

**ORTA**

PORTFOLIO 2025

# ORTA

Artistic group



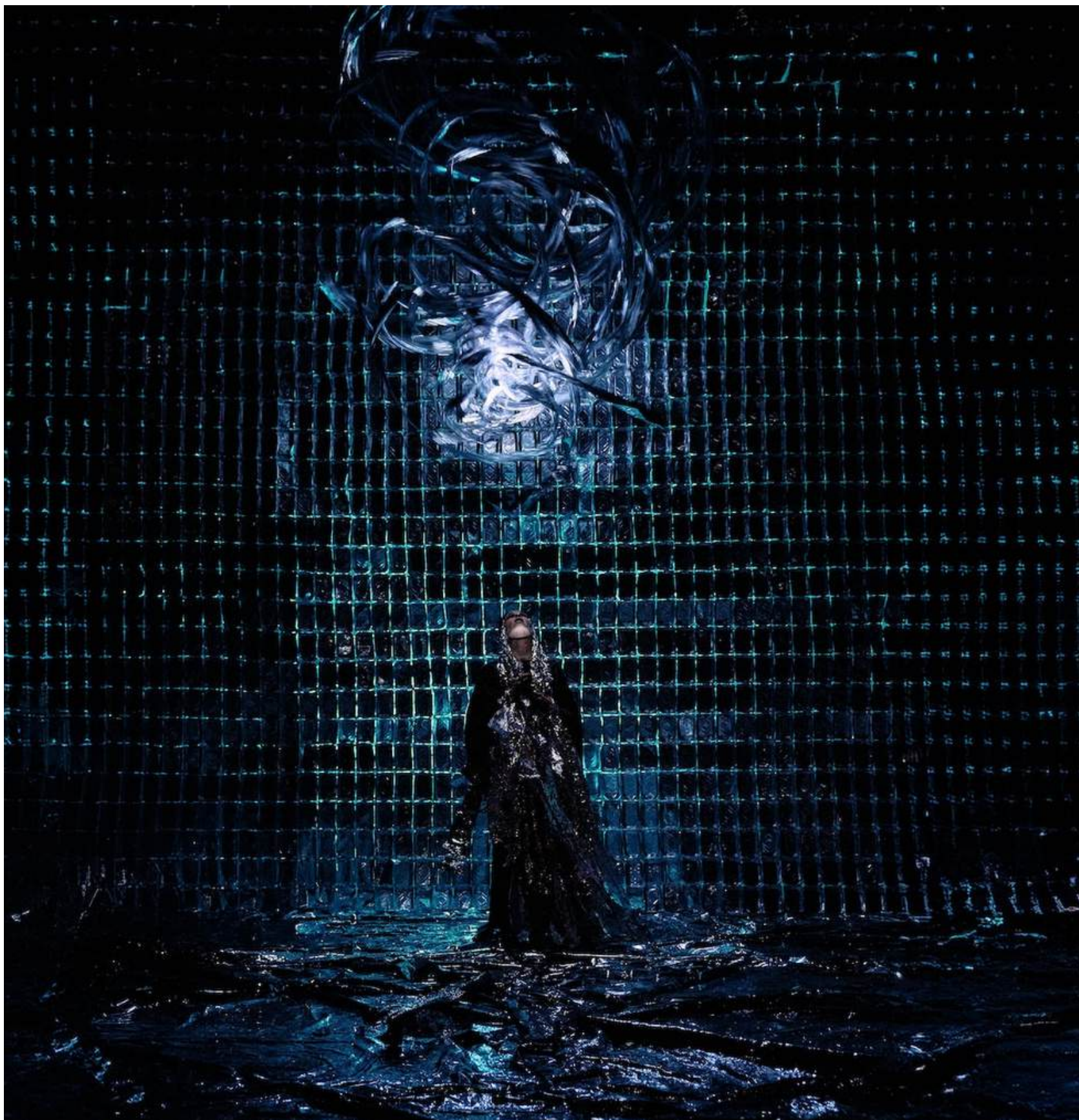
ORTA is an art group consisting of Alexandra Morozova (b. 1982) and Rustem Begenov (b. 1983), based in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

ORTA undertakes a rigorous examination of past and present, addressing fundamental questions of existence and the structure of the world while consciously rejecting established critical frameworks. Building on the legacy of Kazakh artist and inventor Sergey Kalmykov (1891–1967), they have developed the Theory of the New Genius, a practice through which they produce theater works, performances, installations, sound, visual and video projects, workshops, lectures, and large-scale Planetary Projects—inventing both the artistic forms and the language needed to explore and articulate the questions at the heart of their work.

ORTA's work has been presented internationally across museums, biennials, festivals, and contemporary art platforms. Their projects and commissions have been realized at the 59th Venice Biennale (Kazakhstan National Pavilion), the 13th Seoul Mediacity Biennale, La MaMa ETC (New York), Meyerhold Center (Moscow), Voices Festival (Berlin), NET–New European Theatre Festival, and other international venues. ORTA's work has been documented and discussed in major catalogues and publications, including those of the Venice Biennale and Seoul Mediacity Biennale, as well as in e-flux Journal, Artnet News, The Art Newspaper, Elephant, The Telegraph, a.o.

Their current Planetary Project, The Great Atomic Bombreflector, confronts the enduring impact of forty years of nuclear testing in Kazakhstan known as Atomic Inhumanity.





## The Great Atomic Bombreflector

Ongoing since 2021

*Performances, installations, workshops, lectures, publications*

A multi-stage Planetary Project to create a device to eradicate the phenomenon of war by the Power of Genius

The Great Atomic Bombreflector is an international scientific, artistic, research, and engineering project by ORTA, created to demonstrate the feasibility of eradicating war through the forces of genius, the power of theater, and the energy of Atomic Inhumanity.

Atomic Inhumanity is a horrific legacy of 40 years of nuclear testing in Kazakhstan, where from 1949 to 1989, more than 630 nuclear "devices" were detonated throughout its territory, turning the world's ninth-largest country into one vast testing ground, a fact that remains largely unmentioned today. Un-extracted, unreflected, forgotten the Atomic Inhumanity invisibly poisons the earth, people, memory.

The project's ultimate goal is the creation and launch of the Great Atomic Bombreflector—a spectacular, ritualistic, theatrical event of unprecedented historical scale that will become the first device to harness this energy of Atomic Inhumanity by extracting it, transforming it into creative energy, and using it as fuel for the eradication of war.

The creation of this incredibly complex device requires the participation of the maximum number of thinkers, engineers, and artists—everyone willing to contribute their ideas and geniuses. Therefore, since 2021, ORTA has been conducting Spectacular Experiments, Experiences, workshops, and installations, and establishing research centers around the world.





