

## Invisibles Fondations - Performance by Rachel Labastie

Between ritual and poetry, « Invisibles Fondations » rises as an ode to the discreet yet essential forces that sustain our world. By activating five ceramic foundation nail sculptures, the artist draws a pentagram of clay. She walks barefoot, reciting poems dedicated to the invisible builders — poets, caregivers, musicians, artists, researchers — and sings of breath and grounding. Accompanied by a flute, the performance awakens, through silence and gesture, buried memories of peace and care. The artist thus pays tribute to the subterranean forces that uphold humanity.

**Video recording:** <https://youtu.be/7mZZOrTW4ro?si=03gosWDeAVqpSXjv>







### **Explanatory presentation of the work: Foundation Nails**

At the crossroads of poetry and archaeology, Foundation Nails is a sculptural work that explores buried memory and invisible transmissions. Inspired by Mesopotamian clay foundation nails — ritual objects and early writing supports, planted in temple foundations to sanctify their anchoring — this series brings to light an ancient practice where building is also an act of remembrance.

Rachel Labastie reimagines these nails as visible sculptures, bearing poetic texts. Each one pays homage to those who, through their commitment and sensitivity, create enclaves of beauty, resistance, or peace. The artist inscribes in them a contemporary voice, rooted in gesture and earth.

Temples here are no longer built in stone: they take shape in the viewer's imagination, through words engraved on sigillated ceramic. The nails emerge from the shadows: they become visible, magnified, charged with symbolic and almost magical power. Their purified, smoked or glowing forms evoke both the fragility of the world and the strength of foundational gestures.



# PERFORMANCE OUTLINE : « INVISIBLES FOUNDATIONS »

## Space Preparation

Mark in advance the five points of the pentagram with 5 clay blocks.

Also mark the center with a 6th clay block.

At a distance, place blankets on which the five foundation nails (in sigillata ceramic) are laid.

Beginning of the Performance

The clay "landscape"

## Prologue read by a third party:

"Il était une fois, aux confins du temps,  
Once upon a time, at the edges of time,  
deux sœurs jumelles nées d'un murmure ancien :  
two twin sisters were born of an ancient murmur:

Paix et Bienveillance.

Peace and Benevolence.

Elles naquirent d'un souffle porté par les premiers hommes;  
They were born from a breath carried by the first humans,  
dans la langue oubliée du vent et des racines.  
in the forgotten language of wind and roots.

Paix, rêvait d'un monde apaisé.

Peace dreamed of a world at rest.

Née du verbe « fixer, stabiliser », elle savait que sans ancrage,  
Born from the verb "to steady, to fix," she knew that without anchoring,  
l'âme et la terre tremblaient sous les pas des guerriers.  
the soul and the earth trembled under the steps of warriors.

Alors qu'elle n'était qu'un simple écho, son nom se grava  
Though she was only an echo, her name was engraved  
sur les pierres des traités et dans les accords des anciens rois.  
on the stones of treaties and in the accords of ancient kings.

Elle devint Pax sous le soleil romain, Pace sur les collines d'Italie,  
She became Pax under the Roman sun, Pace on the hills of Italy,

Paz au-delà des mers espagnoles

Paz beyond the Spanish seas,

et Peace lorsqu'elle traversa la brume anglaise.  
and Peace when she crossed the English mist.

Though she was only an echo, her name was engraved  
sur les pierres des traités et dans les accords des anciens rois.  
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Elle devint Pax sous le soleil romain, Pace sur les collines d'Italie,  
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Paz beyond the Spanish seas,

et Peace lorsqu'elle traversa la brume anglaise.

and Peace when she crossed the English mist.

Mais Paix était fragile, souvent chassée par le fracas des épées.  
But Peace was fragile, often chased away by the clash of swords.

Elle voyageait sans cesse.

She wandered endlessly,

Elle cherchait un refuge où reposer son nom.

searching for a place to rest her name.

Elle s'épanouissait dans les chants des poètes,

She flourished in the songs of poets,

dans les prières des mères et le silence des temples

in the prayers of mothers and the silence of temples,

mais elle savait qu'elle ne pouvait exister seule.

but she knew she could not exist alone.

