

## **WHILE THEY BUILD, THE GROUND IS DANCING**

Gaëtan Rusquet's "Meanwhile" - a highlight in the Impulstanz Festival  
Helmut Ploebst

**Vienna:** The megacities built by the crown of creation are rather primitive compared to the structures made by the leaf cutting ants.

Nevertheless, it does not restrain the biped species from building as if there was no tomorrow.

Belgian artist and choreographer, Gaëtan Rusquet, finds a fitting metaphor for this blind sighted and destructive hubris in his latest performance, "Meanwhile", currently presented in the Mumok Hofstallungen in the Impulstanz Festival.

Two men and a woman, serious and diligent, pile up bricks on table-like podiums. The air is filled with a menacing roar, reminiscent of the sound of a jet nozzle.

The construction happens both in a prominent site and a side site, where something strange begins to happen. The ground starts to vibrate and what has been built starts to shift until it actually disintegrates. Nevertheless, on the main site, they continue to build. A high wall takes shape.

Rusquet, who not only aroused attention in Brussels, where the 30 year old lives and works, succeeds in making the scene riveting.

His dance does not need human bodies as prostheses of the real. His dancers are workers. They are doing concrete things.

Thus the dance in "Meanwhile" starts where everything is decided: In concealed and non-controllable processes, permanently taking place around us and within us.

As soon as the ground under the huge wall begins to vibrate, it can no longer be held. After its dramatic fall, our three sympathetic characters begin to build again, without batting an eye or changing strategy, having learned nothing. The evening remains brilliant throughout.

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**Helmut Ploebst**  
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