

# AUTOMATA CARROUSEL



*scan for short videos*

I am *Geert Hautekiet*, an Antwerp-based Belgian artist who creates *automata: mechanical storytelling machines made with recycled wood and a good sense of humour. They all understand poetry.*

I exhibit my automata in an attractive way in my *Automata Carrousel: a beautifully designed, rusty-looking eye-catcher at festivals, town squares, events, etc.* It had its world premiere in 2021 on the site of *'Les Machines de l'île'* in Nantes (France). That is - *let's be honest* - already worth a quality label ...

Our first two seasons (2021 and 2022) we play in *Belgium, the Netherlands, UK, Hungary (Sziget!), Spain and France.* **After all, the performance is not language-bound.**

Everywhere, it turned out that this Automata Carrousel is **a particularly beautiful and artistic-ly high quality installation: it works for people from 1 to 101 years of age, all at their own level.** The fascination for the movements of the youngest, the depth of poetry in the stories for the oldest.

Hopefully you pay some attention to this Automata Carrousel in your newspaper, magazine, blog,... or on your radio, TV, .... **You can always contact us for an interview or extra information.** In this folder you will find info and photos. **Also check our website for videos and links (PRO) to high resolution press-pictures.**

Best regards,

*Geert Hautekiet,*  
*storyteller & automata-maker*

A large, stylized handwritten signature of Geert Hautekiet in black ink.



**WWW.AUTOMATA.BE**



*The Automata Carousel: around the beautiful, rusty tent is a walkway of about 2 metres wide for the public to go to their own lodge, lined with garlands and blue cones.*



*The public can operate the automata themselves by turning a handle.*



*The audience follows the show from separate lodges, each with its own peep-show window.*



*The Automata Carousel on the site of Les Machines de l'île in Nantes (France)*

# AUTOMATA CARRUSEL

The Automata Carrousel is **a carousel full of automata: around a slowly rotating merry-go-round, 11 separate lodges are built, each with its own peep-show window.** The audience is given a special token at our cash register-kiosk. In separated groups of 4 people maximum, they take place in one of these lodges and open the window with that token. From there, they see the automata pass by. **They can bring them to life themselves by turning a handle.**

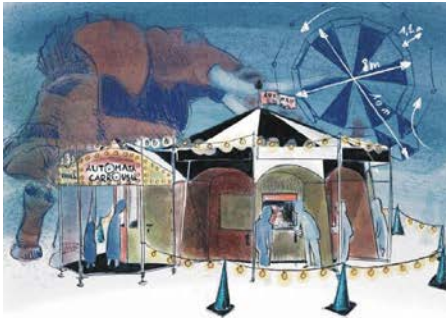
Those automata each tell their own story. **Creaking and squeaking, they manage to touch by their somewhat rough and yet subtle design, their far from well-oiled animation that becomes poetic precisely because of that imperfection.** Due to the small, recognisable accents and human touches, even major themes such as refugees, climate, gender inequality, digital life, etc. are given a place for discussion, with humour.

After 8 à 10 minutes, the window closes automatically. The audience has then been able to enjoy all of the automata for a little more than one tour and a half. They leave the lodge (*happily surprised and in good spirits*) and make way for a new group of spectators.

**All automata are created by Geert Hautekiet (Belgium, °1968).** He builds his mechanical storytelling machines with recycled wood. They are full of humour and poetry. Geert also came up with the whole exposition model of the Automata Carrousel: a peep-show for all ages. *An attractive, rusty-looking tent. An eye-catcher on every festival terrain, city event or urban square.*

**The show is perfectly accessible for wheelchair users or guide dogs. It appears to be attractive to all ages. From 1 to 101 years, and everything in between.** More than once, we have seen adolescents enter the tent in a bad mood behind their parents and come out afterwards glowing with joy.





# AUTOMATA CARRUSEL

## TOURNEE

EEN PEEPSHOW-ON-TOUR  
VAN TOEGANGELIJK MET AUTOMATA  
GEMAAKT VAN HERGEBRUIKT HOUT EN MET  
EEN WAARDIG DOOR GEESTELIJKHEIT  
MET GERECYCLEERD HOUT  
EN GEVOEL VOOR HUMOUR  
TE BEKRIJVEN ALLEMAAL PUBLIEK

## A PEEPSHOW-ON-TOUR.

A CAROUSEL WITH AUTOMATA:  
FULLY MECHANICAL STEEPELANS MACHINES  
CREATED BY GEERT HAUTEKIEK  
WITH RECYCLED WOOD  
AND A SENSE OF HUMOUR.  
THEY ALL UNDERSTAND POETRY.

