



# MANTA

An immersive experience that blends live musical performance with visual art installations, designed specifically for young children (4 - 24 months) and their carers





## **MANTA: An Immersive Sensory Experience**

This intimate and interactive show creates a **sensory-rich environment** where the worlds of **sound, colour, and movement** collide, inviting young audiences to explore and engage with the art around them.

The performance features soothing, playful, and interactive live music, crafted to stimulate and calm young minds. Children are encouraged to participate, responding to the music and visuals through movement, sound-making, and touch. The installation itself is a dynamic, child-friendly space, filled with vibrant visuals and textures, encouraging exploration and discovery. Soft projections, gentle lighting, and tactile materials interact with the sound to create a fully immersive atmosphere that enhances the music and invites imaginative play.

Designed with both children and their carers in mind, *MANTA* fosters **moments of connection and wonder**, providing a space for families to bond, share in the joy of creativity, and experience the magic of live performance in a **nurturing, safe environment**.

Through this project, we aim to inspire curiosity, foster emotional expression, and offer a meaningful, multi-sensory experience that leaves a lasting impression on both little ones and their grown-ups.

For Klankennest, creating a **welcoming and open environment** is a key priority, with a focus on using **natural, real materials** for the installations. The space is designed with the youngest audience in mind, allowing children the freedom to explore and engage with the performance in their own way. No one will interrupt or direct how they should perceive or interact with the experience, giving them the freedom to explore at their own pace. This **freedom fosters a sense of joy, wonder, and creativity**, encouraging children to follow their own curiosity.

For young children, all the senses are vital in their exploration of the world. At this early stage, they naturally want to move freely and view things from different perspectives. The *MANTA* installation enables this by providing a **safe and engaging space** that invites active participation and fosters a sense of accomplishment as children navigate the space on their own.



## From Concept to Creation

Klankennest's creative process begins with a deep exploration of artistic concepts, drawing inspiration from themes, emotions, and sensory experiences. The team immerses themselves in these ideas, with a particular focus on connecting with the youngest audience. This phase prioritises what can spark wonder and engagement, allowing the artists to craft an environment that feels magical and meaningful both for children and adults. Rather than focusing on concrete objects, Klankennest understands that **babies are drawn to movement and emotions**. In their world, anything is possible, and their imaginations thrive in **spaces that encourage freedom and sensory exploration**.

The visual language of the installation is inspired by the life and environment of the Giant Manta Ray, with the team aiming to capture its essence in an abstract form. Instead of replicating its visual reality, the **Manta's presence is subtly embodied through the musicians, the sounds, and the movement within the space**. This approach allows the Manta to be felt throughout the experience, without being depicted literally. All visual elements are thoughtfully designed to evoke a sense of safety and comfort, **engaging the bodily senses of the youngest children and encouraging their participation**. The environment becomes an open canvas, inviting exploration without the need for tangible objects.

Once the artistic vision is established, the team considers the layout and structure of the space. The physical arrangement is designed to support the **emotional and sensory experience, ensuring that children can move freely, interact with the environment, and discover joy in their own way**. By focusing first on the artistic, sensory, and emotional dimensions of the work, Klankennest creates an enriching space where both children and adults can be surprised, delighted, and relaxed. **The result is an immersive, multi sensory experience that resonates with all ages, where imagination and creativity take center stage**.

## Visual and Musical Elements

The **MANTA** installation combines **visual and musical elements** designed to activate the senses and engage young audiences in playful and meaningful ways. These elements work together to create a **sensory-rich environment** where music and movement guide the experience.



## VISUAL LANGUAGE

- **Wooden Structure:** Inspired by the miniature of an old diving bell (Leiden Museum), Katsura Villa in Japan, water reflections, and coral reefs.
- **Water Station:** Inspired by jellyfish, featuring handmade silk jellyfish and jumping balls, bringing the ocean's fluidity and movement into the space.
- **Rocking Boats:** Invoking a gentle, rhythmic motion to reflect the ebb and flow of the sea.
- **Mobiles:** Crafted from mouth-blown stained glass, these mobiles are inspired by Puzuri, traditional straw decorations from the Baltic countries used in old days, and are suspended to dance in the air like underwater creatures.
- **Sound Bubble:** A unique, designed plate made of coloured glass, played by percussionists in a rhythmical glass-o-phone, adding a tactile and auditory experience.
- **Bridges:** Connecting different areas of the installation, designed at the perfect height to ensure safety while allowing children to climb independently, without needing assistance from parents, allowing for movement and exploration.

## MUSICAL LANGUAGE

- **Embodied Music:** In **MANTA**, music and musical dialogues serve as the core language of the performance. The experience is built around embodied listening, where the audience is invited to move and respond in space as the journey unfolds. Performers communicate through both music and movement, engaging with the audience and each other, and adapting the performance based on the interactions.
- **Composition Process:** The music for **MANTA** was composed by the Klankennest musicians, with the creative process intertwining with the development of the visual artwork. The musicians improvised and composed while interacting with the scenography, using movement, touch, and visual objects to inspire the music.
- **Musical Journey:** The musicians make a physical journey across the stage, moving through the installation alongside the audience. Each piece of music represents an animal from the ocean, an element of the sea, or an emotion, creating a fluid and dynamic connection between sound, space, and story.
- **Structure of the Performance:** The musical journey follows a circular structure, beginning and ending with a wave-like water theme. The music builds towards the middle of the experience, bringing the audience on a journey that begins and ends with a familiar, soothing rhythm.