## The New Genius Experience of The Great Atomic Bombreflector

2025

Voices Festival, Berlin, DE

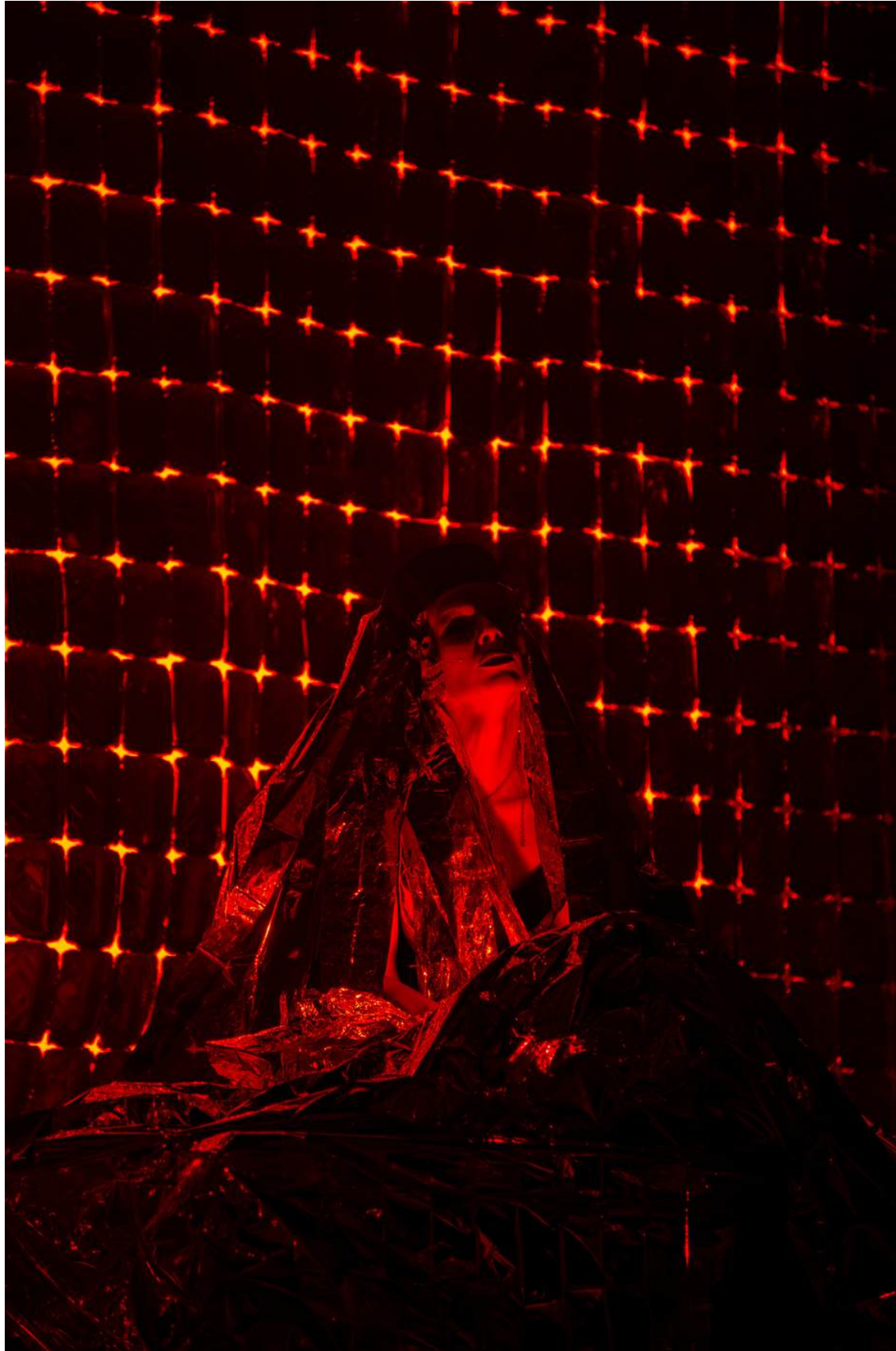
*Performance*

The New Genius Experience was presented in its first Berlin iteration, extending the project into a new context within ORTA's ongoing work on The Great Atomic Bombreflector. Conceived as a ritualistic and speculative performance, the work engaged participants in a multi-phase process addressing Universal Composition, Atomic Inhumanity, and the activation of each participant's Inner Genius. Led by guide-performer Alexandra Morozova, the performance unfolded within a large-scale immersive environment in which disposable aluminum containers covered the space from floor to ceiling and along the entire perimeter of Saal of Radialsystem, forming an enveloping architectural body that resonated acoustically with live sound, voices, and movement. The performance incorporated texts by Sergey Kalmykov, folk songs, philosophical fragments from Zhuangzi, and testimonies of nuclear test survivors in Kazakhstan.

Part of ORTA's ongoing Planetary Program The Great Atomic Bombreflector.

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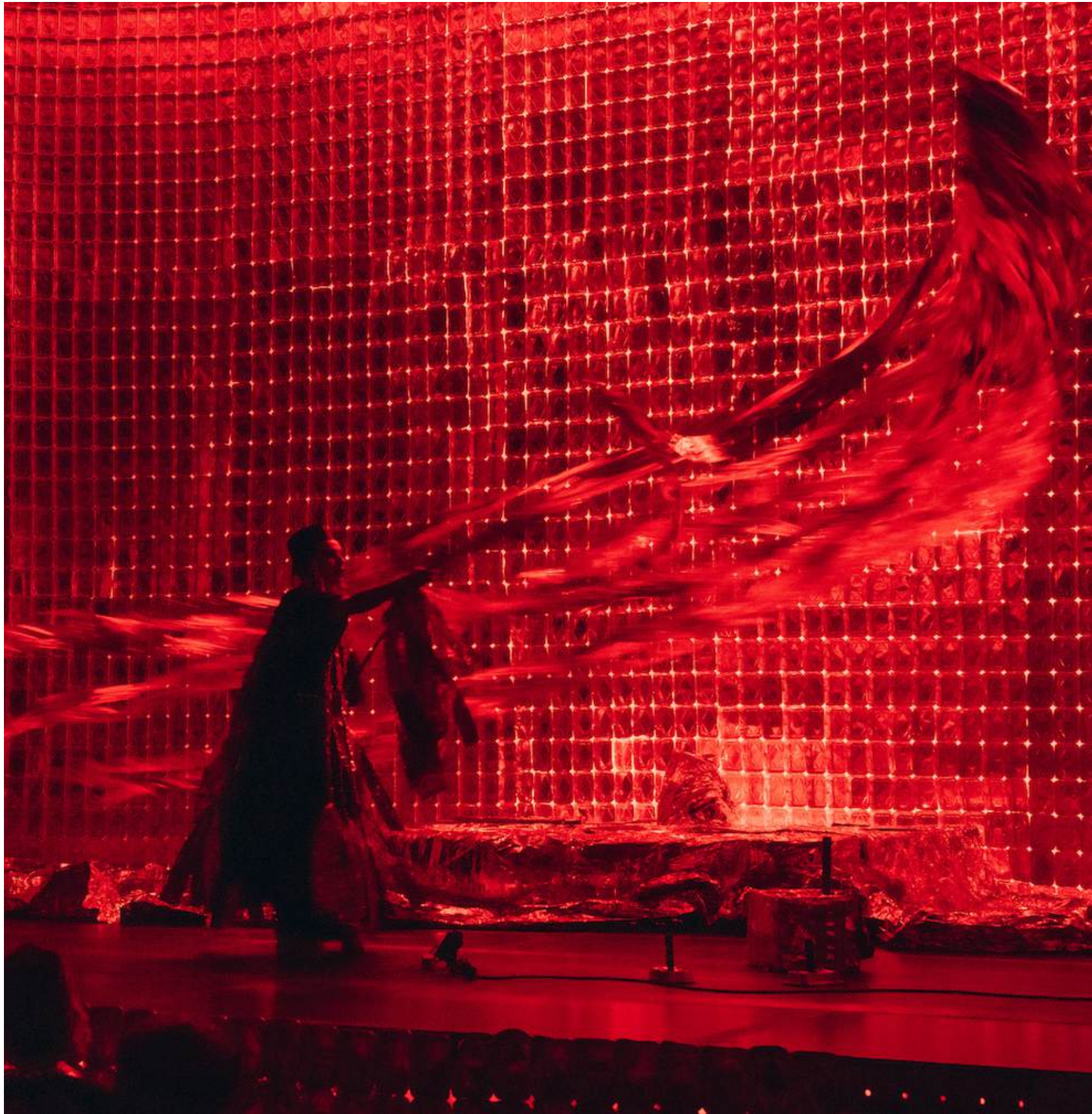
**The New Genius Experience of The Great Atomic Bombreflector, 2025**