## 2021

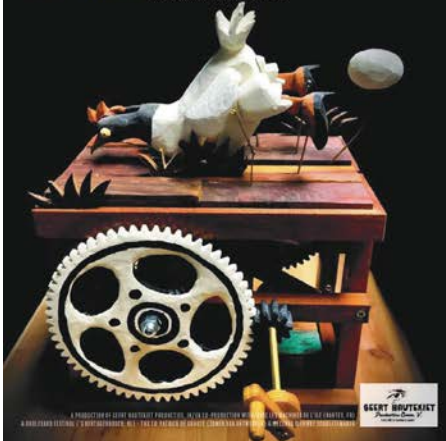
UN PEEPSHOW-ON-TOUR  
DE CAROUSEL MET DE AUTOMATA  
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MET GERECYCLEERD HOUT  
EN GEVOEL VOOR HUMOUR  
TE BEKRIJVEN ALLEMAAL PUBLIEK

## LES MACHINES DE L'ÎLE NANTES

### WORLD PREMIERE 2, 3 & 4 JULI PREMIERE MONDIALE

ANTWERPEN (B) - ZOO VAN ANTWERPEN - STADSPARK - 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14,  
15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 JULI & 1 AUGUSTUS  
'S HERTOGENBOSCH (NL) - BOULEVARD - ZUIDERPARK - 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12,  
13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23 & 22 AUGUSTUS  
LONDON (UK) - GREENWICH - DOCKLANDS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL - OLD ROYAL NAVY COLLEGE - 25 & 30 AUGUST  
MECHELEN (B) - LES MOELS DE NEPS - LES MACHINES DE L'ÎLE - 19 SEPTEMBER  
NANTES (FR) - LES MOELS DE NEPS - LES MACHINES DE L'ÎLE - 19, 19, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 29, 30,  
16, 28 OCTOBER & 9 JANUARI

WWW.AUTOMATA.BE



*details of some automata*



^ flyer of the 2021-premiere-tour


**AUTOMATA MUST BE SEEN MOVING!  
SCAN TO WATCH SOME VIDEOS!**




C'ÉTAIT GÉNIALISSIME  
Lena ♥ 

Amazing! We all felt like kids for a few minutes! Thanks for putting stars in our day and our eyes + Oscar


Jérôme Loves from Belgium  
Jeanne Colomba France

What a piece of art! love it! ♥ 

What beautiful artists and craftsmanship - your passion has no boundaries and moved - thank you.

très poétique merci beaucoup \*a  
 Juliette et Abel

Werk wat binnen komt!  
Heel fijn!!  
Dank jouw \*b

Absolutely Amazing artwork.  30.08.21


cool! ça fait tourner l'imagination \*c

# THE PUBLIC IS ALWAYS RIGHT

Comments recorded in our guestbook




GREAT WORK! THANK YOU

Beautiful machine.  
a great joy to watch.  
x Sarah 

The look of wonder on child's face was super! Great stuff!!

prachtig, subtil, grappig, diep geraakt.  
Rantjavel ♥ \*d

heel mooi! heel goed gemaakt.  
PIPP & jaar \*c

\*a: very poetic. Thanks a lot!  
\*b: Work that enters touching Very nice. 

\*c: Very beautiful! Very well done!  
\*d: Splendid, subtle, funny, deeply touched. Thank you very much.

\*e: I think it was the most beautiful thing I have ever seen.



\*f: Very beautiful, original, creative! Thank you for this beautiful moment of poetry in Nantes.

The innovation behind this was phenomenal, I am in love with the work! Very inspiring!

\*g: I am impressed because you only but recycled.

Très joli, original, créatif!  
Merci pour ce beau moment de poésie à Nantes.  
\*f



ik vond het het mooisten wat ik ooit heb gezien \*e

Je suis impressionné parce que vous avez que recyclé. 😊 \*g

\*Cool! It gets the imagination going!

**“C’est génial!”** - François Delarozzière, artistic leader La Machine, France.

**“The stories of his automata are short but extremely powerful. The fragile aspect of the technique he uses and the dry noise that these automatons give off will move you and awaken the child in all of us!”** - Pierre Orréface, directeur Les Machines de l’île, France.

**‘As a whole, ‘Automata Carroussel’ offers a glimpse of the world outside this peepshow that resonates many times longer than the ten minutes in which the mechanical storytelling machines pass.’** - review Theaterkrant.nl, The Netherlands.

WONDERMOOI!  
CAROLINE & TIMO

Deux septuagénaires ont aimé  
retrouver leur âme d'enfant  
J3 C.

