

Review NRC Handelsblad 7 Augustus 2020

Spectrum is a lightshow that conjures up an array of emotions

Light Installation

In Spectrum the audience is immersed in a plethora of Intense colour sensations, creating all kinds of associations.

Spectrum immediately forces you into submission: surrounded by overwhelming darkness, the ground is gradually drawn from under your feet. It feels like falling, yet in a long, extended sequence.

After Blaas and Curve, Spectrum is the culmination of a triptych exploring white space, on which theatre maker Boukje Schweigman and designer Cocky Eek have been working on since 2013. It is a piece without performers: the audience – never more than fourteen – lie on their back in a circle, eyes facing the ceiling.

Then what starts as a thin strip of yellow light above the audience – a thin moon which, after so much darkness and disorientation, you desperately want to grab and hold on to. That line swells to form a full circle, projecting light into the space. We find ourselves in a clinical white room. In the roof, a round hatch turns slowly on its axis. Various colours tumble through the aperture into the space, producing intense colour sensations as they reflect off the white walls.

Associations

Spectrum presents light emphatically not as something to sense passively, but as an almost tangible experience. The associations evoked by the colours alternate between concrete and abstract. The light blue sends you back to summer afternoons on the beach, then the gentle violet releases a far less cohesive, yet equally overpowering range of emotions. One thing is beyond dispute: however personal, colour produces an effect, it has consequences, by definition.