

WHAT/SPACE: CHANGES/CULTURE

Choreographic Convention VIII



Life Long
Burning

11 November 2022
Uferstudios Berlin

→ Lab3 → 19 November 2022
Radialsystem Berlin

SCHEDULE | 11.11.2022

The Choreographic Convention VIII, *WHAT/SPACE:CHANGES/CULTURE*, in the frame of Life Long Burning, offers an assembly of choreographers, dancers, performance artists, writers, researchers, curators, artistic directors, and producers the opportunity to meet and reflect on topics surrounding the question “What type of space can promote change in the work culture of the dance field?”

The question calls attention to a necessary discourse within the field of dance concerning artists and cultural workers who are asymmetrically impacted by global structural and social issues, including but not limited to issues of racism, ableism, women’s rights, transgender rights, warfare, the impact of capitalism and the ongoing covid pandemic.

The project includes an online preliminary laboratory on 10-14 October 2022 and an in-person laboratory at Uferstudios on 7-10 November 2022 for invited guests, as well as public events on 11 November 2022 at Uferstudios and on 19 November 2022 at Radialsystem. The Labs and the assembly are structured around three topics:

“Lab 1 – WHAT” reflects on cultural production in the field of dance. Considering dance as a platform and a space for the archiving of and reflecting on current times/cultures, we ask questions on what and whose work gets access to resources and visibility and how funding instruments and institutions foster specific agendas. We ask what transformations have already taken place and what is still needed in terms of resources, people and structures in order to adapt to the shifting global landscape.

“Lab 2 – SPACES” speaks to inequality in the field of dance and the limited access most artists have to institutions: with growing awareness of structural discrimination, we ask how spaces could make space for artists and audiences from marginalized identities and backgrounds and how we can create a more sustainable equity in the way we share space and resources.

“Lab 3 – WORK CULTURE” is organized in close cooperation with ZTB e.V. and reflects on the work culture of dance in Berlin. A group of artists, curators and other actors in the field assembled in the last years around ZTB e.V. to examine what value systems prevail in our working field, to reflect on its ethics and standards, and to finally suggest some guidelines on how to foster a resilient work culture as a shared responsibility of all parties involved.

10:30	11:00	Arrival / Welcome
11:00	12:00	Slow Violence challenged through storytelling, Roma women and dance Keynote by Rosa Cisneros / online screening
12:00	13:30	Sharing the outcomes of “Lab 1 – WHAT” and “Lab 2 – SPACES”
13:30	14:30	Lunch
14:30	15:15	Decolonial Curatorial Practice as Collective Care Interactive talk by Kathy-Ann Tan
15:15	15:30	Break
15:30	16:15	Yogaton Workshop by Maque Pereyra
16:15	17:00	Break & Shower
17:00	18:30	Share & Cake: Everything You Always Wanted to Know But Never Dared to Ask
18:30	19:00	Break
19:00	19:45	How to take space in places Interactive keynote by Olivia Hyunsin Kim
19:45	20:00	Break
20:00	20:45	Stable Change: Enter Rhythm Keynote by Cole M. James / online screening
20:45	22:00	Chill out – DJ Rafush

PROGRAM

LIFESTRINGS SCREENDANCE: SLOW VIOLENCE CHALLENGED THROUGH STORYTELLING, ROMA WOMEN AND DANCE

Keynote by Rosa Cisneros, Coventry University, C-DaRE

Nixon (2011) and Holterman (2014) define “slow violence” as environmental and non-physical forms of violence that occur over broad temporal scales. Davies (2022) suggests that there is an intimate connection between concepts of slow violence and structural violence. This keynote reflects on the slow violence that the Roma experience and the ways in which it is challenged through dance and co-creative projects. The unprecedented ecological crisis is not divorced from the arts and cultural heritage sector, and the screendance work LIFESTRINGS, was guided by the urgency of climate justice and questions about flamenco, Roma identity, trauma and traditions.

SHARING THE OUTCOMES OF “LAB 1 – WHAT” AND “LAB 2 – SPACES”

With Makisig Akin, Anajara Amarante, Pêdra Costa, Anna Dankova, Kimberly Darbouz, Mariama Diagne, Mmakgosi Kgabi, Virginnia Krämer, Anisha Gupta Müller, Sailesh Naidu, Léna Szirmay-Kalos, Aleksander Zain, Ziada

As a concluding part of the convention, the lab groups will be sharing a collection of insights, reflections, questions, spells, activations, manifestos, visions and performances. This will be collectively hosted by our lab participants.

