

Lucie Vítková: *Acrobatic Accordion* (2019)

The *Acrobatic Accordion* belongs to my cyborg performance series where I explore the mechanics of the instrument in relation to the kinetics of my body. The physical movement is informed by the sound and the sound by the physical movement. During the floor work with the accordion, I form different sculptural moments where my body complements the instrument.

The accordion moves and shapes my body when opening and closing the bellows to play a note. The sounding tones are influenced by the limits of my body, for example, when during the performance I place myself in the center of gravity, and am able to play stable tones, or when I cross its threshold and start to shake and cut the long tones into rhythmical patterns which follow my effort to find a balance again. These moments bring tension to the piece and the audience can follow the music's dramatic progression.

The choreography is generated by the weight of my accordion; sometimes, I distribute the twelve kilos weight into my whole body, when I use my legs to bow the bellows, other times it only lays on my hands to be lifted. All this effort is always sonified by chords, clusters or single tones. This way, the *Acrobatic Accordion* oscillates between a piece of music and a gym workout.

This piece is one of my long-term solo projects. In every performance, I make a new version of it based on my previous experience and video documentation. After many performances, some of the motives and figures became the core elements of the piece, some of them are still evolving and new ones are coming with every performance. I would like to perform this piece as long as possible, portraying the skills, limits and aging of my body.