Poétique, sensible, ingénieux, c'est un travail  
admirable, un voyage inspirant qui rapproche enfants  
et adultes dans une expérience du BEAU

VINO et Laurent

Waw! Wat een mooi werk, met mooie  
verhaaltjes. Ik wilde blijven kijken.

♥ Inge

Magique, même pour les maraîchers de grand-père!  
Baci.

Drôle, poétique et ingénieux!

Merci pour ce petit bout de rêve ...

Un merveilleux moment qui nous replonge dans le plus  
pur de poésie, de fantaisie et de Bonheur!  
D'une à l'inspiration sage et douce et à cette  
sœur et à son réseau! Merci de la rencontre  
passé et présent.

De meester verteller heeft de delijde  
zijn verhaal gevonden.

Heel erg mooi ...



onze favo was  
de kip!

xx

Bijzonder beeld van deze tijdsgeslacht!

\*h: Wonderful!

i: Two seventy-year-olds were delighted  
to rediscover the soul of their youth.

j: Poetic, sensitive, clever, it is an admirable work,  
an inspiring journey that brings children and  
adults together in an experience of beauty.

k: Waw! What a beautiful work, with great  
stories. I wanted to keep watching.

l: Splendid, even for mums of big kids!

m: Funny, poetic and ingenious!

n: Thank you for this little piece of wisdom.

o: a wonderful carousel that takes us back to childhood, full of poetry, fantasy and humour!  
Thank you to the Belgian organisation and to the creator of this work. Delighted with the meeting

p: The master storyteller has clearly found his story. Very beautiful...

q: Our favourite is the chicken! / r: remarkable picture of this zeitgeist.

# ABOUT THE ARTIST



**Geert Hautekiet** (°May 1968, Belgium) once studied to be an industrial designer, but immediately went into theatre after graduating. **First as a set and costume designer, later also as a singer, musician and above all storyteller.** He became artistic leader of *Compagnie KAiET!*

With that company he created various successful musical stories on location, all in his native dialect. They toured renowned theatre festivals in Flanders and the Netherlands. He also designed the sets and rusty sound machines. One of his installations (*The Archaeological*

*Dig*) made the front page of **The New York Times** in 2009. **In its end-of-year issue, New York Magazine even named that project one of the five most surprising cultural projects in the Big Apple that year!**

Since the end of 2018, Geert has been focusing on automata, **combining his skills as a storyteller, designer, scenographer and maker. As an experienced theatre-maker on location, he knows the tricks of the trade to lure international audiences to his Automata Carrousel...**

# AUTOMATA CARROUSEL

## AUTOMATA

*all automata created,  
designed and built by:*  
**Geert Hautekiet**

## AUTOMATA CARROUSEL

*concept & design*  
**Geert Hautekiet**

*technical drawings  
& co-design:*  
**Martin Baarda**

*realisation & construction:*  
**Gatham vzw**  
**Joris Festjens**  
**Francis Barrea**  
**Jurgen Claesen**

*crew:*  
**Geert Hautekiet**  
**Mik Anthoni**

*a production of:*  
**Geert Hautekiet**  
**Producties Comm. V**

*in co-production with*



**Festival Boulevard**  
*'s Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands*

*with support of:*  
**Zomer van Antwerpen**  
*festival Antwerp, Belgium*  
**Dieuwke Schuytemaker**  
*mecenas, patron*

**Flanders - 'State of the arts'**  
& **City of Antwerp - subsidy**

## GENERAL INFO

*genre:* **installation**

*target group/age:* **1 - 101 years of age (all ages)**

*language:* **no language**

*duration:* **8 - 10 minutes / show - continuous**

*capacity:* **max. 250 persons/hour - 880 persons / 4 hours**

*covid-safe:* **yes**

*number of performers:* **up to 12 automata (fully mechanical story-telling machines, recycled wood)**

*number of crewmembers:* **2**

*country of artist:* **Belgium**

## PRESS INFO

On our website **www.automata.be** you can find the page *PRO*. Visit that page and check the 'Press' button. There you can download high resolution pictures. You may use them, they are free of rights for the press, but always name the photographer (info is with the picture).

*a video of the Automata Carrousel: check the QR-code or:*

**https://youtu.be/5LV6bC\_mDqQ**

*or visit our YouTube-channel for some videos of automata:*

**https://youtube.com/channel/UCYZR\_zU-qtSdwnDaOAPMxXug**

## CONTACT / INTERVIEW

*You can contact us for an interview with automata-maker Geert Hautekiet, or for more information about our Automata Carrousel website:* **www.automata.be**

*tel:* **+32 456 154 230**

*Email:* **mailen@geerthautekiet.website**

*We speak/write English, French and Dutch*