C'est alors que Bienveillance, sa sœur errante, la rejoignit.

Then Benevolence, her wandering sister, joined her.

Elle était le souffle du cœur, née du désir secret des hommes

She was the breath of the heart, born from the secret desire of  
humans

de vouloir du bien aux autres.

to wish well upon others.

Son nom était murmuré par les sages.

Her name was whispered by sages,

sculpté dans les écoles philosophiques.

carved into philosophical schools,

chuchoté dans les temples aux lampes vacillantes.

murmured in temples lit by flickering lamps.

Elle devint Benevolentia chez les Latins, Benevolenza en Italie,

Bénévolence au pays des penseurs et des philosophes.

She became Benevolentia among the Latins, Benevolenza in Italy,

Benevolence in the land of thinkers and philosophers.

Puis de plus en plus on oublia de l'invoquer,

But more and more, she was forgotten,

la confondant avec la faiblesse.

mistaken for weakness.



Un jour sous les doigts d'une poétesse,  
*One day, under the fingers of a poetess,*  
Paix et Beneveillance se retrouvèrent enfin.  
*Peace and Benevolence finally found each other again.*

L'une sans l'autre était incomplète.  
*One without the other was incomplete.*

Elles comprirent que la paix ne peut durer sans la bienveillance, et que la  
bienveillance est vaine sans la paix pour l'accueillir.  
*hey understood that peace cannot endure without benevolence, Tand that  
benevolence is futile without peace to receive it.*

Depuis, elles parcourent le monde, invisibles mais présentes,  
*Since then, they wander the world— invisible yet present,*  
cachées dans les gestes tendres, les mains qui se tendent  
*hidden in tender gestures, in hands reaching out,*

et les regards qui se comprennent. On les croit parfois perdues, pourtant elles  
veillent, prêtes à renaître

*They are sometimes believed to be lost, yet they watch over us, ready to be reborn*  
au creux d'une parole sincère ou d'un silence habité d'amour.  
*in a sincere word or a silence filled with love.*

Elles se glissent ainsi dans les mains des bâtisseurs,  
*They slip into the hands of builders,*  
dans l'élan des poètes, dans le souffle des architectes invisibles du monde.  
*into the impulse of poets, into the breath of the world's invisible architects.*

Comme des clous de fondation  
*Like foundation nails*  
scellés dans les pierres des premiers temples,  
*sealed into the stones of the first temples,*  
elles ancrent ce qui sans elles s'effondrerait. "  
*they anchor that which would collapse without them.*

**Enter the space barefoot.**

**Activation of the Foundation Nails**

*Walk towards the blankets and, one by one, collect each foundation nail.*  
*For each nail, carry it to its corresponding point, anchor it, and stabilize it in the clay.*  
*Recite the short poem inscribed on each nail.*  
*After each sculpture is stabilized, the flutist performs a unique musical sequence*  
*interpreting the nail.*  
*When passing again by an already anchored nail, a short excerpt of its melody plays*  
*during the time of passing.*

1

"Poètes, architectes dont les mots sont les briques  
d'un temple intangible, héros, passeurs qui œuvrent  
à édifier des contre-forces face à la brutalité du monde.  
Ils ont construit, ils construisent encore.  
Ils restaureront pour toujours ce sanctuaire."

*Poets, architects whose words are the bricks  
of an intangible temple, heroes, ferrymen who strive  
to build counter-forces against the world's brutality.*  
*They built, they are still building.*  
*They will forever restore this sanctuary.*

2

"Réparateurs, aidants, dont les gestes et les soins  
sont le ciment fragile de nos civilisations,  
ils bâtissent de frêles mais indispensables remparts à l'inhumanité.  
Ils ont construit, ils construisent encore.  
Ils restaureront pour toujours ces citadelles."

*Healers, helpers, whose gestures and care  
form the fragile cement of our civilizations,*  
*they build frail but vital ramparts against inhumanity.*  
*They built, they are still building.*  
*They will forever restore these citadels.*

3

"Enchanteurs, musiciens, dont l'agencement des sons  
dans l'espace et le temps crée le mortier des sociétés humaines.  
Ils composent de primordiales et éphémères murailles  
qui absorbent et recomposent l'assourdissant chaos du monde.  
Ils ont construit, ils construisent encore.  
Ils restaureront pour toujours ces bastions."

