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Artist Statement / Bio

Stephanie Smit (also working under the name Giek) is a multidisciplinary artist whose practice merges performance, sound, textile and artistic research to explore time, identity and embodied memory beyond the biographical self. Working with reincarnation as an artistic and theoretical field, she investigates how subjectivity unfolds across multiple temporal layers rather than a single lifespan.

Textile and costume operate as sculptural and ritual interfaces for embodied time, and are integrated into spatial environments combining voice, composition, poetic narrative and performative activation. Divinatory and symbolic systems (including astrology and tarot) as well as computational tools and AI function as research methods for mapping continuity, resonance and recognition across historical figures and contemporary bodies.

Her work has been presented at Harvard Divinity School's Spirituality & the Arts Conference, Occulture Conference Berlin, the Van Gogh Museum, Design Museum Den Bosch, Museum Lakenhal, Dutch Design Week and more. She is currently expanding her practice toward installation, sound and computational constellations in which audiences can navigate layered temporal subjectivities.

Awards, Grants & Selections

2025 · Station Noord — Finalist 2025 (Interdisciplinary Performance / Visual Art)
2024 · Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten — Shortlisted Candidate 2024/2025 (Final Round)
2024 · Stimuleringsfonds Talentontwikkeling — Scout Night Selection (Giekonstruct)
2022 · Kulturstiftung des Freistaates Sachsen – Leipzig, DE — Gastspielförderung (Own Reality)
2021 · SENA — Music Production Grant (Spread My Wings)
2020 · Fonds Podiumkunsten — Work Contribution Music Authors (Spread My Wings)
2018 · NTS WIP – London, UK — Longlisted
2015 · VSB Fonds — Support (Album Recording and Theatertour Kots)

Residencies

06/2025 · Aetheria Institute (Black Sky Society) – Crete, GR
Artistic research residency (metaphysics / reincarnation / ritual / sound / visual form), with public presentation
05/2024 · Maakweken – Delft, NL
Residency (costume / scenography / textile storytelling with kids) with public presentation
06/2023 · Seance Volda Norway – Volda, NO
Collaborative residency (sound / movement / intuition / ritual performance) with presentation
05/2019 · Choreographic Coding Lab – Amsterdam, NL
Interdisciplinary residency (movement / technology / prototyping) with presentation

Education & Artistic Training

2011–2014 · Theater Art & Entertainment (PACT), Amsterdam — Theatre & Performance
2003–2004 · Fashion (ROC Tilburg) — Fashion Construction
Background in theatre, fashion and performance informs my current visual and spatial practice.

Selected Public Presentations (from 2022 onwards)

· Museums, Galleries & Art Institutions

A Soul's Journey

18 Jan 2025 · Hypertrove Sign Gallery - art program during Eurosonic Noorderslag ESNS · Groningen, NL

The 5th Dimension and Beyond (with Frederique Jonker)

8 March 2024 · Arti et Amicitiae · Amsterdam, NL

26 Aug 2023 · Bauhaus · Berlin, DE

A New World

25-29 Oct 2023 · *Iteration: Transcending Time and Space* · Manifestations — Dutch Design Week · Eindhoven, NL

3 June 2023 · Museumnacht — Museum Lakenhal · Leiden, NL

2022 · Design Museum · 's-Hertogenbosch, NL

10 May 2022 · *Preliminary version* · Van Gogh Museum · Amsterdam, NL

Kybalion the Musical

11 April 2022 · KAOS KIA – Slug Gallery · Leipzig, DE

Own Reality

5 Sept 2023 · Gallery Askip · Nantes, FR

10 April 2022 · KAOS KIA – Slug Gallery · Leipzig, DE

• **Conferences, Discourse & Academia**

A Soul's Journey

26 Oct 2025 · Occulture Conference · Berlin, DE

23 April 2025 · Spirituality & the Arts, Harvard Divinity School · Cambridge, US (pre-recorded video online)

3 July 2025 · Aetheria Symposia – BlackSky Society · Crete, GR (streamed online)

12 Aug 2025 · What Hackers Yearn (WHY2025) · Oudkarspel, NL

Kybalion the Musical

22 Oct 2023 · Occulture Conference · Berlin, DE

A New World

8-12 Aug 2025 · *Iteration: Transcending Time and Space* · What Hackers Yearn (WHY2025) · Oudkarspel, NL

19-22 Oct 2023 · *Iteration: Transcending Time and Space* · Occulture Conference · Berlin, DE

• **Performance, Festival, Hybrid Podia**

A Soul's Journey

31 Oct 2025 · Rebelle Epoque — Where Occult Meets Cabaret, ADM · Amsterdam, NL

The 5th Dimension and Beyond (with Frederique Jonker)

