

Carpet of Time

Carpet of Time is a long-term, site-specific performance art project that evolves continuously. It explores forms of resistance against repressive systems by making the beauty and diversity of non-hierarchical togetherness visible through abstraction and reduction. In times of increasing repression and shrinking freedoms, we find it particularly important to realize an interdisciplinary art project that engages with non-hierarchical structures and, inspired by different locations, cultures, encounters, and collaborations, creates ever-new versions that celebrate the inspiring and motivating potential of a free society.

Our aim is to develop *Carpet of Time* and the associated research over an extended period, consciously positioning ourselves against the fast production and rapid consumption, especially of art, in today's world. The creative process takes us to different locations, allowing each space, with its culture, stories, and temporalities, to leave its mark.

Furthermore, we are convinced that art, especially through abstraction and metaphor, offers both artists and audiences a special freedom of interpretation and autonomy. In an age of increasing narrative simplification, this openness makes an important contribution to a nuanced, self-determined experience.

Co-productions, presentations, and residencies enable the continuous development of *Carpet of Time*, weaving this "time carpet" in collaboration with local performance, film, and sound artists. This process gives rise to new, site-specific versions of the work, which are repeatedly shared with audiences. In this way, the long-term international development of the project continues, leaving a subtle yet lasting trace in the ecosystem of dance and performance art as well as in our society.

Masoumeh Jalalieh & Daniel Zimmermann

Carpet of Time

by Masoumeh Jalalieh & Daniel Zimmermann

Carpet of Time weaves together performance, film, sound, installation, and poetic reflection, transforming uniquely at each site. Its starting points are geometric ornaments and the so-called “*pattern singing*” of Iranian carpet weavers. The work investigates how bodies navigate within pre-existing structures, transform them, and open new relational spaces.

The choreographic structure is based on a 9×9 point grid, within which performers continuously generate new, non-repeating constellations. A tension emerges between rigid systems and fluid, non-hierarchical connectivity. Limitations serve as a starting point for collective, expanded possibilities.

The roots of the project lie in Iran, where choreographer and performer Masoumeh Jalalieh developed her artistic practice under the restrictive conditions of a dance ban following the Islamic Revolution. In her apartment in Tehran, she created her own movement alphabet, inspired by geometric patterns and body-based practices. Numbers and geometry function as a response to a repressive system, deliberately avoiding curves and flowing movements, which are otherwise central to dance. Influenced by Gurdjieff’s movements, as depicted in *Meetings with Remarkable Men* (1979), *Carpet of Time* seeks an inner order that reflects nature and the cosmos.

The project also marks the collaboration between Masoumeh Jalalieh and artist-filmmaker Daniel Zimmermann. Their biographical starting points could hardly be more different: one shaped by a repressive political system, the other by direct democracy. It is precisely these contrasts that provide a productive foundation for their artistic collaboration. Together, they combine Oriental heritage with contemporary concerns and, in collaboration with local performance, film, and sound artists, develop site-specific versions that expand the work and make resistance in public space experientially poetic.

In 2024, *1187 Movements* (18’30”) was presented in Biel (CH), Porcari (IT), and in public spaces. In 2025, *2673 Movements* (41’20”) followed in collaboration with Christian Müller, Inge Dick, and Jonathan Burrows, with performances at [WUK Wien](#). Subsequently, *1187 Movements* opened the district festival weeks in the Festsaal of Vienna’s 15th municipal district.

Residencies at Leveld Kunstnartun (NO) and [Tanzhaus Zürich](#) (CH) led to new developments of the material, resulting in new versions. In Leveld, the focus was on nature-based research, movement and voice experiments in collaboration with Australian musician Coco Stobart, and a deepening of the structural foundations. In Zürich, the material was realized performatively and the choreographic structure further refined. Inspired by the music of Cosmo Sheldrake and Rainer Kohlberger’s video work *Answering the Sun*, *1974 Movements* (32’) emerged, bringing movement, rhythm, and light into a new interplay.

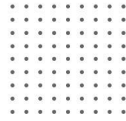
[Trailer](#)

The combination of nature-based work in Leveld and concentrated studio work in Zürich has significantly advanced *Carpet of Time* both conceptually and formally. The project is conceived as a continuously growing work, intended to be further developed and presented at additional locations, in both natural environments and urban or institutional contexts.

