

breath

call for proposals

After inspiration, the breath (pneuma) expresses the invisible movement of pulmonary air that an individual instinctively exhales by the respiratory passages ending in the mouth and the nose. While getting a “second wind” marks a renewal of vitality, life ends with the “last breath.” The breath produces the voice, just like the sound column of a saxophone, the “wind of the blast” of dynamite, or the “wind of the shot” of the cannon – that rush of compressed air due to the course of the cannonball through the smooth or rifled barrel.

Since the 16th century, however, the breath has been associated with the vitalist or meteorological mechanisms of the winds and airs, and has thus also denoted a metaphysics – that of ‘creative energy,’ ‘spirited influence,’ ‘creative inspiration.’ Raised to the divine, made transcendental, spiritualist or trifling, the breath pneumatises the contemplative or creative mind; articulates the body; scans the poetic line of which it is the essence; cadences musical, choral, dramatic, pictorial, sculptural, and filmic expression; guides glass blowers and theatre whisperers; troubles the doctor when it rattles or crackles.

Breath and air encompass the totality of the world to the point that, once exhausted or when submerged, life suffocates. Whether physiological or metaphysical, creative effusion that is improvised or pre-conceived, material thing or immaterial production, the staging of the breath by pose, by sound, or by word can animate and fuel performances to remedy spiritual asphyxiation.

At once respirational rhythm and psychic temperament, let the breath (but also its inverse, breathlessness, or even its suspension – apnea – more or less brief, voluntary or involuntary) inspire voice, natural and manufactured sounds, speech, gestures, bodies, and all manner of visual production for original performances of 12 minutes and 34 seconds. For these breathtaking creations Macaronic solicits artists open to the seduction of a pneuma-thematic *rendez-vous*, Wednesday 19 November 2025, at 7.30 PM.

Please provide a title and a statement of intent of no more than 200 words by 30 June 2025.

date and time

Thursday, 19 November 2025. Doors open at 7 PM, with performances commencing at 7:30 PM. Bar.