

BREATHCORE @ Ariana



Presentation

BREATHCORE @ Ariana is a participatory sound performance conceived specifically for the architecture and collections of the Musée Ariana – Swiss Museum of Ceramics and Glass.

Created by Brussels-based flutist and performer **Michael Schmid**, the project explores **human breathing** as both a sonic and social material. Breath becomes the medium for a **collective artistic experience**, generating a sensitive dialogue between bodies, space, and artworks. The performance unfolds as a dynamic soundscape of human respiration, composed of overlapping rhythms, tensions, suspensions, and moments of calm.

The project engages participants in an active and accessible artistic process. **A group of 50–80 participants** will be recruited through an open call, with no prior artistic training required. Preparatory workshops, led by Michael Schmid and two trained assistants, will develop a **shared respiratory practice** based on listening, synchronization, and dialogue. Drawing on diverse bodily and musical traditions, these sessions cultivate a collective presence and a shared sonic language. The **public performance** extends this participatory process, gradually blurring the boundaries between performers and audience. The project fosters inclusion, collaboration, and shared artistic creation, ensuring accessibility for participants from diverse social, cultural, and age backgrounds.

Konnekt is proud to present *Breathcore* for the first time in Geneva on **October 31, 2026**, within the prestigious setting of the Musée Ariana. For this occasion, the artist will present a special **site-specific version adapted to the museum**. This project fosters international artistic exchange by **inviting leading figures from the Belgian scene, following previous collaborations** with Needcompany, Charlemagne Palestine, and Seppe Gebruers. It also offers Geneva audiences a unique opportunity to actively participate in the creation of contemporary art within a major institutional context.

Future projects will continue to involve renowned Belgian artists, expanding Konnekt's activities and strengthening cultural connections between Geneva, the Flemish region, and the Brussels-Capital area.

Project Details

For its **premiere in Geneva**, Konnekt **expands the project** by conceiving a sound diffusion across the exceptional architecture of the Musée Ariana, with the intention that “the entire building breathes.”

Michael Schmid and the performers will present the performance from the balconies and walkways of the museum’s main hall. To enhance this performance—typically presented in a fully acoustic format—Konnekt will also broadcast the sound through multiple loudspeakers installed in other rooms of the museum.

To give further resonance to this special occasion, which also marks the Geneva premiere, Konnekt will document the performance through audio and video recordings. This material will support future dissemination and development of the project, serving both Konnekt and Michael Schmid in the creation of new site-specific versions.

Impact

- Promotes **participatory and inclusive artistic practices**, engaging audiences as active collaborators rather than passive spectators.
- Provides a **multisensory experience** that merges sound, spatial, and visual art.
- Facilitates **exchanges between professional artists and diverse participants**, supporting experimental and collaborative creation.
- Aligns with the **Arts Decree’s participatory priorities**, broadening access and deepening public involvement in the arts.
- **Strengthens cultural links with the Belgian scene**, connecting Geneva with the Dutch-speaking region and the bilingual Brussels-Capital area, fostering international artistic dialogue.

Timeline

Michael Schmid will travel to Geneva on three occasions: first, to train two assistants (in Geneva) whose support will be essential to the project; then, to lead the preparation workshops with participants; and finally, for the final rehearsal followed by the public performance.

September 2026: Open call and participant selection

October 16-18, 2026 :

October 23–25, 2026: Preparatory workshops

October 30, 2026: Final rehearsal

October 31, 2026: Public performance (approx. 40 minutes)

Requested Support

To ensure the implementation of this participatory performance and public access to the event, Konnekt requests support from the Flemish Arts Decree (Kunstendecreet) - **Allowance for an International Presentation**

This funding will specifically allow us to:

- **Facilitate audience participation**, providing the resources and structures needed for active engagement.
- **Support diverse and inclusive programming**, enabling participation from individuals of varied backgrounds.
- **Enable experimental and collective artistic practices**, including logistical, technical, and production needs.
- **Strengthen international artistic collaboration**, consolidating connections with Belgian artists and institutions.
- **Ensure broad access to the event**, covering outreach, communication, and accessibility measures.



Featured Artist - Michael Schmid (Brussels)

Michael Schmid is a musician and flutist specializing in contemporary experimental music. A fixed member of the Belgian Ictus Ensemble and as freelancer he has worked with most of the major European New Music Ensembles as chamber musician and soloist.