VOICES Berlin Festival, Berlin, DE

*Performance*

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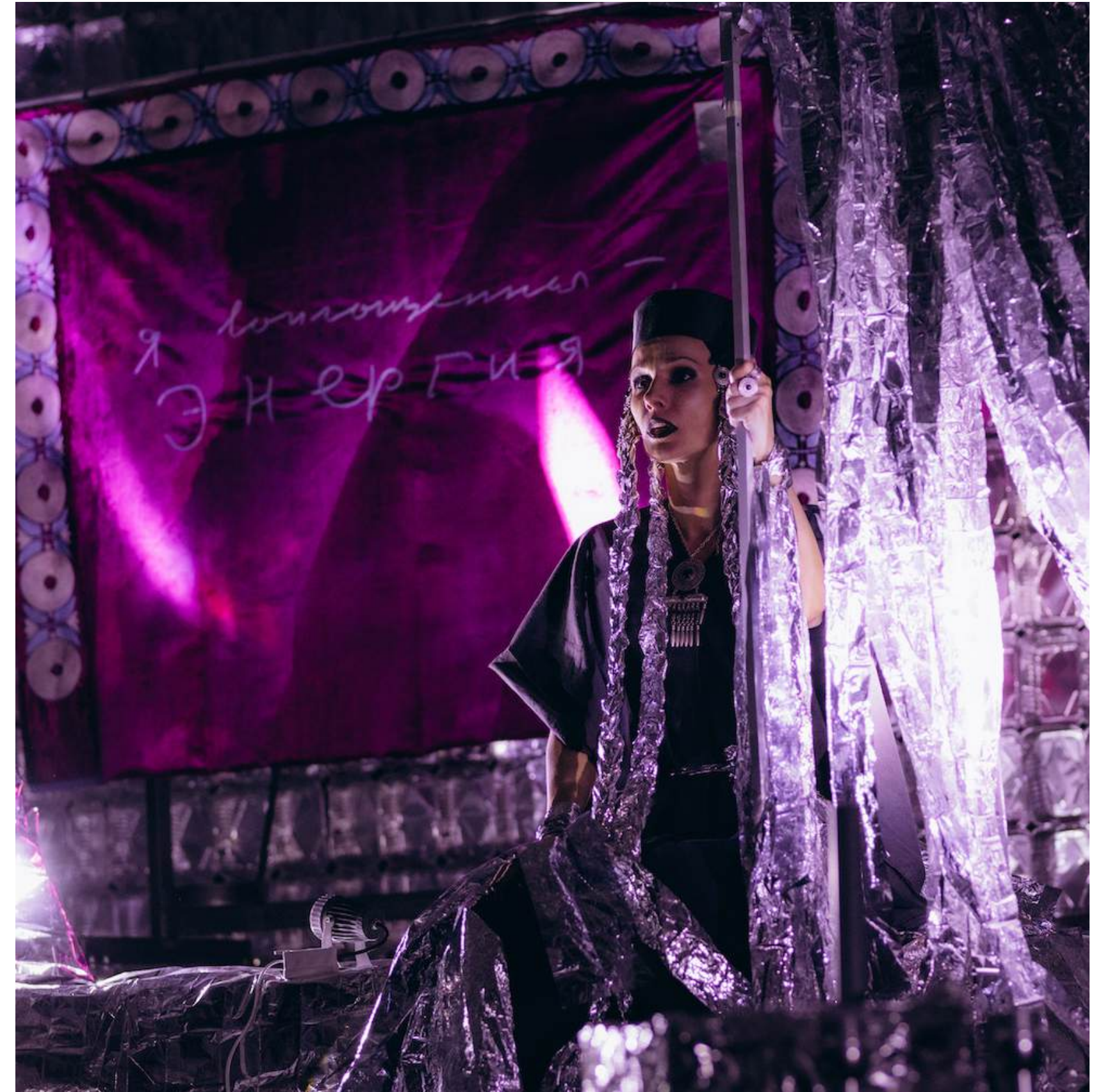




**The New Genius Experience of The Great Atomic Bombreflector, 2025**

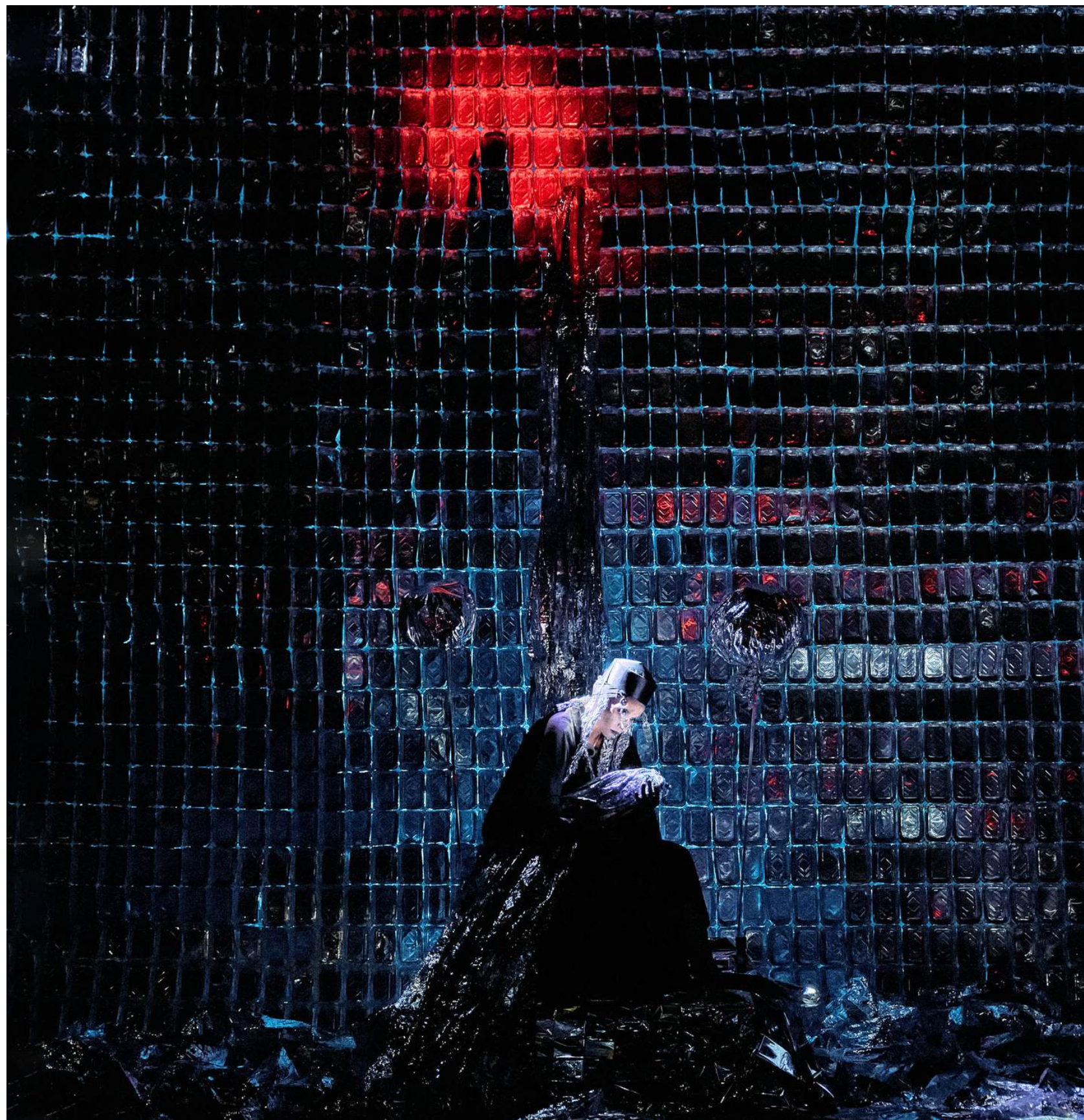
VOICES Berlin Festival, Berlin, DE

*Performance*



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## The New Genius Experience of The Great Atomic Bombreflector

2025

13th Seoul Mediacity Biennale, Seoul, KR

*Performance*

The New Genius Experience is the first component of the Seoul iteration of The Great Atomic Bombreflector, a two-component project by ORTAfor the 13th Seoul Mediacity Biennale. Conceived as a ritualistic and speculative performance, the work engages participants in a multi-phase process addressing Universal Composition, Atomic Inhumanity, and the activation of each participant's Inner Genius. Led by guide-performer Alexandra Morozova, the performance unfolds within an immersive environment constructed from approximately 15,000 disposable aluminum containers, incorporating texts by Sergey Kalmykov, folk songs, philosophical fragments from Zhuangzi, and testimonies of nuclear test survivors in Kazakhstan.

