

Ralf Assmann

The multifaceted artist, born in Chemnitz (Germany) and lives in Bern (Switzerland) for the past nine years, is deeply interested in social transformation processes and the active shaping of society.



In his 2025-founded art and environmental education project „TierART,“ he focuses on over 21 selected native wildlife species, giving them artistic attention and a voice through outreach to schools and other collaborative and performance projects.

In 2023, Ralf implemented his first inclusive large-scale art project „Our World Village,“ addressing the uniqueness of every individual and personal migration stories in collaboration with the community of Kehrsatz in the Canton of Bern. In 2020, he created the art documentary film „Fall Penguin,“ which poetically engages with climate change.

Ralf works as a freelance artist in schools, implementing cross-disciplinary semester art projects with classes. In 2019, he founded the „Méander Art Kollektiv,“ a collective of artists (musicians, dancers, theater creators, authors) who co-creatively develop performance pieces on currently pressing issues, often presenting them in site-specific natural venues, guiding the audience from scene to scene. Their thematic explorations include climate change, species extinction, returned species such as wolves and salmon, and non-anthropocentric perspectives.

In 2018, Ralf released his first singer-songwriter album „Zuhause“ under the artist name **MÉANDER**. His second album „Zwielicht“ followed in 2022, and in 2024, his third album „Hier“ was released. He is expected to release his latest album „Tacheles“ in 2027, which combines various musical styles.

In the VIDMARhallen in Bern, he founded the **TanzKunstWerk** in 2017, a space for movement research and improvisation, as well as therapeutic artistic approaches.

Ralf worked for a year as a stage designer at the **Zurich Opera House** in 2015. Prior to that, he completed his diploma in theater design/stage design at the **University of Fine Arts in Dresden** in 2014 and undertook various further training in Japanese Butoh, the Tamalpa Life/Art Process, and contemporary dance. For several years, Ralf assisted the Japanese choreographer and dancer Minako Seki in Berlin and danced with the „Re:Enter“ dance company. From 2013 to 2014, he received a Germany Scholarship for advanced artistic studies.

Ralf Assmann's work seeks depth, authenticity, and a connection to something essential. In his specialization in mask-making, performance, poetry and his musicality, all his diverse skills and interests converge.

ralfassmann.ch

Portfolio

Here you can see selected video and music compositions, as well as collaborative performance works from recent years.



„**TIDES**“ speaks of the polar forces that work in all living things. It is about the natural rhythms of life, inside and out, the longing and desire for something and the ever recurring letting go of everything that has been held.

Méander

Link: https://youtu.be/a1_nKV9wKW0



„**FJURDA**“ is dedicated to the Bernese wolf F78, who was shot on February 28, 2021, due to too many sheep attacks. (German language)

Méander

Link: <https://youtu.be/u4eWOQA5reg>



„**WEIGHT**“ reminds us that we are part of nature. It also describes a feeling of departure. Just as a seed breaks through the earth on its journey to the light, we too set out towards something noble.

Méander

Link: <https://youtu.be/MPuVwzSGEUs>



2026, i presented my latest piece „**RE:SALMON**,“ which addresses the return of salmon to European and Swiss waters. In addition to the dance piece, a song and music video on the topic were also created.

BETA Stage Festival 2026 & Kulturwochenende Schwyz

With: Bettina Zumstein, Massimo Bertinelli, Sheila Lindauer, Ralf Assmann

Link: <https://youtu.be/y4pjqHdXFYk>



2026, In my Performancepiece „**WALD(Z)ER**“ I used the works in the exhibition as a starting point to model and develop diverse abstract stage and body elements from recycled paper live for the performance. Young and old could engage as spectators and participants, listening to the stimulating sounds and the malleability of paper in motion

At the Art Museum Thun



2024, as part of the Sustainability Days in Bern, the duo piece „**SAY THEIR NAMES**“ emerged, poetically addressing the names of endangered native species and pronouncing and displaying those names.

In the old Town of Bern

With: Deborah Gos, Ralf Assmann



2023, the co-created dance piece „**WIND**“ was developed. Dance and natural soundscapes are complemented by videos and spoken poetry.

BETA Stage Festival 2023

With: Ralf Assmann, Massimo Bertinelli, Sheila Lindauer, Eveline Noth, Rüdiger Schödel



2022, the piece „**BECOMING ANIMAL**“ followed, addressing the animality within humans and indigenous mask rituals. The starting point were the wall paintings in the Lascaux caves and texts created on-site.

BETA Stage Festival 2022

With: Camille Mariéthoz, Irina Bürgi, Noah Harharah, Ralf Assmann



2021, the piece „**WOLVES**“ was created, an artistic exploration and personal engagement with the predator that has returned to Switzerland.

BETA Stage Festival 2021 &

Kulturwochenende Schwyz

With: Aron Kibrom, Berta Alig, Gabriela Bosshard, Josias Brotbeck, Massimo Bertinelli, Ralf Assmann, Remo Ryser, Sheila Runa Lindauer



2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, „**FALL PENGUIN**“ came to cinemas. It is a poetic project about climate change, migration, and coping with grief. It tells the story of penguins, glaciers, and people who lose their habitats and loved ones and set out in search of new possibilities and a potential future.

Bern, Thun, Aletsch Glacier

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DI-iaOJ_m60&t=16s



2019, my first full-length collective piece „**BESTIARIUM**“ was created, artistically addressing endangered and threatened species on the Red List.

BETA Stage Festival 2019

With: Laura Imperiali, Marguerite Laleye, Marius Soluna, Christina Liechti, Miriam von Känel, Ralf Assmann



2019, everything began with a performance at the Bern *climate strike* titled „**VOICES OF TREES**“, where we, loaded with supporters and various tree species, moved slowly and deliberately through the Bern old town to the Bundesplatz, playing poetic texts (German/French) over loudspeakers from the train station.

With: Camille Merithoz, Irina Bürgi, Chris Leuenberger, Ralf Assmann



2015, „**CRESCENDO**“ is a becoming louder, an intensifying sound that embeds itself deep within, in space and time. The dancing body carves its way through the space, increasingly transforming into the matter that remains, as a sculpture and as a memory.

Solo Performance, Diplom-Project at University of Fine Arts Dresden

More about me and my work:

ralfassmann.ch