

PRESS RELEASE
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A paper storm inside the concertgebouw demands: Drop Shell!

***Amsterdam, October 1st 2019* – Artist collective Fossil Free Culture NL (FFC-NL) whipped up a storm of paper in the Concertgebouw after this evening's concert. Ten performers threw 10,000 musical scores from the balconies in the Main Hall in an orchestrated act of artistic disobedience. Each sheet of paper was imprinted with an impossible and unplayable music score composed by Annelies Jonkers, reminding the Concertgebouw that there will be no music or anyone to listen to it on a dead planet. One of the prestigious venue's sponsors, Royal Dutch Shell, is directly responsible for the climate catastrophe.**

With their performance 'Dissonance Act 3. Tempest', FFC-NL simulated an unexpected weather event in an unexpected place - one of the most prestigious classical concert halls in the world. "In an overheating world we are already seeing out of control weather events, it's time to bring them into the very institutions that are washing clean the perpetrators' public image," says Maria Rietberg for FFC-NL. "We urge the Concertgebouw to immediately break the ties with Shell. An internationally renowned cultural institution plays an important role in shaping the world we need to create, free of fossil fuels."

'Tempest' concludes the 'Dissonance' performance series. FFC-NL delivered three new art pieces at the Concertgebouw in only three weeks to show its determination to liberate the Concertgebouw from climate-wrecker Shell. Rietberg: "We will now give the Concertgebouw some time to reflect on its toxic artwashing practices and its association with fossil giant Shell, and on the steps it must take to address the climate crisis."

Fossil Free Culture NL successfully campaigned for the Van Gogh Museum to drop Shell as a sponsor in 2018, making the Concertgebouw the last public cultural institution on Amsterdam's museum square still accepting money from the fossil fuel industry. With its current campaign, #FossilFreeMuseumplein, FFC-NL aims to liberate Museumplein entirely from the tentacles of fossil fuel companies. With the Concertgebouw's help, Amsterdam could make history by becoming the first city in the world to declare its museum quarter fossil free. Rietberg: "If the Concertgebouw wants to hit the right note, it has to distance itself from Shell in no uncertain terms."

This performance follows a week of global climate strikes that brought a whopping 7.6 million people to the streets, demanding immediate and unprecedented climate action from our political leaders.