Part of ORTA's ongoing Planetary Program The Great Atomic Bombreflector.

Commissioned by the 13th Seoul Mediacity Biennale.

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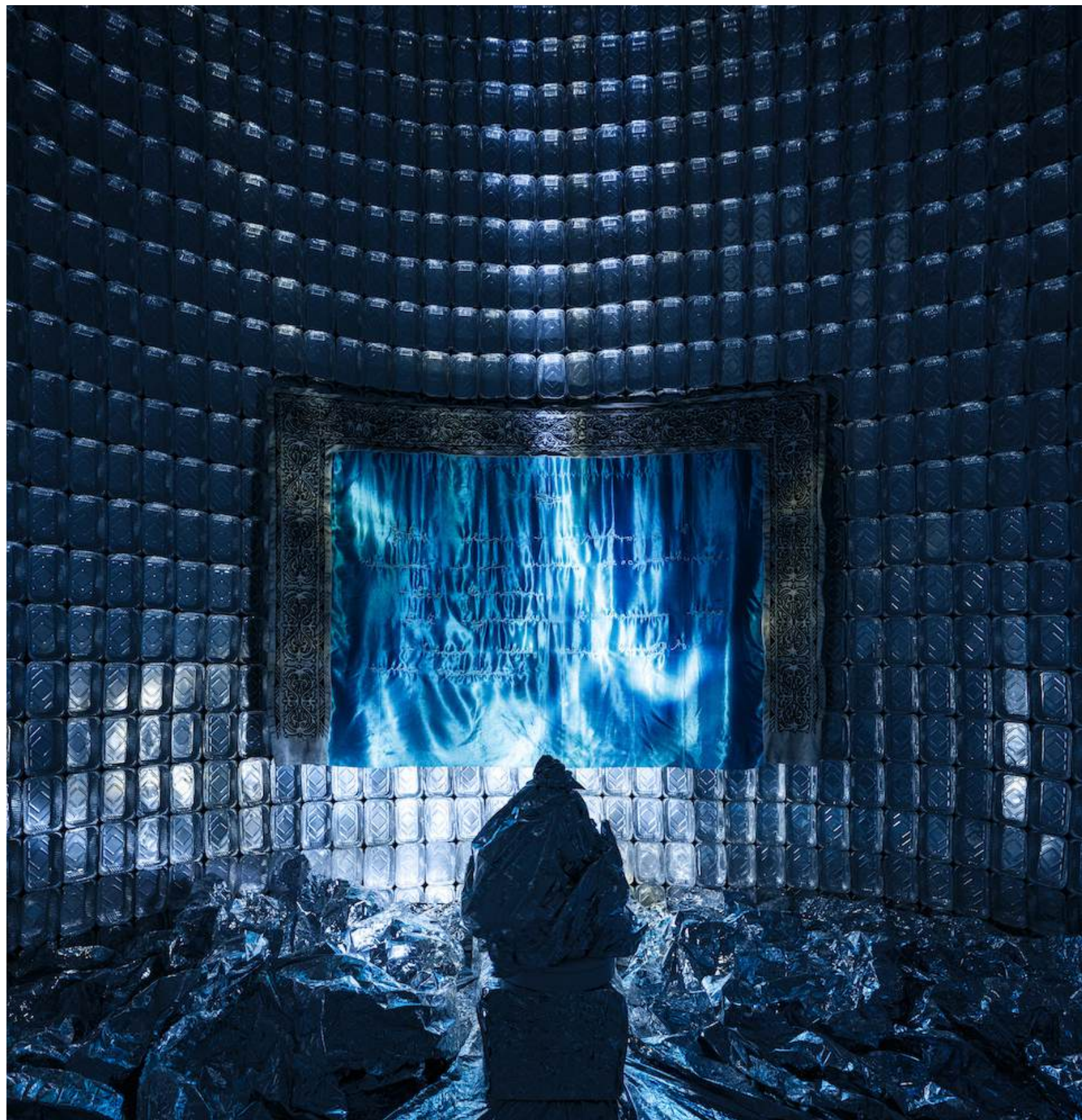
## The New Genius Experience of The Great Atomic Bombreflector, 2025

13th Seoul Mediacity Biennale, Seoul, KR

*Performance*

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## The New Genius Temple of The Great Atomic Bombreflector

2025

13th Seoul Mediacity Biennale, Seoul, KR

*Immersive installation*

The New Genius Temple is the second component of the Seoul iteration of The Great Atomic Bombreflector, a two-component project by ORTA for the 13th Seoul Mediacity Biennale. Conceived as a device for the individual activation of each visitor's Genions, the installation comprises approximately 5,000 disposable aluminum containers, a system of light and sound streams, and a central portal titled Sacred Exposition, created by Alexandra Morozova using the traditional Kazakh embroidery technique "biz keste". The soundscape is composed by Rustem Begenov.

Part of ORTA's ongoing Planetary Program The Great Atomic Bombreflector.

Commissioned by the 13th Seoul Mediacity Biennale.

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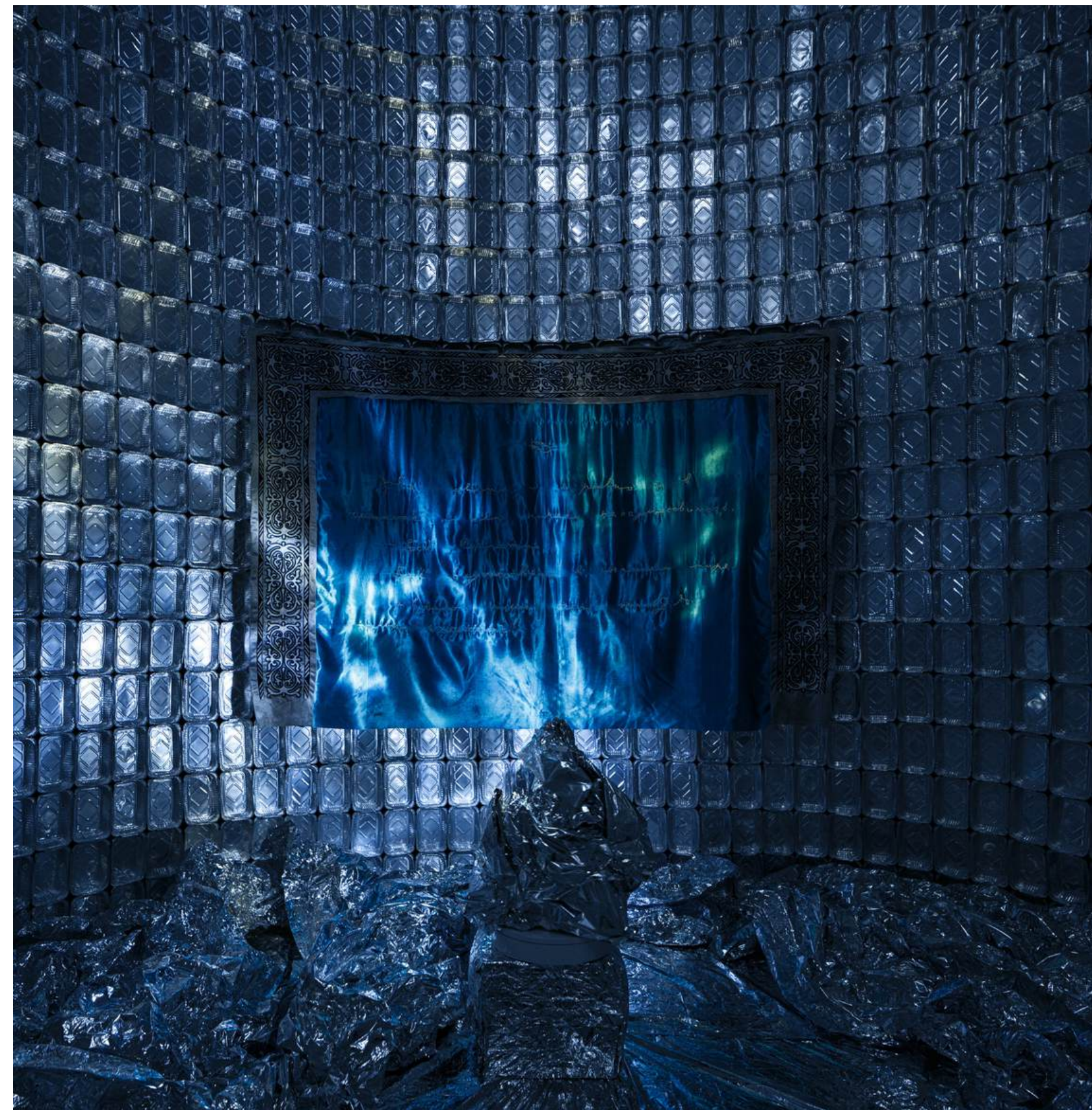




