will follow soon on www.kunsthall.nl/live

Photo captions from left to right:

1. *(Sur)render* photograph: Mark Bolk
2. *(Sur)render* photograph: Mark Bolk

→ For more press information and/or photographic material, please contact Kunsthall Rotterdam's communication department: Caroline van den Boomgaard, t. +31 (0)10-4400391, +31 (0)6-10901348; Sabine Parmentier t. +31 (0)10- 4400321, +31 (0)6-52636232; communicatie@kunsthall.nl
→ In case of publication, please mention: info +31 (0)10-4400301, www.kunsthall.nl, opening hours: Tuesdays – Sundays 10:00 – 17:00 hrs.

About Kunsthall Rotterdam

Kunsthall Rotterdam is one of the leading cultural institutes in the Netherlands, situated in the Museumpark in Rotterdam. Designed by the renowned architect Rem Koolhaas in 1992, the Kunsthall has seven different exhibition spaces. The Kunsthall annually presents a varied programme consisting of around 20 exhibitions. As visitors are always able to visit multiple concurrent exhibitions, the Kunsthall can offer them an adventurous journey through different continents and art movements. Culture for a wide audience, from modern-day masters and contemporary art to overlooked cultures, photography, fashion, and design. The exhibitions are accompanied by an extensive programme of activities.

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