*Enchanters, musicians, whose arrangement of sound  
in space and time creates the mortar of human societies.*  
*They compose primordial and ephemeral walls*  
*that absorb and reshape the deafening chaos of the world.*  
*They built, they are still building.*  
*They will forever restore these bastions.*

4

"Voyageurs, artistes, catalyseurs des expressions,  
de la sensibilité, des émotions et des imaginaires humains,  
ils révèlent en nous des chemins de traverse,  
des passages et des trouées qui nous permettent  
d'échapper aux voies toutes tracées.



Ils ont construit, ils construisent encore.  
Ils restaureront pour toujours ces portes.”

*Travelers, artists, catalysts of expression,  
of sensitivity, emotion and human imagination,  
they reveal within us detours, passages, openings  
that let us escape pre-determined paths.*

*They built, they are still building.  
They will forever restore these gateways.*

5

“Aventuriers, chercheurs, dont l’instinct, la curiosité et la rigueur  
font l’ossature de la pensée humaine.  
Ils érigent des beffrois qui nous élèvent  
au-dessus de l’obscurantisme et des pensées figées.  
Ils ont construit, ils construisent encore.  
Ils restaureront pour toujours ces abris.”

*Adventurers, seekers, whose instinct, curiosity and precision  
form the framework of human thought.*

*They raise bell towers that lift us above obscurantism  
and rigid thinking.*

*They built, they are still building.  
They will forever restore these shelters.*

### Breath Territories

Once all five nails are installed:

Walk twice around the “invisible circle.” Each time a nail is passed, its music activates briefly.

Enter the circle.

Slowly crush the central block with the feet to appropriate the territory, then anchor oneself.

Stabilize standing on it and begin to sing the “Breath Territory” chant, accompanied by the flutist.

Grounding ritual

(Inhale through the nose — 4 counts... Exhale slowly — 6 counts. Repeat twice. Let the belly grow heavy. Feel the soles of your feet. Then gently lift the head.)

### CHANT

Arouna... siléma... trovia... kennaï.  
Zemora... lithaï... i uronda... veloum.  
Arouna... siléma... trovia... kennaï...  
Zemora... lithaï... i uronda... veloum.  
Zemora... lithaï... i uronda... veloum.

### SPOKEN WORD

Bâtisseurs d’horizons... Bâtisseurs d’horizons...

Poètes... musiciens... artistes...

Réparateurs... et aventuriers...

Ils élèvent

Ils élèvent des temples invisibles...

Tissent ... des remparts fragiles...

Dessinent ... des murailles éphémères...

Tracent... des chemins lumineux.

*Builders of horizons... Builders of horizons...*

*Poets... musicians... artists...*

*Healers... and adventurers...*

*They raise...*

*They raise invisible temples...*

*They weave... fragile ramparts...*

*They draw... ephemeral walls...*

*They trace... luminous paths...*

### CHANT

Passeurs ... Passeurs de lumière...

Ils défient la brutalité...

Absorbent le chaos...

Réparent l’humain...

Et chantent l’infini...

Sculpteurs .... Sculpteurs d’étoiles...

Ombres et éclats... dans la nuit.