## The New Genius Temple of The Great Atomic Bombreflector, 2025

13th Seoul Mediacity Biennale, Seoul, KR

*Immersive installation*



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## **Spectacular Experiments on The Great Atomic Bombreflector**

2024

La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, New York City, US

*Performance*

A series of immersive performative events constituting the second stage of ORTA's Planetary sci-fi project The Great Atomic Bombreflector. Conceived and conducted by ORTA in collaboration with the CultureHub community at La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, the Experiments tested the first full draft of the ritual core of the future Bombreflector device.

The performances incorporated Sacred Expositions, an immersive environment built from approximately 3,000 square feet of aluminum foil and 10,000 artificial stones-genionites, unique Kazakh musical instruments, collective practices aimed at activating participants' Inner Genius, as well as Kazakh folk songs and interworld texts by Sergey Kalmykov, performed by guide-performer Alexandra Morozova.

The successful realization of the Experiments marked the official launch of ORTA's Planetary Program The Great Atomic Bombreflector.





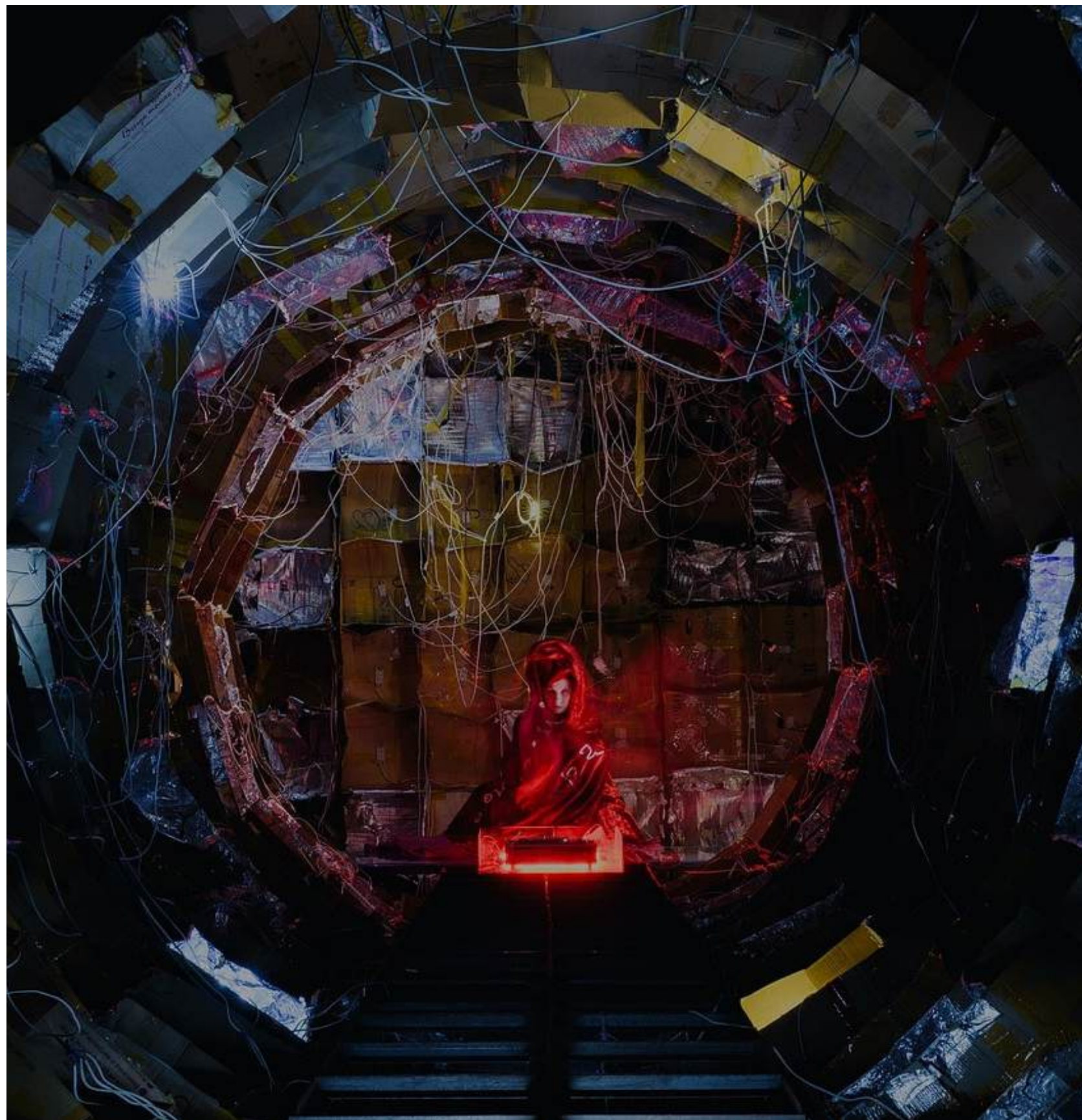
**Spectacular Experiments on The Great Atomic Bombreflector, 2024**