24 March 2024 · Death & Rebirth Festival · Amsterdam, NL

Kybalion the Musical

12 March 2023 · Death & Rebirth Festival · Amsterdam, NL

3 Sept 2023 · Narthex · France

22 July 2022 · Reclaiming the Church St.-Martin-Kirche Potshausen, DE

A New World

10 March 2023 · Death & Rebirth Festival · Amsterdam, NL

1 Sept 2022 · Pluritopia Festival · Leipzig, DE

Own Reality

1 Oct.2022 · Lindenow Festival · Leipzig, DE

3 Sept 2022 · Tarmac Festival · Allstedt, DE

15 July 2022 · Apeculiaris Nox — Zentralwäscherei · Zürich, CH

Selected Projects (Visual Art & Expanded Performance Practice, 2022–2026)

2025–ongoing · IWasJimMorrison.com - Research Project & Installation (visual research / digital media)

Theme: reincarnation / cultural memory / myth-making / identity continuity

Experimental investigation into collective past-life identity through astrology, myth, and digital media.

Includes prototypes for an astrology and AI-assisted divination tool and visual archives exploring memory, reincarnation, and cultural myth-making.

2024–ongoing · [A Soul's Journey](http://ASoulsJourney.com) - Multidisciplinary Performance (music / ritual theater / costume / poetry)

Theme: reincarnation / religion / spiritual trauma / death & rebirth / dualism

An immersive theatrical work combining music, poetry, movement, costume, ritual, and video art.

Incorporates short “video memes” and symbolic projections as portals into the visual cosmology of the performance. Explores the process of soul remembrance and transformation through layered visual, sonic, and performative dimensions.

Presented at Occulture Conference Berlin 2025, Harvard Divinity School's Spirituality & the Arts Conference 2025 and more.

2023–2024 · [5th Dimension and Beyond](http://5thDimensionandBeyond.com) - Performance Collaboration w/ Frederique Jonker (movement / costume / sound / visual art / impro). Theme: unity consciousness / altered perception / dualism / ritual

Semi-improvised ritual performance merging movement, visual art, sound, costume, and poetry to explore unity consciousness and altered perception. In collaboration with Frederique Jonker.
Presented at Arty Amsterdam, Bauhaus Berlin and more.

2022–2023 · [A New World](#) + [Transcending Time and Space](#) - Installation (painting / divination / costume)
Theme: symbolic systems / temporal collapse / fate & narrative / cosmology
A visual and participatory art project integrating large-scale painting and symbolic systems (tarot, astrology).
Exhibited at Van Gogh Museum, Design Museum Den Bosch, Museum Lakenhal Leiden, Manifestations
Dutch Design Weeks Eindhoven, Occulture conference Berlin.

2022–2023 · [KYBALION the Musical](#) – Esoteric Performance (theater / music / scenography / costume)
Theme: hermetic philosophy / cosmology / occultism / initiation / reincarnation / other dimensional life
Hermetic-inspired experimental theater performance fusing myth, philosophy, and ritual theatre.
Evolved into a hybrid format integrating costume, large-scale painting, decor, music, and spoken word as visual performance.
Presented at Slug gallery Leipzig, Occulture Conference Berlin and more.

2022–ongoing · [GIEKONSTRUCT](#) – Zero-Waste Costume & Textile Installation
Theme: reincarnation / embodiment / memory / ritual interface
Zero-waste, gender-fluid costume and textile-based installation line, transforming discarded materials into ritual garments and symbolic sculptural forms inspired by reincarnation.
Costumes shown in A Soul's Journey, Kybalion, 5th Dimension and Beyond and A New World and exhibited at Manifestations Dutch Design Weeks Eindhoven.

2020–2025 · [SPREAD MY WINGS](#) – Audio-Visual (music composition / 3D video)
Theme: transformation / self-love / spiritual emergence
Experimental classical-pop project on transformation and self-love, integrating sound, performance, and visual symbolism.
Funded by Fonds Podiumkunsten and SENA.

Earlier Works (Music, Performance & Interdisciplinary Foundations, pre-2022)

2021–ongoing · [Improvisations](#) - Vocal Research & Embodiment
Theme: voice / presence / trance

2020 · [LEF GLOBAL LAB - Rijkswaterstaat \(Inner Climate\)](#) - Commissioned Video-Performance
Theme: emotional ecology / climate / systems / inner transformation
Commissioned immersive video-performance for the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure, exploring emotional ecology and collective climate awareness through interactive 3D environments.