*Bearers... Bearers of light...*

*They defy brutality...*

*Absorb chaos...*

*Heal the human...*

*And sing the infinite...*

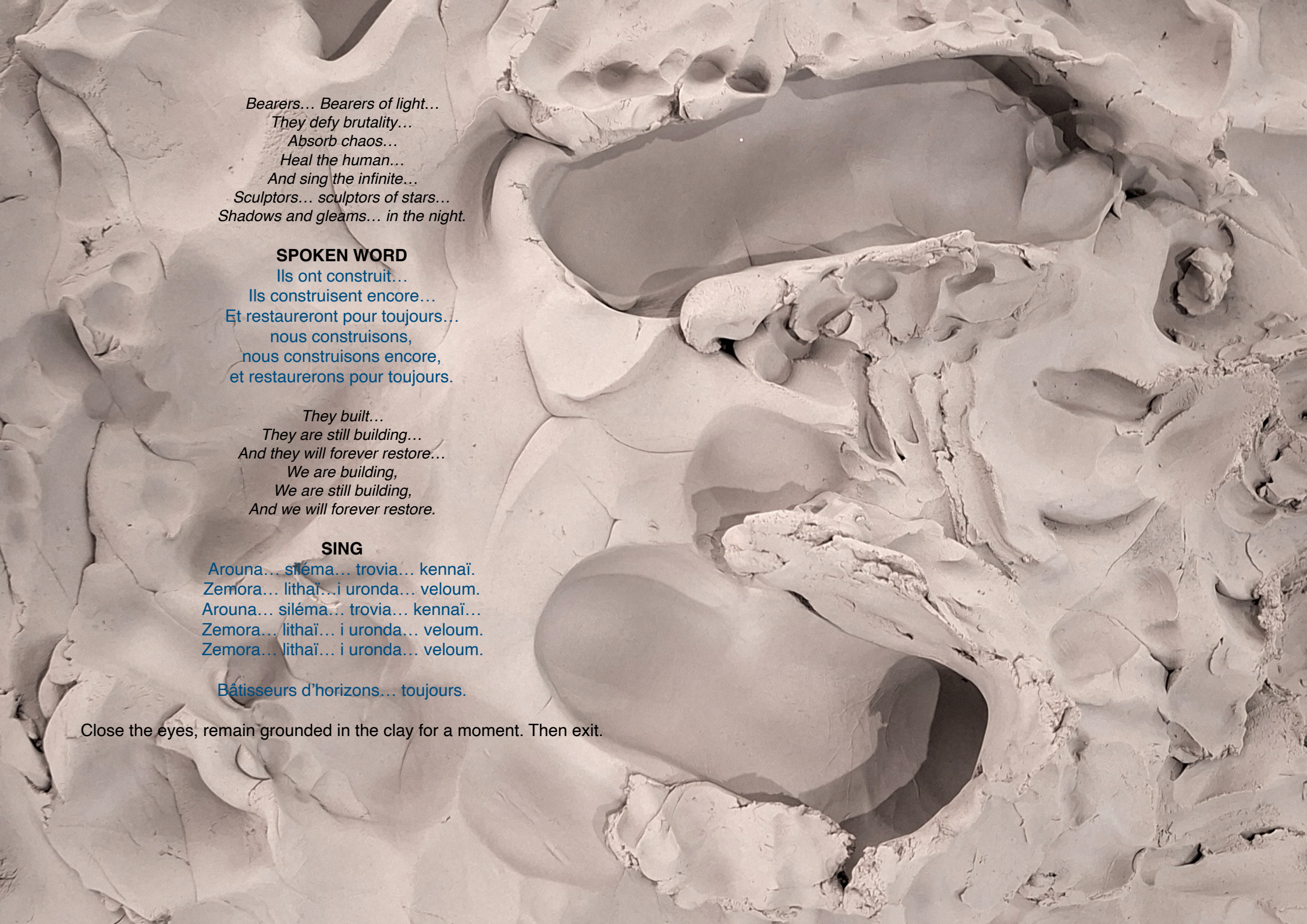
*Sculptors... sculptors of stars...*

*Shadows and gleams... in the night.*

### SPOKEN WORD

Ils ont construit...





*Bearers... Bearers of light...  
They defy brutality...  
Absorb chaos...  
Heal the human...  
And sing the infinite...  
Sculptors... sculptors of stars...  
Shadows and gleams... in the night.*

### **SPOKEN WORD**

*Ils ont construit...  
Ils construisent encore...  
Et restaureront pour toujours...  
nous construisons,  
nous construisons encore,  
et restaurerons pour toujours.*

*They built...  
They are still building...  
And they will forever restore...  
We are building,  
We are still building,  
And we will forever restore.*

### **SING**

*Arouna... siléma... trovia... kennaï.  
Zemora... lithaï... i uronda... veloum.  
Arouna... siléma... trovia... kennaï...  
Zemora... lithaï... i uronda... veloum.  
Zemora... lithaï... i uronda... veloum.*

*Bâtisseurs d'horizons... toujours.*

Close the eyes, remain grounded in the clay for a moment. Then exit.



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