

# Reckless Sleepers

## Negative Space



created by  
mole wetherell for reckless sleepers  
duration 60 minutes

[reckless-sleepers.eu](http://reckless-sleepers.eu)

# publicity & reviews



To begin, Reckless Sleepers built a room-sized wooden frame and lined it with plasterboard. For several weeks they started smashing it up, smashing it down, then piecing together the fragments of their destruction back together. The result is this show, *Negative Space*.

From a blank architectural canvas, something fantastical emerges. It's a love story. It's a slapstick comedy. It's slasher, action, melodrama...and not a single word is spoken. Soon different possible stories are spiralling around, hurtling towards an ending.

'This show makes confetti of convention' - Elliot Garlick

"Negative Space is..... beautiful" James Varney Exuent

'the threads passing through this show are infinite and infinitely fine, you might pluck anything from them; gender politics, domestic violence, the Eurozone, the Spanish Civil War' - James Varney Exuent

"Brilliant" - James Varney Exuent

"bloody brilliant!" - Mark Dee North West End

"Once you start you cannot take your eyes from the stage." Mark Dee North West End

It feels particularly powerful to watch this performance during these weeks of isolation – it speaks deeply to anyone wondering if it's normal to want to hug everyone you live with as tightly as possible in one moment, and scream so loudly they all evaporate in the next. Though devised and performed well before COVID-19, it reaches into our current experience with a cutting honesty. - Jean Baulch

[reviews](#)

# the project



Practical work started on Negative Space in the summer of 2014 in Gent, The scenery was originally built as a 1 : 1 scale model to establish where we might build doors, hatches, windows, and to do this we used a cheap material cladding a simple wooden frame.

The first thing that we tried once the cladding had been completed was to smash a hole in a wall.

What then followed was a continuation of this process smashing up and breaking down the walls as quickly as we'd built them.

And then after about 4 weeks of playing inside this broken space we began to piece fragments together.

The resulting work in progress was madness, chaotic and dangerous, An energy that was important to maintain so we took some time out and started to structure and order what we'd made, out of that order the performance Negative Space came through.

Zwarte Zaal K.A.S.K Gent  
Canterbury Christ Church University  
Compass Live Art Festival Premiere.

In 2015 the project began a touring schedule in 2019 the performance was captured during a residency at the University of Salford for Digital Theatre+.

A full edited version of the performance , interview and publication is now available to subscribers.

[Digital Theatre+](#)

# the company

Reckless Sleepers started in 1989 incorporated as a UK company in 1994 it is currently a group of 13 individual artists who live in different places around Europe. The company is dedicated to the production, presentation and development of innovative contemporary visual art & performance.

Over the past 30 years Reckless Sleepers have produced many highly original performance pieces, exhibitions, installations and education programmes. The company has bases in the UK and Belgium. The company artists are all specialists in theatre making, and have additional expertise in dance, performance, visual art, design & education.

Current repertoire projects

Negative Space, A String Section, Schrödinger, It's Hot It's Not.

Artistic Statement

Reckless Sleepers create original theatre pieces installation projects and interventions for theatres, galleries, museums, site and seasonally specific projects that both entertain and challenge its audiences, viewers and participants.

Reckless Sleepers produce works from a basis of research & development; where ideas are central, projects are installed rather than presented, mistakes are embraced, ideas are given a chance, & a second chance, pushed so that they become uncomfortable to do, uncomfortable to listen to & uncomfortable to watch.

The company take almost 18 months to deliver a project from initial idea through to finished product, once produced a piece of work will still go through a process of change & reworking. Projects remain in repertoire until they become unworkable. The company invest in research phases for all new ideas, out of these phases new projects emerge, sometimes they are theatre pieces, sometimes not.



Production

downloads

[Technical Files](#)

[Publicity Photographs](#)

[Performance Photographs](#)

# Reckless Sleepers

credits

Created by Mole Wetherell for Reckless Sleepers.

Concept: Mole Wetherell

Performed by

Mole Wetherell

Alex Covell

Leentje Van De Cruys

Kevin Egan

Rebecca Young

Tim Ingram

Leen Dewilde

Rachel Rimmer-Piekarczyk

Producer: Mole Wetherell

contact

Mole Wetherell

[info@reckless-sleepers.co.uk](mailto:info@reckless-sleepers.co.uk)

+32 473928158

[www.reckless-sleepers.eu](http://www.reckless-sleepers.eu)

**Reckless  
Sleepers**



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