Next to his activity as flutist, he appears as performer of concrete poetry, builds sound installations and writes sound pieces. He has a profound interest in the politics and communication processes of music making.

Among his notable creations are *Breathcore*, *Beat Fucked Elf*, and *Krächa!*, premiered in Brussels at major international platforms such as the Kunstenfestivaldesarts and the Bozar Electronic Arts Festival. These works mark an important phase in his artistic development and continue to inform his current practice.

More recent collaborations include projects with leading figures in contemporary performance and choreography such as Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker (Rosas), Boris Charmatz, Jérôme Bel, as well as filmmaker Manon de Boer (notably in the context of documenta 13). He has also worked with composer Georges Aperghis and artist Brynjar Sigurdarson, including projects with the Lafayette Anticipation Foundation. His recordings have been released on labels such as Cyprès, HAT Records, CPO, WERGO, and Stradivarius, and his work has been featured on television and radio.

Links :

www.ictus.be/schmid; www.breathcore.org

Contact: schmid@ictus.be



Contact in Switzerland - Association Konnekt

Chemin des Sports 87
1203 Geneva
Switzerland

Tel. : + 41 78 722 11 85

E-mail : admin@konnekt.co

Website : www.konnekt.co

Coordonnées bancaires :

Konnekt Association, 1200, Genève

IBAN : CH03 0900 0000 1279 6035 8

BIC : POFICHBEXX

CCP : 12-796035-8

Attachments – Confirmation Letters



DÉPARTEMENT DE LA CULTURE
ET DE LA TRANSITION NUMÉRIQUE

MUSÉE ARIANA



MUSÉE SUISSE DE LA CÉRAMIQUE ET DU VERRE

Par mail [Nicolas nicolas@konnekt.co](mailto:Nicolas.nicolas@konnekt.co)

Monsieur Nicolas Field
Association Konnekt

Genève, le 13 février 2026

Objet

Musée Ariana / Konnekt – Lettre d'intention

Cher Monsieur,

Directeur
Bertrand Mazeirat
☎: +4122 418.54.82
bertrand.mazeirat@geneve.ch

Par la présente, le Musée Ariana souhaite exprimer son intention de collaboration avec l'association genevoise Konnekt, active dans le domaine des arts sonores, en vue de la réalisation du projet Breathcore, conçu et dirigé par Michael Schmid.

Dans le cadre de l'exposition Le verre, au-delà de la matière (du 24 avril 2026 au 3 janvier 2027), présentée au Musée Ariana, Breathcore est envisagé comme une performance site-specific. Celle-ci fera dialoguer les œuvres exposées avec l'architecture singulière du musée, en mobilisant des thématiques communes à la respiration et au verre, telles que le souffle, la vibration et la fragilité.

En résonance avec les ateliers et activités proposés autour de l'exposition, Breathcore réunira environ 35 interprètes dans le hall central du musée, pour une performance d'une durée estimée entre 30 et 50 minutes. La configuration spatiale et les qualités acoustiques du Musée Ariana constituent un cadre particulièrement favorable à cette expérience immersive, destinée à estomper les frontières entre performers et public.

L'événement est prévu le 31 octobre 2026. Deux journées de répétitions seront organisées, au musée ainsi que dans des lieux annexes. Les participants formeront un groupe diversifié, comprenant notamment des intervenants non



AVENUE DE LA PAIX 10
CH-1202 GENÈVE
T +41(0)22 418 54 50

ariana@ville-ge.ch
www.musee-ariana.ch
TP6 BUS 5-11 ET TRAM 15 (ARRÊT NATIONS)
BUS 8-20-22-28-F (ARRÊT APPIA)

ICTUS

contemporary music, brussels

Brussel, 20-02-2026

To whom it may concern,

Through this letter, the ensemble Ictus wishes to formally express its artistic commitment to and support for the project *BREATHCORE @ Ariana*, conceived and led by member of Ictus Michael Schmid, in collaboration with the Geneva-based association Konnekt and the Musée Ariana.

Initiated in 2015, *BREATHCORE* is a participatory, site-specific performance that uses human breath as its sole sonic material. Conceived and led by Michael Schmid, the project brings together professional performers and non-professional participants to collectively shape an immersive soundscape of breathing.

