

**SIOBHAN
DAVIES
DANCE**

THE
NATIONAL
GALLERY



Culture

DANCING
MUSEUMS

DATE

Siobhan Davies Dance partner with The National Gallery for new EU project

Siobhan Davies Dance is pleased to announce a new partnership with the National Gallery, London as part of *Dancing Museums*.

Dancing Museums is a three-year European Union funded project which brings together dance organisations, galleries and museums to explore new ways of interacting with audiences and to highlight the role live performance can play in enhancing our understanding and engagement in art.

As part of *Dancing Museums*, five European dance organisations will partner with eight internationally renowned museums, from the Louvre in Paris and Arte Sella in Italy, to Boymans van Beuningen in The Netherlands. From August 2015 to March 2017, five selected dance artists, one from each organisation, will embark upon a period of research and development and take part in a week-long residency in each of the museums, providing regular opportunities to collaborate with their European partners as the project progresses. As part of the residency they will also be joined by experts from other fields such as education, digital media and academia to contextualise the research and stimulate new thinking.

The aim of the project is to define and implement new methods to engage audiences and enhance the journeys which people make when walking through rooms of history and art spaces. Drawing the public's attention to contemporary dance as an inclusive, communicative form, events will be produced such as choreographic guided tours, participatory workshops and a web platform, where the protagonists are both the artists and the public.

After an open call for expressions of interest in the project, Siobhan Davies Dance selected dance artist Lucy Suggate, former Place Prize finalist and Associate Artist at Yorkshire Dance, to represent the organisation. Based in Yorkshire, her practice fosters a keen interest in autonomy, not only as a dancer but how it translates to the role of spectator. In November 2016 the London-based section of the project will culminate with an event at The National Gallery involving all participating dance artists.

Siobhan Davies Dance explores the application of choreography across a range of disciplines and since 2002 have been producing choreographic works for gallery and

museum spaces to reach new audiences and encourage alternative ways of exploring, experiencing and discussing dance. In 2014, the organisation launched a new mentorship programme to explore conversations between curators of art and performance and dance artists to build confidence and understanding of how performance can be seen in galleries and institutions.

Ends

NOTES TO EDITORS

Dancing Museums

Dancing Museums is a new partnership project co-funded by the European Union's Creative Europe programme, bringing together five European dance organisations and eight internationally renowned museums to explore new ways of interacting with audiences.

Promoting professional development both at staff and artists level, *Dancing Museums* creates a space for artists to develop their practice in dialogue with other art forms and share skills across multiple organisations, audiences, work practices and local contexts.

Throughout the project research will be made available to the public through a series of presentations and thematic seminars. *Dancing Museums* will culminate in the creation of a new participatory, performative work in each of the five European cities highlighting the role live performance can play in enhancing understanding and engagement in art.

Participating dance organisations: La Briqueterie – Centre de développement chorégraphique du Val de Marne (FR), Comune di Bassano del Grappa (IT), D.ID Dance Identity (AT), Dansateliers (NL) and Siobhan Davies Dance (UK).

Participating galleries and museums: Arte Sella (IT), Boymans van Beuningen (NL), Gemäldegalerie Wien (AT), Le Louvre (FR), Mac/Val (FR), Museo Civico (IT), Museo di Palazzo Sturm (IT) and The National Gallery (UK).

www.dancingmuseums.com

Key Project Dates:

15 -31 August, 2015: 1st artist's residency, Bassano del Grappa and Borgo Valsugana

17 - 26 October 2015: 2nd artist's residency, Rotterdam

24 - 30 January 2016: 3rd artist's residency, Vienna

28 January 2016: THEMATIC SEMINAR: 'Digitalisation in museums and arts organisations', Vienna

13 - 20 March 2016: 4th artist's residency, Vitry-sur-Seine/Paris

19 March 2016: THEMATIC SEMINAR: 'Inclusion and participation of under-represented groups in artistic events', Vitry-sur-Seine/Paris

5 - 15 May 2016: 5th artist's residency, Vienna (and Burgenland)

21 - 26 August 2016: 6th artist's residency, Bassano del Grappa

25 August 2016: THEMATIC SEMINAR: 'Dance in non-traditional settings', Bassano del Grappa

5 - 4 November 2016: 7th artist's residency, London

11 November 2016: THEMATIC SEMINAR: 'Dance and Art Forum - artists and curators interested in performance from both visual arts and dance perspectives meet and debate ideas', London

26 March -2 April 2017: 8th artist's residency, Vitry-sue-Seine/Paris

30 March 2017: FINAL CONFERENCE, Vitry-sue-Seine/Paris

Siobhan Davies Dance

Siobhan Davies Dance is an investigative contemporary arts organisation founded and led since 1988 by choreographer Siobhan Davies. By 2002 Davies moved away from the traditional theatre circuit and started making work for gallery spaces and alternative locations. Davies works closely with collaborating dance artists to create new work and applies choreography across a wide range of creative disciplines including visual arts and film. Recent works have been presented at some of the most prestigious art institutions in the UK, including the ICA and Whitechapel Gallery (London), Turner Contemporary (Margate), Tramway (Glasgow) and Glasgow Museum of Modern Art.

In 2006 the RIBA award-winning Siobhan Davies Studios based in Elephant & Castle, London opened, establishing a permanent base for the organisation to create new work and support independent artists. The Studios are a vibrant arts space in central London which hosts a programme of exhibitions, performances, participation projects and new commissions from leading contemporary artists.

www.siobhandavies.com

Lucy Suggate

Lucy Suggate is a dance artist based in the UK, recognised for her articulate and engaging solo performances. Since 2006 her work has continued to gain visibility on national and international platforms. In 2006 her piece *Postcard* was selected for the final of The Place Prize. In 2007 Lucy was invited to join Daghdha Dance as an Artist in Residence at their unique performance church in Limerick, Ireland. A unique opportunity to work with Choreographer Michael Klien and a three-year research and development into Dance and Choreography followed. Lucy has since produced a body of work including installations and solo work which continue to be performed around Europe, most notable are; Rencontres de Choregraphique in Paris, Es Terni and Prato in Italy, Rote Fabrik in Zurich and Dance Base in Edinburgh.

In 2013/14 Lucy became a Modul Dance Artist, supported by Mercat, Graner, Dansehallerne, BoraBora and Arts Council England Artist international development fund, to

produce a durational solo that went on to inform her current work *pilgrim*. *Pilgrim* has been presented internationally at Seoul International Dance Festival, Sonar Festival, Nottingham Contemporary for NOTTDANCE 15 and the Solo Tanz Festival. Recent collaborations include working with Rosemary Butcher on *Secrets of the Open Sea, Test Pieces* and Wendy Houston's *Stupid Women*. Lucy is currently embarking on period of research into Trance and Dance produced by Dance4.

www.projectbonedust.com

National Gallery

The National Gallery houses one of the greatest collections of European paintings in the world, which is free to visit and open 361 days of the year. The Collection consists of over 2,300 paintings from the Middle Ages to the early 20th century. All major traditions of Western European painting are represented, with artists including Titian, Monet, Velázquez, Rembrandt and Van Gogh. The Gallery is a world centre of excellence for the scientific study, art historical research and care of European paintings from the 13th to the early 20th century.

www.nationalgallery.org.uk