

DANCE IS ANCIENT

techno + experimental dance

Gothenburg + Stockholm

www.fredericgies.com

Dance is Ancient is a durational event that places experimental dance and techno music at its center. It will take place from the 15th till the 19th of November in Gothenburg and from the 27th of November till the 18th of December in Stockholm. Conceived by Frédéric Gies around his most recent dance works, the event brings together other artists such as the Djs Fiedel, Johanna Schneider, Nadja Chatti and Dj City, the visual artist Anton Stoianov, the film director Gavin Youngs, the lighting designer Thomas Zamolo, and the dancers Anna Pehrsson, Samuel Draper, Pavle Heidler, Louise Dahl and Philip Berlin. It consists of performances, exhibitions, workshops and public space actions. The aim is to create a space for experiencing and experimenting with alternative ways of moving singularly and collectively, with alternative forms of embodiment, presence and relations. Bridging dance and somatic practices with techno music and clubbing as well as direct action, it also reformulates the contract of the theatre/performance space by inviting to alternative modes of implication for the audience. In Gothenburg, the event is organized by Skogen and hosted at Röda Sten, Danscentrum and Folk. In Stockholm it takes place at Weld, Studio Mossütställningar and KTH R1 Experimental Performance Space and Presence Lab. In both cities, the event will close with a new dance performance by Frédéric Gies, in collaboration with Fiedel and Anton Stoianov, also called *Dance is Ancient*.

PROGRAMME

DANCE IS ANCIENT (Premiere)

Frédéric Gies + Fiedel + Anton Stoianov

NOV 19, 19:00-02:00, Röda Sten, Gothenburg

DEC 18, 11:00-21:00, Weld, Stockholm

Dance: Frédéric Gies

DJ: Fiedel

Totem: Anton Stoianov

Lights: Thomas Zamolo

The durational performance Dance is Ancient (seven hours long in Gothenburg and ten hours long in Stockholm) is conceived as a dance rite, performed and facilitated by Frédéric Gies, who dances to the infectious techno beats of Fiedel who plays live for the occasion, around a totemic sculpture created by Anton Stoianov. The space in which it takes place is thought neither as a club, nor as a theatre/performance space, if not thought as both or as a space from another kind. The audience is invited to experience, spend time and engage with Fiedel's compound of sounds, beats and intensities, and with Frédéric Gies' dance. This dance, which addresses all together the bodily, perceptual, sensual, social, emotional and spiritual dimensions of the experience of dancing, summons up ghosts of other dancers and dances. It elicits and unleashes fathomless and primal forces that traverse the depths of dancing bodies and invokes faunlike, panic figures. It engenders forms that shape-shift into each other. Dance is Ancient opens up a space for a multiplicity of individual and collective movements yet to be written and unwritten.

TECHNOSOMATICS – practice sessions

Frédéric Gies + Dj City + Nadja Chatti + Fiedel + Johanna Schneider

NOV 15, 19:00-21:00, Danscentrum, Gothenburg

NOV 17, 22:30-01:00, Folk, Gothenburg

NOV 27, 13:00-16:00, KTH R1 Experimental Performace Space and Presence Lab , Stockholm

DEC 4, 19:00-22:00, KTH R1 Experimental Performace Space and Presence Lab, Stockholm

DEC 11, 15:00-18:00, KTH R1 Experimental Performace Space and Presence Lab, Stockholm

Host: Frédéric Gies

DJs: Fiedel (Nov 17), Nadja Chatti (Nov 27), Dj City (Dec 4), Johanna Schneider (Dec 11)

Technosomatics is a workshop format open to anyone who has an appetite for dancing to techno. It is a practice that consists of a collective and individual exploration of the endocrine glands and chakras through club dancing to techno music as wells as the opposite: an exploration of club dancing while embodying the endocrine glands and the chackras. It is practiced mostly with closed eyes, and in a pitch-dark room. It approaches mainstream anatomy as a fiction, emphasizing the experienced body. It is also proposing another kind of collective and social experience, different from a somatic/dance class and from the dance floor. It offers a safe and genuine space for going under the social, being alone together and indulging in altered states of consciousness.

CINCO CINTAS (Premiere)

Frédéric Gies + Philip Berlin + Louise Dahl + Samuel Draper + Pavle Heidler + Fiedel

DEC 4, 17:00-18:00, KTH R1 Experimental Performance Space and Presence Lab, Stockholm

Dance: Philip Berlin, Louise Dahl, Samuel Draper, Frédéric Gies, Pavle Heidler

DJ: Fiedel

Cinco Cintas is an extension of Frédéric Gies' solo Ribbon Dance, in which four other dancers (Philip Berlin, Louise Dahl, Samuel Draper and Pavle Heidler) join their forces to his: five solos that answer and support each other to become a group dance, made of echoes, reverberations and unisons. Twirling and spiralling as much as the ribbons they hold in their hands, they surrender to the streams that generate movement. Bodies and ribbons become extensions of each other in a celebratory dance.