In the context of the exhibition *LE VERRE, AU-DELÀ DE LA MATIÈRE* (24.4.2026 - 3.1.2027) at the Musée Ariana, *BREATHCORE* is conceived as a site-specific performance developed in close dialogue with the selected artworks and the museum's distinctive architecture, while also acting as a counterpoint to the various workshops and activities accompanying the exhibition. Approximately 35 performers will be positioned on the balconies of the museum's central hall, in a performance lasting 40 to 60 minutes. The spatial configuration and acoustics of the Musée Ariana provide an especially powerful setting for this immersive experience.

Event date : 30th and 31th October 2026

Two days of rehearsals will be organized at the museum. The participants will comprise a diverse group, including untrained participants recruited through an open call, dancers and performers from art schools such as La Manufacture, as well as art students from institutions including HEAD and ECAL.

Ictus fully supports the realization of *BREATHCORE @ Ariana* and the active involvement of Michael Schmid in this project. The ensemble regards this collaboration with Konnekt and the Musée Ariana as an exemplary opportunity to strengthen artistic exchange between Switzerland and Belgium, fostering dialogue between institutions and artists active in both contexts. This partnership creates tangible benefits for all organisations involved by encouraging knowledge exchange, expanding professional networks, and contributing to the international circulation of artistic research at the intersection of sound art, performance, and cultural heritage.

We remain at your disposal for any further information.

Ictus, General Director



Tom Pauwels

Attachments – Offer (Technical material)



Ognon Sàrl
Chemin du Grillet 25
1233 Bernex
Tél : +41 79 321 73 50
Email: contact@ognon.ch
CHE-491.847.021 TVA

Association Konnect
M. Thomas Florin
Chemin des Sports 87
1203 Genève

Concerne : Breathcore au Musée de l'Ariana - Sonorisation

Offre N° 809/1037

Bernex, le 10 février 2026

Désignation	Unité	Nombre	Prix HT	%	Total
Matériel diffusion audio + micros	forfait	1	4'300.00	30.00	3'010.00
Transport	forfait	1	400.00		400.00

Total HT	3'410.00	TVA 7.7 %	262.57	Total CHF	3'672.55
		TVA totale	262.57		
		Arrondi	-0.02		

- En cas d'annulation moins de quatre semaines avant le début de la prestation, 50% du montant sera dû.
- En cas d'annulation moins de deux semaines avant le début de la prestation, 100% du montant sera dû.

Nous restons à votre entière disposition pour tout complément d'information et vous remercions pour votre confiance.
Par la présente, vous décidez de retenir l'offre proposée.

Date :

Signature :

Notre offre est valable 15 jours à partir de la date de ce document.

Attachments – Budget and financing plan

Konnekt - Budget Breathcore - Michael Schmidt Musée de l'Ariana, Geneva (CH)

Expenses €		Total	26 554
Eligible costs - Allowance for an international presentation within the Arts Decree			9 054
* cf. attached offer, prices in CHF converted to €			
Accommodation			1 980
Hotels	Estim. 1 people for 11 nights x180€		1 980
Subsistence			550
Per diem travel days	1 pers.x 25€ x 6 days		150
Per diem work days	1 pers.x 50€ x 8 day		400
Travel			960
Flights BRU-GVA round trip 3x	1 pers. x300€		900
Extra checked luggage fees			60
*Equipement rental			4 064
Audio equip. Rental			4 064
Technical costs			1 500
Video and audio recording			1 500
Other Expenses (out of this request)			17 500
Admin. et direction			8 500
Artistic direction			2 000
Fundraising & accounting			2 000
Production & coordination			1 500
Communication & promotion			1 500
Admin. fixed costs			1 500
Fees			3 000
Artistic fees			3 000
Communication costs			1 900
Visual identity			1 000
Flyers et posters			400
Mailing & social networks			500
Other prod. costs			1 000
Rehearsal space rental			1 000
Technical fees			1 600
Sound technician			1 600
Unforeseen costs			1 500
Income €			26 554
Flanders State of the Art			6 928
Loterie Romande			7 000
Ville Genève			7 000
co-production Ariana			5 000
Konnekt - own funds			626