



CARMEN RAFFAELA KUESTER

**circus creator, performer,
researcher & teacher**

MA Co-Creation in Movement / Choreography
BA Visual Communication & Product Design
State-approved Circus Pedagogue

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Languages
german (mother tongue)
english & italian – fluent
french – solid basics



ABOUT ME

I am a circus artist & creator passionate about the entwinement of physical performance and artistic expression unique to the circus arts. I am curious about creative processes, and consider artistic research a journey into the unknown – to find new approaches to movement qualities and physical artistic expression you have to keep an open mind. I love to use the metaphor of growth from seed to flowering plant for artistic project development and consider myself a 'permacultural choreographer'.



EDUCATION

2017-19 **MA in Choreography / Co-Creation of Movement**
Master of Arts. Joint degree by Codarts, Rotterdam & Fontys, Tilburg, the Netherlands.

2005-09 **BA in Visual Communication & Product Design.**
unibz – Free University of Bolzano, Italy.



ACHIEVEMENTS

2018 **state-approved Circus Pedagogue.**
Certified by BAG Zirkuspädagogik, Germany

2016 **co-founder of in_tensegrity** – association
for movement arts, Vienna.

2011/12 Fellowship at **Akademie Schloss Solitude**
Stuttgart, Germany.

2008 **Erasmus Scholarship** at **écal École Cantonale**
des Arts de Lausanne, Switzerland.



ARTISTIC WORKS

2020 **Tree Encounters** – Berlin Series / Artistic Research
Fellowship-like project grant by #takecare, Fonds Daku.

2019-21 **Striking Roots into the Void** Artistic Research
and Performance Project featuring aerial acrobatics
on a tree root. Premiere in September 2021

2018 initiator & leader of 6-weeks **Aerial Choreo Lab**,
Berlin.

2013- 2018 **flying trapeze artist.** Creation and touring
of the show '**Gravity is a Mistake**' with Omnivoltant.

2016 Premiere of **hochSpannung** at **Winterfest Salzburg**.
Contemporary Circus Piece – Aerial Counterweight
Duett with in_tensegrity.

since 2014 '**dance with me**' counterweighted Dance Trapeze
Solo, performed internationally USA, UK, EU.

since 2013 '**trap(eze) me & turn me on**' clownesk Dance
Trapeze Solo, performed at Wintergarten Berlin,
Pfefferberg Theater 2018, 'Eye Candy' tfk Berlin
2016, and many other events.

the performer elicits gasps from the audience as she flies, glides and flips with a near-violent beauty, appearing as if she could care less about the possibility of falling...

(RGJ Publishing, USA)



FURTHER FORMATION

- 2018 #4 Artistic Research Encounter by Bauke Lievens. At Chateau Monthelon, France.
- 2015 Masterclass Swinging Trapeze at CNAC, France.
- 2013 Labor Cirque. First Artistic Research Lab for Circus in Germany, Cologne by INZ (now BUZZ).

selection of attended
Masterclasses and Intensives:

Flying Trapeze – Mike Wright & Omnivoltant
Swinging Trapeze – Robert Noe, Christian Etienne.
Dance Trapeze – Joseph Pinzon
Rope – Emiliano Ron
Wheel of Death – La Rotative
(Site specific) Performance – Firenza Guidi
Butoh Dance – Christine Chu
Dancing with Objects – Julika Meyer, Stefan Sing
Contemporary Dance – Christana Casadio, Paolo Fossa, Larrio Ekson, Stella Moutapa, Silvia Ventura, Ricardo de Paula and others.



TEACHING

- 2020 Artistic Research lecture for Research Fair Fontys & for COMMA Master program / second cohort.
- 2019 one week aerial Lab / artistic creation for BA Choreography students, Fontys, NL.
- since 2019 teaching at CTC Salzburg, for MOTA e.V.
- 2018 Aerial Choreo Lab Berlin.
- 2015/16 trainer at 'Die ETAGE' school for the performing Arts Berlin. all aerial classes, of all years and levels.
- 2016-18 teaching Flying trapeze at the Petit Volant Rig for Omnivoltant, Berlin.
- since 2014 Private Aerial Classes – for semi-professionals and advanced amateurs or in preparation for professional circus schools.
- since 2005 teaching for Circus Luna/ CH, LILALU Munich/D, Peperoni e.V. Heidelberg/ D, SSV Bozen/I, animativa e.V. Merano/Italy