

Over IJ festival 2021, Amsterdam:

The installation Continuum gives you the feeling of being away for a while

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By Karin Veraart, published on 11 July 2021



*Continuum - Johannes Bellinkx. Image: Knelis*

*Beautiful colors glide along intriguing surfaces and disappear again, matching associations arise and slip.*

It's as if I've been on vacation, says someone who has also just experienced Continuum by the artist by Johannes Bellinkx. Continuum, the installation on the interface of theatre, visual arts and film, which premiered on Friday at Festival Over het IJ in Amsterdam, does indeed give you the feeling of being away for a while. By taking you on a journey through deserts and oceans, past overgrown caves and timeless snowscapes. By your own imagination, in the first place.

Bellinkx invites the public to 'experience everything as one large continuous movement'. You can board a vehicle that is as ingenious as it is enigmatic. Then, like a photographer from a bygone era, place your head right in front of a cupboard and pull a black cloth far over your upper body. Darkness all around, apart from a peeping hole that frames your view, like a diorama.

Then it sets the colossus in motion and the promised 'immersive' experience can begin. It's incredibly smooth to begin with, no fiddling or jerking, it feels like you're floating past something that you seem to be able to interpret as rice paper. But the tendency to 'explain' soon fades and experience takes over, also under the influence of Dennis van Tilburg's great soundscape.

Beautiful colors glide along intriguing surfaces and disappear again, matching associations arise and slip. That may sound like something soothing, but it isn't. Bellinkx also keeps it exciting in a beautiful way.