La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, New York City, US

*Performance*







## **LAI-PI-CHU-PLEE-LAPA Centre for the New Genius 2022**

59th Venice Biennale, Kazakhstan National Pavilion, Venice, IT

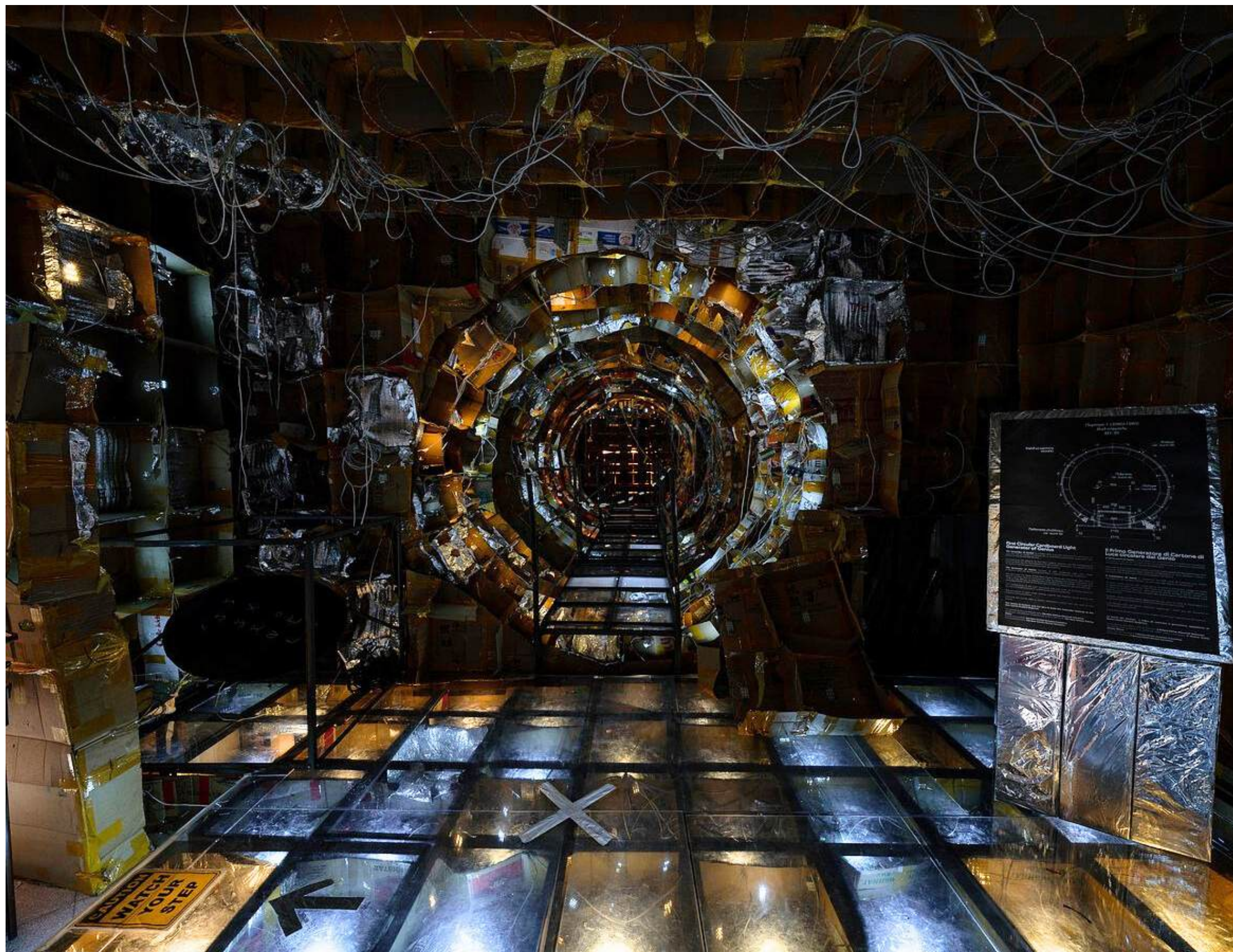
*Immersive installation, installation, sculpture, video, books, hand-made embroidery*

ORTA acted as curators and participating artists of the first-ever national pavilion of Kazakhstan at the 59th Venice Biennale. Dedicated to the Kazakhstani artist, writer, and inventor Sergey Kalmykov (1891–1967), the project transformed the pavilion into the Center for the New Genius, a collective environment composed of installations by ORTA and collaborators from Kazakhstan.

Works included: Sacred Expositions (Alexandra Morozova); Pyramidal Photoiconostasis (Darya Jumelya); Generator of Genius (Rustem Begenov, Alexandr Bakanov); New Genius Yurt (Alexandra Morozova, Sabina Kuangaliyeva); New Genius Robotics (Alexandr Bakanov, Rustem Begenov).

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## LAI-PI-CHU-PLEE-LAPA Centre for the New Genius, 2022

59th Venice Biennale, Kazakhstan National Pavilion, Venice, IT

*Immersive installation, installation, sculpture, video, books, hand-made embroidery*

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## LAI-PI-CHU-PLEE-LAPA Centre for the New Genius, 2022

59th Venice Biennale, Kazakhstan National Pavilion, Venice, IT

*Immersive installation, installation, sculpture, video, books, hand-made embroidery*



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**LAI-PI-CHU-PLEE-LAPA Centre for the New Genius, 2022**

59th Venice Biennale, Kazakhstan National Pavilion, Venice, IT

*Immersive installation, installation, sculpture, video, books, hand-made embroidery*

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## **Spectacular Experiments in the Temporary Temple of the New Genius**

2022

59th Venice Biennale, Kazakhstan National Pavilion, Venice, IT

*Performance*

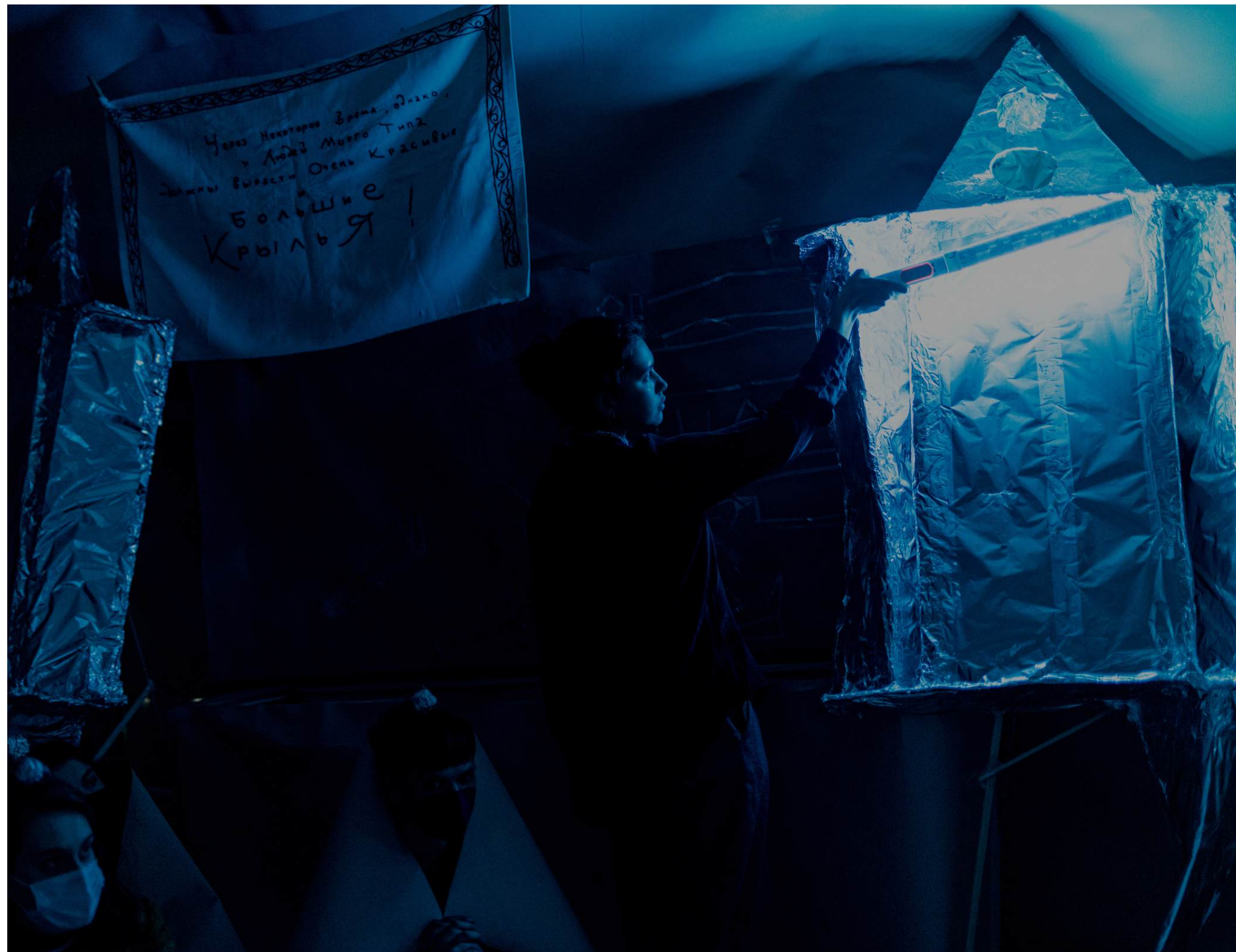
Conceived as an immediate on-site response to the disruption of the original pavilion project, Spectacular Experiments in the Temporary Temple of the New Genius was realized when it became clear that, due to Russia's war against Ukraine, the artworks intended for the pavilion would not arrive in Venice in time for the opening week of the Biennale.

