

3rd modul-dance Symposium

Ethics in Aesthetics? For an Ecology of the Arts of both Environment and Body 2-4 October 2012 in Tilburg

"One cannot feel oneself sitting or standing without feeling that part of the environment upon which one sits or stands. Nor can one feel oneself breathing without feeling the surrounding air we inhale. Such lessons of somatic self-conscious eventually point toward the vision of an essentially situated, relational and symbiotic self" (Richard Shusterman, Body Consciousness)

From 2 till 4 October Danshuis Station Zuid organizes the third modul-dance Symposium. Theme of the symposium is "Ethics in Aesthetics? For an Ecology of both Environment and Body."

The 21st century is well on its way and the political, economical and climatologic landscape is drastically changing. What kind of questions and challenges bring these changes to the artist? Are one's creative dilemmas and questions primarily aesthetically? Or rather more ethically? Being obliged to manage one's own career, how much space and time is left for the creative process? How does one have to place oneself within the arts economy and market? The answers to a lot of these questions seem to have an ecological component that deals with both the body and its environment. These questions will be asked and answered by a number of keynote speakers, among others the Dutch art critic and curator Anna Tilroe, who will open the conference, and the American philosopher Richard Shusterman whose somaesthetics offer a philosophical frame for this discussion.

Acclaimed professionals as the Belgian performance artist Benjamin Verdonck; the Dutch dance dramaturge Robert Steijn and choreographer Frans Poelstra; the American choreographer Sara Wookey and theatre director Kathelin Gray; the Canadian theatre and film director Denise Kenney will offer personal testimonials of how they deal with these issues in their creative practise.

The evenings will see work from local talents and modul-dance choreographers, including the British Ben Duke, the Spanish La Veronal-Marcos Morau and the Dutch based Israeli Itamar Serussi, offering all of them the chance to present their work to a larger, international audience.

On Tuesday October 2nd a meeting of the modul-dance Project of the European Dance House Network, in which they will evaluate the project, halfway its existence, will precede the conference. The modul-dance Symposium is also the kick-off for October Dansmaand, one of the main activities of Tilburg Dansstad. Danshuis station Zuid, the only Dutch member of modul-dance, is one of the six partners of Tilburg Dansstad, and works for the modul-dance symposium together with the Research Institute, Arts in Society of the Fontys School of Arts and the S:PAM research centre of Ghent University.

The conference will also be followed by the Dutch Dance Days Festival (Nederlandse Dansdagen) in Maastricht, that take place from October 5th till October 7th, so that international guests can combine both.

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Danshuis Station Zuid

In December 2012, Danshuis Station Zuid, the only Dutch organization that fulfils the criteria of a dance house, will officially close its doors as a result of the conservative government (which is meanwhile no longer in power) decision to cut 200 million out of a 800 million culture budget and to dismantle the cultural infrastructure that has been a role model for many other European countries.

The decision taken in June 2011 and implemented from the 1st of January 2013 onwards, amongst others destroys the network of production houses for the emerging artists and other progressive models such as the dance house which wants to serve the diversity of a landscape, in favour for the more traditional company structures around one single artistic voice. Together with the production houses and several other major dance structures (a.o. in youth dance) Danshuis Station Zuid lost its privileged function as a basic infrastructure for dance, together with all of its 1,1 million national funding.

This cut of a too substantial amount of its budget meant that the dance house function could no longer be adequately fulfilled and it obliged the board to take the decision to legally close the structure at the end of 2012.

The organization of the 3rd modul-dance conference is one of the last public events of Danshuis Station Zuid. But at the same time, its board and staff will use the remaining months of its existence to continue to support its artists such as Pia Meuthen, Jelena Kostic, Joost Vrouwenraets and Itamar Serussi with their present creations and to help them find other support for their future work; and to find with support of local partners such as Tilburg City of Dance and local and regional funding authorities a new destination and exploitation model for the unique premises at the Ringbaan Noord that will hopefully stay dedicated to dance.

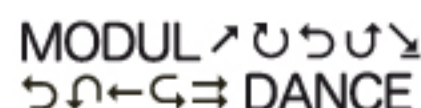
And who knows, with a changing political and economical climate, eventually it may be possible to take up again all the functions of a fully functioning dance house.

Partners

Art Stations Foundation Poznan PL - CDC Toulouse FR - CND Paris FR - Dance Gate Lefkosia Cyprus CY- Dancelreland IE - Dansens Hus Stockholm SE - Dansehallerne DK - DeVIR / CAPa Faro PT - DDRC Athens GR - Hellerau Europäisches Zentrum der Künste Dresden DE - Kino Siska Ljubljana SI - Maison de la Danse Lyon FR – Mercat de les Flors ES - Plesna Izba Maribor SI - Danshuis Station Zuid Tilburg NL - Tanzhaus NRW Düsseldorf DE - Tanzquartier Wien AT- The Place London GB

Associated partners

adc Geneva CH - IMZ Vienna A - Woking Dance Festival UK



PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Mercat de les Flors

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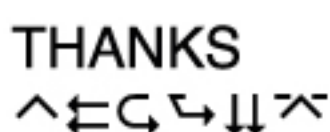
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