DECOLONIAL CURATORIAL PRACTICE AS COLLECTIVE CARE

Interactive talk with Kathy-Ann Tan

At a global moment of intersectional forms of systemic oppression and racism, decolonial strategies of resistance and self-empowerment in/through art and performance are crucial. This interactive talk anchors decolonial artistic and curatorial practices in bodily practice. How can the body be a living archive of tacit knowledge, erotic power (Audre Lorde) and resistance? Situating that body in space, how can we build safer spaces that offer support, resources and networks of care, especially for minority, marginalized and (post-)migrant artists?

YOGGATON

Workshop by Maque Pereyra

Yoggaton is a fusion between Yoga and Reggaeton. It is Spiritual and Pleasure Activism and intense perreo coming together to decolonize bodies and challenge binaries. This movement practice works at/with/ from physical, emotional, mental and spiritual levels. In the workshop we will connect to our breath, to the music and to our booties.

SHARE & CAKE: EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW BUT NEVER DARED TO ASK

This is a gathering of people who will play a game in which they answer questions which will be collected and developed throughout the laboratory series.

The informal gathering is a meeting of the lab participants, curators and producers (Matthias Mohr, Mateusz Szymanówka, Nara Virgens), and the public around a game while eating cake. The structure of the game directs the conversations to topics such as strategies of creating more sustainable equity in the sharing of resources, and discusses what organizations or institutions could/should do to ensure the participation of artists and audiences with marginalized identities/backgrounds. Together they investigate how artists collide with structural and personal restraints and come up with ideas on how to commonly approach power dynamics and foster balanced relationships. Collectively, they ask: how do we want to work together?

HOW TO TAKE SPACE IN PLACES

Interactive keynote by Olivia Hyunsin Kim

Inspired by the people who came before, are here now or are yet to come, Olivia Hyunsin Kim takes a closer look into curating and its etymological roots, “to take care”. Their lecture is an open invitation to together think about how we invite each other to take space in places, how we want to work together and yes, how we want to live together. Kim will present their work-in-progress questions as a spoonie, femme of color, curator, artist and parent.

STABLE CHANGE: ENTER RHYTHM

Keynote by Cole M. James

Navigating the perception space of change.

CONTRIBUTORS

Anajara Amarante is a chronically ill, queer Brazilian artist. Their main media is the moving body. Their professional interests are personal and political: queer, dissident bodies, marginalized communities and art practices. Their artistic practice is concentrated in the field of performing arts (focus choreography), with previous formations in Biology and Communication. As a Brazilian living in Europe, Anajara is interested in immigrant people, the construction of their identities and post-colonialism, as well as the construction of joy and diversity.

Makisig Akin is a queer, transgender Filipino dance artist. They intimately locate their identity in relation to their artistry. Their work is deeply political and is inspired and contextualized by artists and authors who are queer, feminist, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). Since finishing their Masters of Fine Arts in Choreography at the University of California in Los Angeles in 2019, they have been living and working in Berlin as a choreographer and dancer. Their work has been presented in Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Poland, and the United States.

Pêdra Costa is a Brazilian visual and urban anthropologist, performer and tarot reader based in Berlin. In their work, they utilize intimacy to connect with collectivity. They work with their body to create fragmented epistemologies of queer communities within ongoing colonial legacies. Their work aims to decode violence and transform failure while tapping into the powers of resilient knowledge from a plethora of subversive ancestralities and spiritualities that have been integral to anti-colonial and necropolitical survival.

Anna Dankova is an author and director of contemporary performance and a psychodrama therapist. Her works inhabit specific forms depending on the subject they explore and the mediums they employ. Her interest focuses on shedding light on the processes that remain beyond (under) our consciousness. She works on topics such as routine actions, the choreography of small body parts (mouth, eyes) and the non-rational sides of speech (intonation and gesture).

Kim Darbouze is a psycho-social researcher, counselor and dancer. She focuses on the social justice analytics of geopolitical, economic, historic, and psycho-social forms of marginalization. Kim's research sutures erased narratives via their persisting psycho-social, anthropological

oppressive neo-colonial structures. Through discursive analysis, poetry, embodiment dance, weaving, and applied research Kim brings together intentionally disjunctive patterns of oppression that keep marginalized bodies divided in opposition, discomfort, and depletion. These methods seek unity, healing and the absolution of colonial methods of co-existence.

Mariama Diagne (Dr. phil.) is an Afro-European, German-Senegalese author, trained in classical European and neoclassical ballet and modern dance (Dance Theatre of Harlem). She works as a dance scholar at the Collaborative Research Center SFB 1512 "Intervening arts" at Freie Universität Berlin. She seeks to develop diasporic writing with a poetological, auto-ethnographic approach towards research material. As a dramaturg she accompanies artists in performative contexts.