Rather than leaving the first national pavilion of Kazakhstan empty, ORTA activated the principles of the New Genius directly on site, constructing a provisional installation titled the Temporary Temple of the New Genius. Within this space, ORTA conducted Spectacular Experiments twice daily during the opening week—interactive performative events conceived to activate visitors' Inner Genius.

These sessions functioned both as public encounters and as a research process, generating experiential material later incorporated into the full realization of the Center for the New Genius.

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## Spectacular Experiments in the Temporary Temple of the New Genius, 2022

59th Venice Biennale, Kazakhstan National Pavilion, Venice, IT

*Performance*

[WATCH TRAILER](#)





## **Zen-Extravaganza The First Atomic Bombreflector**

2021

NONAME festival, Meyerhold Center, Moscow, RU

*Performance*

A performative launch of the first-ever Atomic Bombreflector, realized as the initial stage of ORTA's long-term science-fiction project The Great Atomic Bombreflector. Commissioned by the NONAME International Decolonial Festival, the work marked the first realization of Sergey Kalmykov's hypothetical invention designed to transform destructive energy into creative energy.

The performance took place in pre-war Moscow and incorporated texts by Sergey Kalmykov and John Cage, performed by guide-performer Alexandra Morozova and her performative practice Sacred Expositions. It also marked the first large-scale experiment in involving the entire audience as participants of the Fragile Orchestra, extending the practice beyond invited performers to all spectators present.





**Zen-Extravaganza The First Atomic Bombreflector, 2021**

NONAME festival, Meyerhold Center, Moscow, RU

*Performance*





## The First Visible Phenomena Reactor

2021

Aspan Gallery, Almaty, KZ

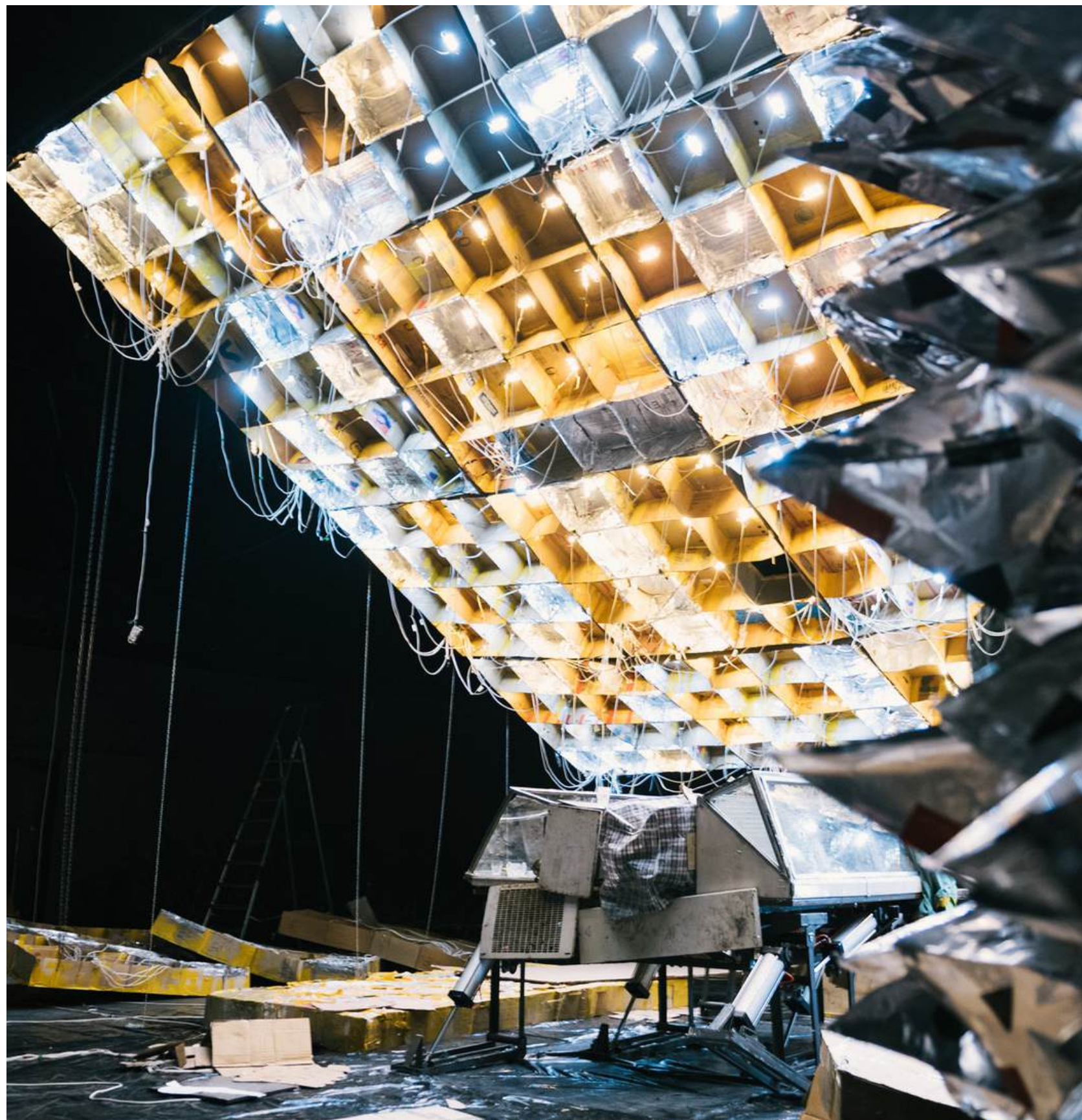
*Performance*

A series of performative experiments exploring the sub-visible dimension, developed on the basis of the text *Communication* by American composer John Cage. The project investigated the possibility for both performers and spectators to enter a state of childlike, immediate perception of reality as a mode of contact with an invisible dimension first identified in ORTA's 2018 project *Svetoprestavleniye* Sergey Kalmykov and later defined as Universal Composition.

The experiments unfolded within a specially constructed immersive environment created by ORTA inside Aspan Gallery according to the principles of the New Genius, forming a visually striking, musically and atmospherically composed space that functioned as an active participant in the performance. A strong musical dimension was integral to the work, featuring live performances by pianist Nurgul Nusipzhanova, electronic musician Acell, and the local amateur choir April.

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## **Svetoprestavleniye Sergey Kalmykov**

