

# Myrthe Van der Mark (NL, 1989)

[www.myrthevandermark.com](http://www.myrthevandermark.com)

Myrthe van der Mark is an artist, writer and performer. Researching the intersection of disciplines, and the way she can reflect on the notions of the self as a writer, self as a performer and self as any other maker, is what most of Van der Mark's work is involved with in the arts. Her work is a dynamic performance-collage founded on improvisation and associative leaps. An experimental and playful relation to production is reflected in the collages. It is visible in the 20 performances she made with her performance duo CMMC, in collaboration with Céline Mathieu, over the past six years, which are collections and interpretations of found visual, textual and choreographic material. But also in the paper collages and in self-edited documentation videos in which her appearance is that one of an ambiguous protagonist. Who says what and how, who embodies what are key questions for a viewer, who is left deciphering intentions, relations and emotions.

Myrthe van der Mark (b. 1989 Zeist, NL) studies at the Master in Theatre at the Institute of Performative Arts - Toneelacademie Maastricht. In 2012 she obtained her Bachelor of Fine Arts at ArtEZ Academy of Art & Design Arnhem. She has been doing an additional Bachelor program in Drama-Directing at RITCS Brussels.

## ABOUT THE WORK

### 'OF COMING FORTH BY DAY - THE TRANSFORMATIONS' (2019)

28 x 15 x 15 cm

Video of 100 drawings (black pencil on op paper, 100 g/m<sup>2</sup>, 35 x 50 cm)

Van der Mark's OF COMING FORTH BY DAY - THE TRANSFORMATIONS is an elaborate collection of 100 drawings made with black fineliner on old paper. The paper, beautifully coloured by the sun, went through a transformation - giving up its blanco canvas and gaining maturity, grains and complexity. Van der Mark started to make blind contour drawings based on vignettes from 'The Book of the Dead', an ancient Egyptian funerary book, depicting and guiding the deceased through the Duat (or underworld) and into the afterlife.

It was generally written on papyrus that had a same-like color as the paper used by Van der Mark. The ancient book was used from around 1550 BCE to around 50 BCE. The term "Book" is the closest to describe the loose collection of texts consisting of a number of magic spells. There were various versions of the book in use and besides the tips and tricks for the deceased they also contain valuable information for the priests and balms. In a way this book was actually one of first manuals, containing DIY info but also trying to grasp the science and techniques behind specific practical matters. The book has a double function: a spiritual rite de passage and an elaborate scientific blueprint.

Van der Mark used these extracts and hymns to come to an understanding of how the saved soul is raised and transformed like an eternal spirit, just like that of God. By blind drawing the book she tries to reenact the rituals - giving herself to the old practices used for the transformation that every soul need to undergo. The act of blind drawing is a journey on itself. The artist can not look. Can not correct and can not embellish. The only thing the artist can do is go furth with the act of drawing and letting the unconsciousness and the psyche come together.