# False Horse

a music installation by Dakota Wayne

15th &16th October 2026 Theater BAU3



Ioanna Boultadaki, violin

Raphaëlle Proust, keyboard

Eguzki Irusta Salles, audio engineer

In my work, creatures and figures often appear that sit in a region between absurd, bizarre, and silly. Thus, when I set out to compose a piece for violin and piano, I wasn't surprised when images of knights on horseback entered my mind. Surely all sorts of things can be said about archaic heroism, music and virtue(osity), and the troubling history of art inventing a fantastical past for itself.

For example, the steel carapace of a warrior trained to kill with advanced technology while riding the fastest vehicle on land can resonate today in unsettling ways. Speaking of an outdated transportation technology that enables a faceless, manufactured war apparatus to battle for an antiquated moral code can trigger further parallels.

But directing artistic meaning towards a rhetorical gesture is beside the point. *What* the knight and her steed represent is not so important as *how* they are represented. They are, in a sense, too unspecific to mean anything, and at the same time too concrete to be abstracted. They each constitute rather a virtual object: an ebb and flow of images and associations, gestures and sounds, that lend force but not necessarily form. They possess gravity without having a center. In this way, my goal in composing *False Horse* was not to find a musical determination for these figures.

The knight and the horse are instead a constellation to be tracked through the refractions in our aural images caused by contrasting spatiotemporal situations. Their emptiness through indetermination sets the stage for the diffusion of listening. Promising a meaning that always glimmers out of reach, they are hollow they ring false; a strange gift that smuggles in something else entirely.

I would like to thank first of all Ioanna and Raphaëlle for their hard work, patience, and trust in the process. I am also grateful to Eguzki for his steady support and smart solutions during rehearsals and installation, and Iuri and the team of BAU3 for opening their space to us.