



## **Acqua Alta - Crossing the mirror**

Pop-up book in augmented reality, 2019, Adrien M & Claire B

### Instructions for use and language elements

The tablets allow you to discover the augmented reality hidden in the drawings:

- look at a double-page spread with your screen;
- allow the virtual universe to unfurl in superposition with the real world.

Looking through a tablet or a smartphone, the ten double-pages of the book become the stage for a short dance performance - thanks to a custom-made augmented reality application. In a simple graphic stroke in black and white, ink drawings and white folded paper come together to reveal the virtual life of miniature beings ensconced in an imaginary world imbued with the imagination of water. This experience is at the crossroads of theatre, dance, comic book, animated film and “artsy” video game.

Acqua Alta tells the story of a woman, a man, a house. A daily routine, absurd and filled with discrepancies. But one wet rainy day, their life is turned upside down: the rising waters drown their home in an ink-coloured sea. The woman slips and disappears. Only her hair remains, and it is alive. It tells the tale of a disaster, unique and universal. It tells of losing and searching. It tells of the fear of the bizarre and otherness, and how to tame it.

Created by Adrien M & Claire B, Acqua Alta came into being in January 2019. The project unfolds three-ways: this pop-up book in augmented reality; a visual theatre performance that blends movement and living digital images; an immersive experience in a virtual reality headset. The book was subject to a fundraising campaign on Kickstarter. We thank most warmly all contributors who made the first edition of this book possible. The book Acqua Alta - Crossing the mirror is available for sale at [am-cb.net/bookstore/en](http://am-cb.net/bookstore/en)

### Credits

Concept and artistic direction: Claire Bardainne and Adrien Mondot

Drawings and paper design: Claire Bardainne

Computer design: Adrien Mondot

Original music: Olivier Mellano

Choreographic performance: Dimitri Hatton and Satchie Noro

Computer development: Rémi Engel  
Paper engineering: Eric Singelin  
Script doctor: Marietta Ren  
Administration: Marek Vuiton , assisted by Mathis Guyetand  
Technical direction: Raphaël Guénot  
Production and booking: Joanna Rieussec  
Production: Juli Allard-Schaefer, Margaux Fritsch and Delphine Teypez  
Mediation and production: Johanna Guerreiro

## Production

Adrien M & Claire B

## Co-production

This book was produced by the company Adrien M & Claire B, and coproduced in France by LUX scène nationale de Valence, with help from the support fund [SCAN] Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes. It was subject to a fundraising campaign on Kickstarter. It has received the Excellence Award in the Art division of the 2021 Japan Media Arts Festival, the special AR jury award at the 2021 New Images Festival in Paris and the Individual Award in the Interactive Experience category for the 2020 CITIC Press Lightening Selection.

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## ADRIEN M & CLAIRE B

Founded in 2011, the Adrien M & Claire B company creates digital and living art forms, ranging from stage performance to installations. It is co-directed by Claire Bardainne and Adrien Mondot, whose approach puts the human experience at the centre of technological issues, with a strong visual focus on the body and unique bespoke technologies created inhouse.

They strive to create living digital art: mobile, handcrafted, short-lived, and responsive. Together, they question the movement and the living in resonance with graphic and digital arts. The result is a poetic visual language blending imaginary, real and virtual dimensions while bearing unlimited opportunities for artistic exploration.