Website: www.carpetoftime.org Trailer: [Carpet of Time](#)



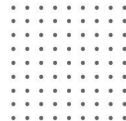
Carpet of Time – 1237 Movements
Lunghin, Maloja, CH / 2024



فرش زمان – ۱۲۳۷ حرکت
لونگین، مالویا، سوئیس / ۲۰۲۴



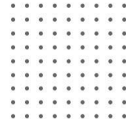
Carpet of Time – 1237 Movements
Lokal-int Kunstraum, Biel, CH / 2024



فرش زمان – ۱۲۳۷ حرکت
لوکال-اینٹ کونستراوم، بیل، سوئیس / ۲۰۲۴



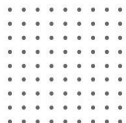
Carpet of Time – 1237 Movements
Celerina, Schlagrina, CH / 2024



فرش زمان – ۱۲۳۷ حرکت
چلرینا، شلاگرینا، سوئیس / ۲۰۲۴



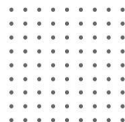
Carpet of Time – 1237 Movements
ALDES, Spam! , Lucca, IT / 2024



فرش زمان – ۱۲۳۷ حرکت
آلدس، اسپم!، لوکا، ایتالیا / ۲۰۲۴



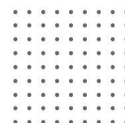
Carpet of Time – 1237 Movements
Lej da San Murezzan, St. Moritz, CH / 2025



فرش زمان – ۱۲۳۷ حرکت
دریاچه سن موریتس، سن موریتس، سوئیس / ۲۰۲۵



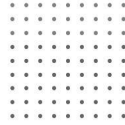
Carpet of Time – 2678 Movements
WUK performing arts, Vienna, AT / 2025



فرش زمان – ۲۶۷۳ حرکت
هنرهای نمایشی ووک! وین، اتریش / ۲۰۲۵



Carpet of Time – 1237 Movements
Festival hall of the district council
Rudolfsheim-Fünfhaus, Vienna, AT / 2025



فرش زمان – ۱۲۳۷ حرکت
سالن اجتماعات منطقه رودولفسهایم-فونفهاوس،
وین، اتریش / ۲۰۲۵



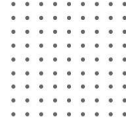
Carpet of Time – 1237 Movements
Fiskeløktjømi, NO / 2025



فرش زمان – ۱۲۳۷ حرکت
فیسکلکت یورنی، نروژ / ۲۰۲۵



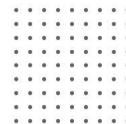
Carpet of Time – 1974 Movements
Leveld Kunstnartun Air, Leveld, NO / 2025



فرش زمان – ۱۹۷۴ حرکت
لود کونست نارتون ایر، لولد، نروژ / ۲۰۲۵



Carpet of Time – 1974 Movements
Tanzhaus Zürich, CH / 2025



فرش زمان – ۱۹۷۴ حرکت
تانزهاوس زوریخ، سوئیس / ۲۰۲۵

Masoumeh Jalalieh is an Iranian choreographer, performer, and dancer based in Vienna. Her artistic practice explores the intersections of movement, ritual, and embodied knowledge, engaging with themes of cultural memory and political resistance. She has created works, including *B-or der*, *Time Paranoia*, *Decline*, *Bish az pish*, and *Carpet of Time*, which have been presented at venues such as Sophiensæle Berlin, STUK Leuven, Kaaistudios, Les Brigittines Brussels, Pasinger Fabrik Munich, and WUK Vienna. Jalalieh has collaborated with artists such as Hooman Sharifi, Bára Sigfúsdóttir, Robert Steijn, Peter Jasko, and Jonathan Burrows, and has led workshops at ImpulsTanz, Tanzquartier Wien, and various places. From 2017 to 2020, she was a principal performer with Jan Martens' GRIP company and toured with Bára Sigfúsdóttir's piece "being" across Europe and Iran. She has received grants including the Startstipendium (City of Vienna), the Arbeitsstipendium Darstellende Kunst – Performance (City of Vienna), and Danceweb, among others. In 2023, she founded the association *Carpet of Time* and began curating the festival *Cook, Eat, and Clean*, which takes place yearly at eindorf Kunstraum in Vienna. [OmaArtStudio](#) *Due to the website's hosting location in Iran, access may be affected or unavailable during government-imposed internet shutdowns

Daniel Zimmermann works at the intersection of visual art, film, and action, questioning the meaning and sustainability of human behavior. His short films *Lauberhornrennen im Sommer* and *Stick Climbing* have won multiple awards and become festival favorites. His feature film *WALDEN* received the Special Jury Award at Karlovy Vary and the Emerging Swiss Talent Award at the Zurich Film Festival and was screened at around 50 festivals worldwide, including Sundance, Rotterdam, and Art of the Real in New York. In 2024, his new film *SPHERES* premiered at the International Film Festival Karlovy Vary. In 2020, the Kunsthaus Centre Pasquart presented a retrospective of his work. Zimmermann co-founded and served as artistic co-director of the artist collective nadaproductions, whose performances were presented internationally, and since 2022 has co-directed the art and residency space *eindorf* with a collective. In 2023, he co-founded the artist collective *Carpet of Time* with Masoumeh Jalalieh, creating contemporary performance, dance, and film projects. www.danielzimmermann.org