Rosa Cisneros is a researcher, dancer, choreographer, sociologist and filmmaker at CU's C-DaRE. She works closely with the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERAC), NGOs and the RomArchive. Her film company has produced films for the NHS, Save the Children Foundation, Migration Matters festival among others. Cisneros has led EU-funded projects which aim to make education and arts accessible to vulnerable groups and ethnic minorities. Her interdisciplinary projects focus on the intersection of cultural heritage, dance, site, and digital technologies. Her screendance films have been shown globally.

Ziada is an independent curator, educator and systemic consultant, with a passion for community organizing and DJ-ing. Raised in the funk & jazz of post-Marxist Ethiopia, she discovered music as a vehicle to bridge bi-racial liminality early on, while engaging with notions of nation and identity conveyed through sound. Her work centers around community, transformative justice and decolonial aesthetics. Through these notions, she seeks to articulate pluriversal positions to build communities rooted in integrity, ecological awareness and accountable stewardship.

Matagumpay is a Filipinx trans/genderqueer artist and writer making work about queerness and community. His poetry and drawings feature bodies in transition, folks making sense of themselves and exploring the various possibilities of being in relationship with each other. In drag he is Kuya June.

Tonina Matamalas is a queer visual artist who lives and works in Berlin. She works with documentary drawing, illustration and moving images. She uses drawing as a tool to support the creation of collaborative storytelling and political work. She produces zines, experimental tv, film and animation in search of fissures and narratives for survival in the current chaos, and visions for the future.

Matthias Mohr is a German-Colombian curator and dramaturg, with a curatorial focus on contemporary dance, performance and contemporary music theatre. As part of the curatorial team of the Ruhrtriennale (2012-2014) and PACT Zollverein (2016-2018) he develops experimental transdisciplinary formats on the exchange between different fields of knowledge and (artistic) practices, with a particular focus on epistemic hierarchies. Since 2018 he is artistic director of Radialsystem Berlin.

Anisha Gupta Müller is an artistic and pedagogical facilitator, who specializes in feminist body practices. She leads empowerment workshops and founded the weekly dance fitness class FemmeFitness. Anisha's projects question body politics and power dynamics in the arts, particularly focusing on creating safer spaces. Her movement work seeks to confront the medical industrial health complex, the policing of bodies and how this relates to dance. More recently she has been teaching a series of interdisciplinary seminars on anti-discrimination at Weißensee Kunsthochschule.

Cole M. James is an interdisciplinary artist, Somatic Abolition Communal Consultant and Climate Justice Activist. Their work uses both figurative and abstract images, sound and scent to amplify the subtle ways perception can collapse and expand time. James received their MFA from Claremont Graduate University in Installation & Digital Media. "I make work as a negotiator, navigating the African Diaspora, circling the expanse of queerness and traversing through womanhood. I am interested in the intersections between digital production and the analog collecting of lived experiences."

Mmakgosi Kgabi is the founding member of Motherbox Organisation for Co-Operation in the Arts. They hold an MA in Solo Dance and Authorship from HZT, Berlin University of the Arts (UdK) and the Hochschule für Schauspielkunst Ernst Busch (HfS). They worked in cooperation with TanzRaumBerlin in 2019. Their research interests include approaching language as a choreography/dance and opening up the possibility to move closer to 'dance' which is 'language.' They are a dancer, dramaturg, director, DJ, voiceover artist, writer, production associate, film actress and currently a resident radio host with Refuge Worldwide.

Olivia Hyunsin Kim (올리비아 Hyunsin 김) works as an artist, curator, spoonie and parent in Berlin and other places. Her performance *Miss Yellow and Me - I wanna be a musical* won the Amadeu Antonio art award (first prize) in 2019. Kim collaborates under the name "ddandarakim" in recurring constellations with artists from different fields with a post-colonial and queer-feminist focus. Their works have been shown internationally.

AK Knol lives and works in Berlin since 2006. Their practice is driven by two main preoccupations; the use of colour, form and language in the visual arts and the power of self-organisation and collaboration. They co-founded the Risograph print studio AK print 4 life (2012) - formerly known as Printeretto and Copyroboter - as well as the arts space Kotti-Shop (2008), the press Publishing Puppies (2013-17) and the artist group AUTO BODIES (2017). They also work in the bakery collective Die Backstube Vollkornbäckerei (2022).