2018

Almaty, KZ / New Drama festival, Moscow, RU

*Performance*

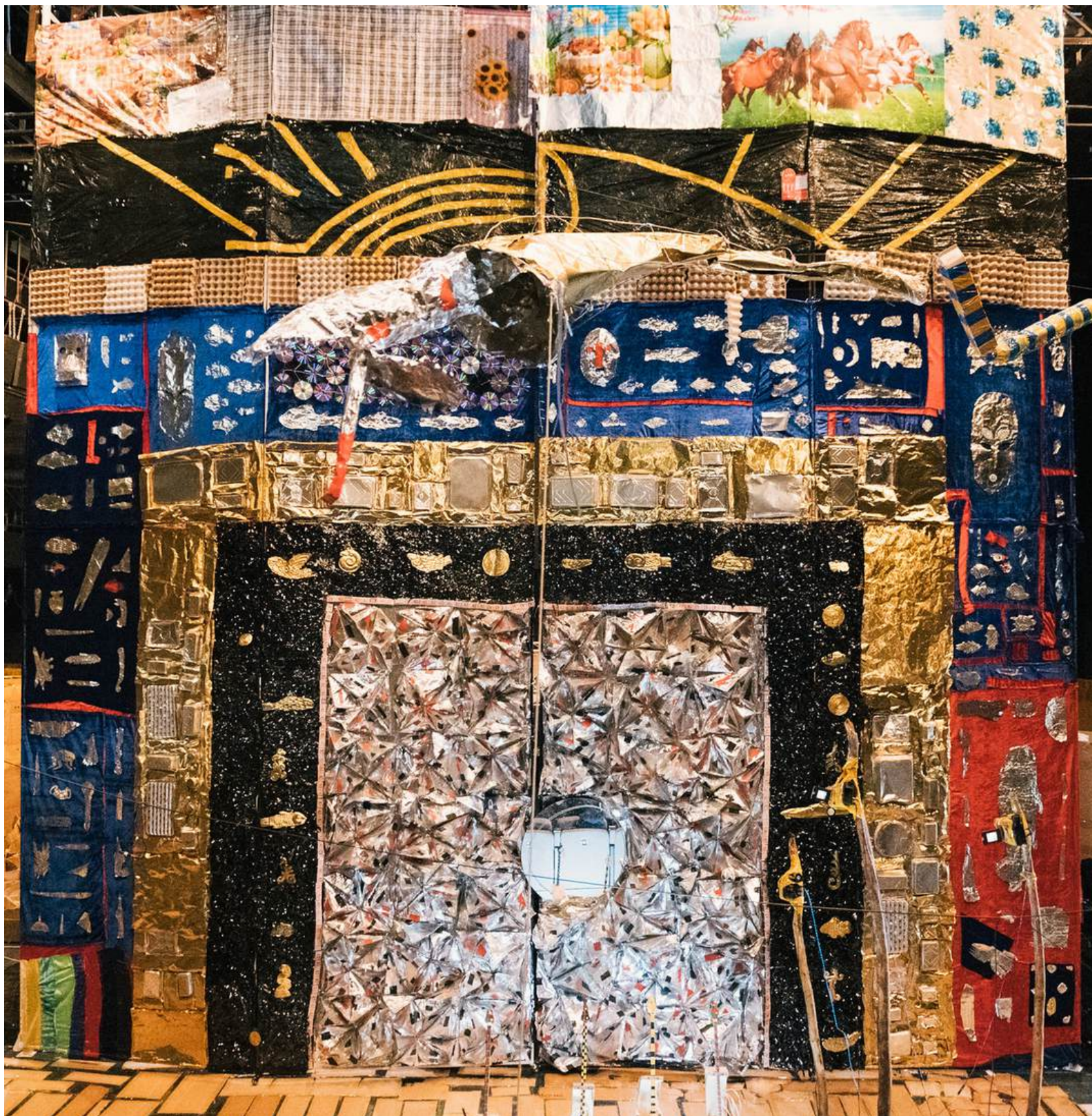
An experimental performance-portal conceived as an attempt to access a higher dimension later defined by ORTA as Universal Composition. The work combined theatre, performance, engineering, electronic and live music, and speculative technological inventions constructed primarily from discarded materials.

The performative environment included a six-legged, 300-kilogram walking refrigerator, a 200-square-meter cardboard light display composed of 900 cells, a quartet of robotized self-playing Kazakh instruments (dombra), and lightning generated by a supercharged Tesla coil. The project was structured according to Sergey Kalmykov's Eight Laws of Composition, testing whether a human researcher could pass through the constructed portal and encounter the higher dimension directly. In the performance, Alexandra Morozova assumed the role of such a researcher.

The project premiered in Almaty and was later presented as a headlining work at the New Drama International Theatre Festival 2018 in Moscow. It was nominated for the Grand Prix of the Sergey Kuryokhin Contemporary Art Award.

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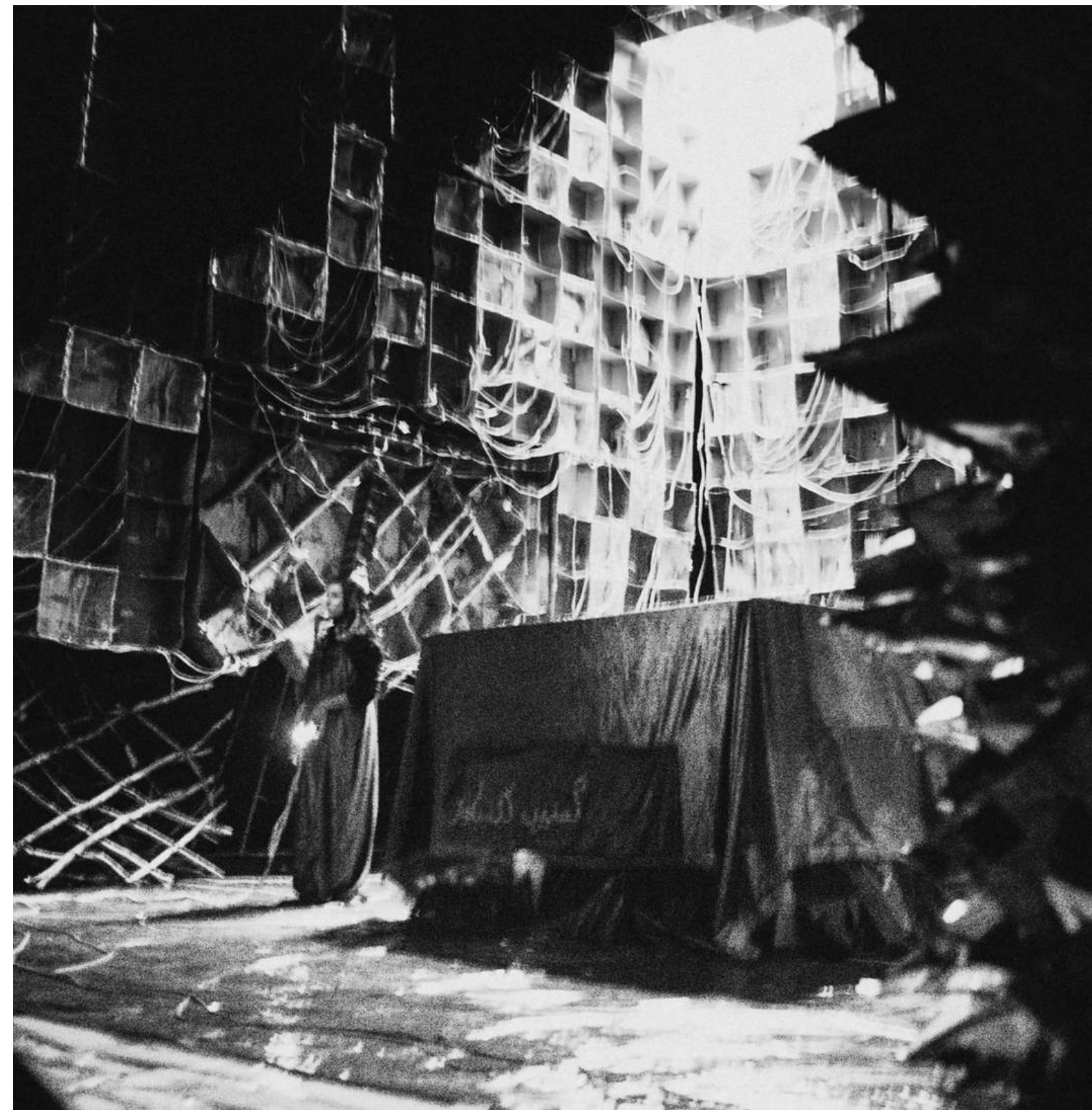




**Svetoprestavleniye Sergey Kalmykov, 2018**

Almaty, KZ / New Drama festival, Moscow, RU

*Performance*



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## Pop-Mechanical Performance Medea.Material

2016

Almaty, KZ / NET-New European Festival, Moscow, RU

*Performance*

A multidisciplinary technogenic mystery at the intersection of theatre, performance, contemporary music, and automated ballet. The work brought together sixteen professional fashion models, a contemporary music ensemble, a costume designer, and film animatronics artists, alongside screens, cameras, and live voices, forming a landscape-like musical theatre environment. The performance was based on Heiner Müller's Medea.Material and Olzhas Suleimenov's AZ and Ya.

Medea.Material was the first staging of Heiner Müller's texts in the history of Kazakhstani theatre and was presented at the NET-2016 (New European Theatre) International Festival in Moscow, where it was nominated for the Grand Prix of the Sergey Kuryokhin Contemporary Art Award.

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**Pop-Mechanical Performance Medea.Material, 2016**

Almaty, KZ / NET-New European Festival, Moscow, RU

*Performance*



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