2019–2023 · [OWN REALITY](#) – Ritual Music Performance
Theme: transformation / trance / mysticism / magick / addiction / self-destruction
Transformative performance blending experimental pop, ritual, and trance; early platform for later interdisciplinary practice.

2019–2021 · [Stone Orgy](#) with Jasper Griepink – Commissioned Music & Performance
Theme: embodiment / erotic ritual / unity / earth
Ritual performance blending sound, dance, and ecstatic embodiment. In collaboration with Jasper Griepink.

2018–2019 · [Jazz orchestra Amsterdam](#) – Composition & Performance
Theme: self realization / duality / divinity
Composed and performed works with the Jazz Orchestra of the Concertgebouw; released on EP Unified Self.

2015–2017 · [Lucifer's Dream](#) – Music & Performance Duo with Aztlan Zidonia
Theme: cosmic love / mysticism / conflict / dualism
Psychedelic synthpop music project creating mystical soundscapes and videos exploring universal love and cosmic journeys.

2013–2016 · [Kots](#) – Comedy & Performance Duo with Marleen van Zon - Holland's Got Talent finalist
Theme: feminist satire / absurdism
Provocative feminist cabaret; finalists on Holland's Got Talent, toured nationally with sketches and songs.

2014 · [Siriusly](#) – Theater & Writing in collaboration with Tommy Ventevogel
Theme: satire / absurdism / philosophy / extraterrestrials
Graduation theatre play co-created with writer Tommy Ventevogel, blending humor and philosophy.

2012 · [PANDEMONIUM](#) – Performance Collaboration with Levi van Huygevoort
Collaborative performance with Levi van Huygevoort combining experimental dance, narrative and visual art.

2011–2013 [GIEK](#) · Underground Performance Acts
Early performance practice combining movement, costume play, and identity transformation.

Published Writing

2026 (upcoming) · New Dawn Magazine, Bloom Magazine, Blaxxky
Articles on reincarnation research intersecting with artistic practice.
2024–2025 · [Brainz Magazine](#) (Regular Contributor)
Articles on reincarnation research, symbolic memory and subconscious programming.

Selected Press Coverage & Interviews

2026 · Brainz Magazine — Interview on artistic research & performance
2024 · Brabants Dagblad — Feature on performance practice and ritual costume
2023 · The Great Game Podcast — Interview on past lives & creativity

Selected Earlier Press (pre-2022, music)

2020 · Threshold Magazine, Couverte x Chefs, Redefine Magazine - Escape music release
2016 · Kaltblut Magazine, Side-Line - Lucifer's Dream music release
2015 · Brabants Dagblad, Parool, NRC Next - Kots interview, recensies
[Full press list](#)

Related Activities, Research & Self-Organised Work

2026–ongoing · Vision Lab (Harvard Divinity School) — Research Collective
Invited participant; contemplative arts & interdisciplinary research platform
2025–ongoing · Emerging platform initiative (with Black Sky Society and international collaborators) —
exploratory infrastructure for cross-disciplinary collaboration between art, research & technology.
2025 · [Decoding the Past](#) — Lecture Series (Aetheria Residency & Occulture Berlin)
Developed at Aetheria Residency, Crete. Premiered at Occulture Festival Berlin 2025.
Interdisciplinary research-lecture combining reincarnation studies, AI-assisted data mapping, and
performative presentation.
2023-ongoing · [Reality Cult](#) – Research & Guidance Platform (lectures, consultations, public talks)
Platform merging art, spirituality, and research through performances, lectures, and guidance sessions
presented at venues such as Design Museum Den Bosch, Museum Lakenhal, Occulture Berlin, and Dutch
Design Week.
2018-ongoing · [Reality Cult](#) – Reincarnation Research (astrology, tarot, AI, cultural memory)
Independent exploration of past-life identity through astrology, tarot, intuitive analysis, and cultural memory
studies.
2013-2024 · Actress — Immersive theatre (Prison Escape, Amsterdam Dungeon, Pebble TV)
Performed in immersive and educational theatre productions (Prison Escape, The Amsterdam Dungeon,
Pebble TV).
2022 · [KAOS KIA](#) - Self-organized performance, video and ritual event. Co-curated with Slug Gallery Leipzig.
Independent multimedia event combining performance, video, art, and installation, focusing on myth, chaos
magick, and healing practices.
2022 · [Reclaiming the Church](#) – Site-specific performance event around polarity, ritual in sacred architecture.
Site-specific performance reclaiming sacred space as a vessel for balance between divine feminine and
masculine forces.
Combines sound, costume, and ceremony in immersive settings.