GOOD GIRLS GO TO HEAVEN, BAD GIRLS GO EVERYWHERE (2014)

Frédéric Gies + Fiedel + Anton Stoianov

DEC 9, 19:00-22:40, Weld, Stockholm

Concept and dance: Frédéric Gies

DJ: Fiedel

Floor installation: Anton Stoianov

Production: Weld

Thanks to Paz Rojo

Frédéric Gies invites you to join a 3 hours and 38 minutes experiment, for which he collaborates with the dj Fiedel and the visual artist Anton Stoianov. Frédéric Gies fell in love with Fiedel's work, dancing many times to his sets in Berlin at Berghain, where Fiedel is resident. Fiedel started to dj publicly in the underground techno scene in the mid 90's, on Mondays at a club called Subversiv. He is also part of MMM, a collaboration between him and Errorsmith. Their track "Donna" is considered a much played techno classic. In fall 2012 Fiedel started his own label called 'Fidelone' to release his solo productions. Berlin was also the meeting point for Frédéric and Anton Stoianov, when the two of them were regulars at the mythical Basso, a place where many artists were mingling, working and partying together. They also shared many nights and days on Berghain's dance floor. Frédéric proposed Anton to collaborate on this project after seeing his large-scale abstract paintings, made without paint or pigment, but of worn cotton socks.

The audience is kindly asked to come at the opening time of the experiment and not later.

AT THE BOTTOM LEFT CORNER + RIBBON DANCE (2015)

Frédéric Gies + Anna Pehrsson + Fiedel

DEC 10, 19:00-21:45, Weld, Stockholm

At the bottom left corner

Dance: Frédéric Gies and Anna Pehrsson

DJ: Fiedel

Lighting design: Thomas Zamolo

Tights: Such a Sally

Ribbon dance

Dance: Frédéric Gies

DJ: Fiedel

Research collaborator: Carla Bottiglieri

Ribbon ready made: Anton Stoianov

Lighting design: Thomas Zamolo

Thanks to: Ulrika Berg, Philip Berlin, Cristina Caprioli

Special thanks to: a techno and dance lover called Slaven Rupic, dancers from Senegal whose names remain unknown, a dancer from the US called Trisha Brown

Frédéric Gies and Anna Perhsson invite you to a 2h44min evening of dance, infused with the contagious beats of the techno set created by Fiedel for the occasion. During this evening, Anna and Frédéric will dance their *At the bottom left corner*, and Frédéric his *Ribbon dance*. Both dances, which are dances of the in-between (in-between bodies, objects and histories) make manifest in two different yet connected ways the drives and forces that set off bodies or things in movement and the movement potential to self-generate, like a motor activated by its own energy. Although they inevitably communicate something else, these dances don't seek to communicate anything but themselves and the subterranean currents that traverse them.

DAD & SON (Premiere)

Frédéric Gies + Samuel Draper

DEC 11, 19:00-20:00, Weld, Stockholm

Dance: Frédéric Gies, Samuel Draper

DJ: Fiedel

In the dance performance Dad & Son, Samuel Draper and Frédéric Gies expose and celebrate an unorthodox form of kinship rather than a normative, biological relationship while dancing together in an almost pitch dark room to the beats of techno music. If the title of the performance can be interpreted as a wink to a gay form of sexual relationship, it exceeds this specific association, as it actually refers to another form of relationship the two dancers have agreed upon and live in the frame of their created surrogate family. The performance neither represents nor comments on the nature of this relationship, but rather makes visible unutterable bounds

FULL MOON (exhibition)

Frédéric Gies

NOV 30 (Opening), 17:00-22:00, Studio Mossutställningar, Stockholm

DEC 6, 14:00-21:00, Studio Mossutställningar, Stockholm

DEC 7+8, 16:00-21:00

In this exhibition, Frédéric Gies shows his recent series of drawings. In these drawings, which resemble an ancient frieze depicting a pagan ritual in which fucking becomes meditation and dance, known and unknown organs become intensities shining through the skin and are the source of magical powers. New cartographies of the body becomes manifest. In several occasions during the time of the exhibition, Frédéric Gies will give his lecture "The anus doesn't exist", in which he looks at mainstream anatomy as a political fiction that conditions our experiences and movement

RIBBON DANCE – Video installation

Gavin Youngs + Frédéric Gies + Fiedel

DEC 4, 10:00-16:30, KTH R1 Experimental Performance Space and Presence Lab, Stockholm
Screenings start every 50 minutes.

Direction: Gavin Youngs

Dance : Frédéric Gies

Music: Fiedel

Cinematography: Phillip Kaminiak

Production Manger: Natascha Stellmach

Grip: Sören Witzel

Focus puller : Yuri Salvador

This video installation by Gavin Youngs stages Frédéric Gies' Ribbon dance. The dance is filmed in one continuous shot circling around the dance that takes place in an arena reminiscent of locations of illegal raves.

THE ANUS DOESN'T EXIST (Lecture)

Frédéric Gies

NOV 27, 16:30-17:30, KTH R1 Experimental Performance Space and Presence Lab, Stockholm

In this lecture Frédéric Gies looks critically at anatomy as a political fiction that is loaded with prejudices and that affects the way we move and experience our bodies. He also addresses possible pathways for elaborating dissident cartographies of the body and for reclaiming an experiential knowledge. The lecture finishes with a demonstration of Technosomatics.

CREDITS

Concept, programme and organization: Frédéric Gies

Mentoring and coordination support: Anna Grip

Administration: The Artist Cooperative Interim Kultur

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