Virginnia Krämer is a performer, dance facilitator, interdisciplinary artist and parent. Their interests range from embodied social justice to afrofuturism and cultural identity-focused artistic research and rituals. As co-founder of femBlack performance collective, Virginnia took part in the panorama performance residency of Afropolitan Berlin. Currently, with the support of Dis-Tanz-Solo and #takeheart Rechercheförderung, Virginnia aims to curate a decolonial movement laboratory for black adoptees in Berlin.

Sailesh Naidu is a poet, filmmaker, and researcher. A former German Chancellor's Fellow, many of their projects have been featured in the NYTimes, The Hindu, Die Zeit, PBS NewsHour, Gal-Dem among others. Their performance, film, and written work has also been exhibited at the Schwules Museum, Volksbühne Berlin, DADDY Magazine, Literaturhaus Berlin, and the British Film Institute. Most recently, their film *Hundefreund* has been nominated for the Deutscher Kurzfilmpreis 2022.

Maque Pereyra is a Berlin-based multidisciplinary artist, dancer, DJ and music producer. In 2018 she finished the MA SoDA program at HZT-UdK. In her home country, Bolivia, she obtained a BA degree in Psychology in 2014. Her artistic work (performances, videos, workshops) has been awarded and presented internationally by platforms such as Tanztage Berlin, Tanzquartier Wien and HKW. The focus of her work is on empowerment through pleasure, healing and spirituality, ch'ixi/liminal worlds and knowledge production/reflection with and from the body.

Rafush is a Berlin-based dj, graphic artist, co-founder of the Afrofuturist, multidisciplinary BIPOC collective Yoko Yoko and of OUCH, event series and a monthly live radio show on Berlin radio station Cashmere Radio. Tired of the binary sounds that dominate most of the Berlin lineups she brings some new club productions, classics, experimental electronics with a worldwide perspective and strong afro diaspora influences to her sets.

Léna Szirmay-Kalos is an interdependent curator from Hungary. She works on events and exhibitions at the intersection of the visual and performing arts. Since 2015, she has been running the Montag Modus interdisciplinary series and is the founder of the MMpraxis curatorial platform. Her current research revolves around questions of (inter)nationalism, methods of cultural resistance, relations between Eastern Europe and the Global South, as well as the performance-exhibition form of research.

Mateusz Szymanówka is a dramaturg and curator, currently working at Sophiensaele in Berlin, where he is responsible for the dance program and the curation of the festival Tanztage Berlin. As a dramaturg, he has primarily collaborated with a young generation of choreographers and performance makers living in Berlin and Warsaw, whose artistic practice is rooted in contemporary feminism and queer theory. From 2019 to 2020 he curated the program To Be Real at Ujazdowski Castle CCA in Warsaw, examining the relationship between contemporary performance and club culture.

Kathy-Ann Tan is the founder of Mental Health Arts Space Berlin, a non-profit arts/project space that centers the mental health, well-being, experiences, knowledges, histories and narratives of BIPOC and marginalized artists and cultural workers. She is also the initiator of DecolonialArtArchives (www.decolonialartarchives.com). Her practice revolves around creating spaces for conversation, exchange, sharing and empowerment for BIPOC communities in the arts and cultural scenes in Berlin and beyond.

Nara Virgens is a producer and curator with a passion for DJing and connecting people. Currently she is the production manager at Tanzfabrik Berlin, a co-curator of the apap Feminist School Berlin and, since its foundation, an active member of Produktionsbande - Netzwerk performing arts producers. She has been producing, curating and performing as a resident DJ of the Berlin-based queer-feminist collective ¡MASH-UP! - Multigender / Multiworld since 2016.

Aleksander Zain is a dancer and author from Serbia who works in the field of dance and visual art (durational performance art and video). Aleksander's work centers around the idea that the human body is much stronger than we are taught it is. He has been educated in contemporary dance and choreography through the Puzzle dance programme developed by Stanica - Station for contemporary dance and various masterclasses. He regularly attends contemporary floorwork classes with teacher Ana Obradović (Perpetuum Dance company). He studied philosophy and has physical theater certificates from the Netherlands and Serbia.

The Choreographic Convention 2022 is organized by Uferstudios Berlin, Lab 3 Work Culture in cooperation with ZTB e.V. and Radialsystem.

Organized by:
Makisig Akin, Léna Szirmay-Kalos
& Uferstudios GmbH

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UFER_STUDIOS



09:04:06

09:04:09

09:17:51

09:33:27

09:34:25

09:38:38

09:40:46

09:54:54

Controlled environment
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or instrumentation

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elevator

director

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