



## THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

April: A month of miracles. One can only hope for so much and then again sometimes we don't even know what we really need. Vibrant community is central to the strength know to us insiders as the body of Christ... how many of us really know it though. April was a month of many birthing pains and joys, learning and exploring the theme of purity, intimacy and life changing depth of relationships covering generational and cultural borders with purpose driven acts of love...

We are so thankful for all the life that has been injected into Humus. Even before the month could begin... Mecky, Emilie, Manu and I spent days and nights finishing the floors and outer walls so that the basics were prepared but before we knew what was happening Andrea and Jens had arrived and were the first to swim in the wide open spaces. What an intense transformation happened in those days leading up to the opening party. Karin "my favourite assistant ☺" was one of the months miracle stories as she helped build walls, tables, install water systems, wrap tree and make countless runs to Obi for supplies! What a blessing you were! I truly believe that there was solid foundation laid in those days. Dale blessed us with his music, Jens with "being Jens" and opening our minds to his performance and Mila with her quirky physical theatre flooded the floors and table tops of our Humus experience. Where would we be with out all these interesting personalities?

A week later brought a new flood of Canadians and Germans to the scene and before Jim could even unpack he was



working on his first work of art! Unreal! Your work & talk-ethic was huge for our studio culture... left one really feeling left out with out a sample of epoxy somewhere... ☺ Then there was Martha who blessed us till our socks fell off... literally... As it turns out, your input and studies will likely have one of the most lasting effects on our experience together thank you for investing yourself. We all had food for thought and food for our stomachs and that means a lot for us staving artists.

Barbara and Cornelia came expecting but not really knowing what to expect...actually were all in the same boat. Which is why I think we functioned and invested in discovering what God would have for us to do in community and individually. Each one was so unique in their approach and that came fully to light on your Friday critique and feast session... another crucial moment for relationship and community... As soon as Barbara moved out of Ushi's hotel "our 5-Star Host". The room got filled again with some French chick who thought she would come to check out the scene. Just because she's French we said ok and as it turns out Marie is not a half bad painter... at least she sold out at the show in Paris a few weeks later! Hats off to you Marie.

Just so things didn't get boring I thought it would be fun to do a fire performance for the Arts+ Culture Event at the end of the month. Under strict orders to not overdo it I tried to find a capable team to plan something worthy of the medium.







Almost everyone in and around the studio had some part in the ideas but finally knowing that a certain Miss Erni has played with fire here and there I asked her to come and play with us ...play she did... and I have the documented play lists to prove it! We were a good team and especially with the tireless support of our pyromaniac assistant: Martha... who helped use up about 2.5 kilograms of black powder, 1–2 kilometres of fabric strips, and over a dozen bottles of lighter fluid to completely ignite our floating bush in less than 8 seconds flat. What a site and sound that was as Nadine and Beatrice took their performance into high gear responding to the explosive lighting fuse and 15 meter high flames... It is a true pleasure to hear how these efforts have burnt memories into the experience of many guests. A photographer and video dream shoot for Manuela, Melanie, Jim and Mark with all the action. Thank you for investing your talents documenting the whole evening. Thank you for each one of your efforts to make that evening one of a kind.

Preparing all our work for Paris was more of a challenge than we would like to admit but with Ellen's help we managed to get everything registered for a border transfer and packed into the van. Thanks for going the extra mile with us Ellen... you're one hardcore bird. Doing the show in Paris was a true privilege. Marie opened her home to a herd of people and it was not all easy as we took over the place. Thanks for Eiffel tower pyramids and late night bike tours...you rock!

Setting up the show was a nerve-racking task with making decision as to which pieces worked and which had to be cut... (a tricky job in a group of passionate artists) and then there was the hanging rod system which didn't allow us to mount



directly on the wall but with some hard work the show really came together filling the space with a tight exhibition. Curtis was an exotic number on the opening night setting the tone with his laptop guitar and unique country contrast to the typical French landscape. Hope there are some good memories that stick for you. And then before we knew what had happened we were already packing up and the Canucks were headed for Rome...Little did we know that this would be one of the Van's last trips... it had been loosing coolant, requiring it to be refilled quite consistently. It also had a serious shake coming from the transmission somewhere so I didn't dare drive it the next week. Then I wanted to bring Mark's van back to Bern when 5 minutes later it all of sudden started to smoke out the hood ☹ and I realized that I hadn't checked the fluids! Sad ending to so many positive experiences.

In the end one can spend time looking back but I think there is more to see in the new beginnings. La Foundary in Paris decided to start a guest artist program in their space this summer after an inspired talk with Jim Beise reflecting on our Aspire experiences. Manu is heading to Canada in the spring to collaborate with the Epic crowd in Calgary for a gala event... Andrea wants to come back to Humus for some more insanity, Jens is gearing up for an Aspire experience in the fall and even though there may be a few wounds to lick and recover from, I feel encouraged to press on. Thank you to all of you who were connected to these intense days. Bryan

