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GESTURES² : AT THE CROSSROAD OF DANCE AND VISUAL ARTS

From June 1 to June 5, 2016, Darling Foundry

Zoja Smutny : *Rosé Porn*

**Catherine Lavoie-Marcus : *Dance Anarchives*
(*Les Anarchives de la danse*)**



The Darling Foundry has programmed throughout the season of 2015-2016 new projects where dance and visual arts meet, which corresponded with the arrival of Curator Anne-Marie St-Jean Aubre in the Spring of 2015. From June 1 to June 5, **GESTURES²** will present the Montreal première of works by two Canadian artists: Zoja Smutny and Catherine Lavoie-Marcus. These works aim to continue the appropriation of the Darling Foundry's spaces in a singular and performative way. **GESTURES²** precedes *Ad Astra: Artists' Constellations*, the Darling Foundry's annual fundraising event, taking place Wednesday June 15, 2016, at 6:00 PM.



Zoja Smutny, in collaboration with Victoria Cheong and Brendan Jensen, *Rosé Porn*, 2015, projet view, ©Aundrea Bell



Catherine Lavoie Marcus, *Les Anarchives de la danse*, 2016, collage

Presented during the Fall 2015, the exhibition *Hôtel Formes Sauvages* of the Marseille artist André Fortino initiated the Darling Foundry's interest in how the dialogue between a visual artist and a choreographer impacts their approach to creation and how the public looks at these outcomes. Fortino's video triptych was based on the reinterpretation of gestures that were at the core of a first video, used as a score for the creation of the two following ones.

Zoja Smutny: *Rosé Porn* | Main Gallery

Wednesday June 1 + Thursday June 2, 9:30 PM – 10:30 PM | \$20 (regular), \$15 (students and cultural worker)

June 2, 2:00 PM: *Choreographed Conversation* | Free

Resident Choreographer with Dancemakers in Toronto, Zoja Smutny takes interest in the peripheral elements of the choreography, i.e. the sound composition, the set design as a form of installation, the role and place devoted to the spectator, in order to shake up the viewing habits and transform the spectators into participants.

By building on the creative possibilities offered by the idea of sharing - a space, a time, a context – her work unfolds around the capacity of all, spectators and performers, to be sensitive and responsive to the co-presence's effects, that feed into the live creation.

Presented as a Montreal première in the Main Gallery, *Rosé Porn*, a new multidisciplinary work described by Smutny as a "concept album," is a choreography that intersects dance, music, cinema, installation, and merchandising. A living installation to be experienced in a gallery space, *Rosé Porn* was created in collaboration with Toronto-based multidisciplinary artist Victoria Cheong. Along with her in the gallery space will be performers Brendan Jensen, Claudia Fancello, as well as Zoja Smutny. *"The dancers control all the lights, sound, and video. We work with pink neon tape, plants, flowers, cameras, computers, speakers, projectors, fabric, lights, clothes, plastic, and paper."* - Zoja Smutny

Taking place on Thursday, June 2 at 2:00 PM at the Darling Foundry, Smutny also proposes a *"Choreographed Conversation,"* a performative platform for sharing artistic practice and thought. *"Zoja is interested in creating a space that can house both the performance itself as well as a conversation designed as a kind of alternative to an artist talkback,"* explains Dancemakers' Curator Amelia Ehrhardt. This *"Choreographed Conversation"* will bring together Anne-Marie St-Jean Aubre (Curator at the Darling Foundry), Amelia Ehrhardt, Zoja Smutny, as well as the invited artists Anthony Burnham, Ame Henderson, Guntar Kravis and Claudia Fancello. They will share their thoughts and questions on the influence between disciplines, thus mediating how it affects their own work and where it becomes visible.

Catherine Lavoie-Marcus: *Dance Anarchives* | Small Gallery

Wednesday June 1 and Thursday June 2, 5:00 PM - 9:30 PM – Saturday June 4 and Sunday June 5, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM | Free

In the Small Gallery, Choreographer Catherine Lavoie-Marcus proposes four participatory workshops in which six performers and the public are invited to create choreographic scores taking the form of collages using Quebec's dance archives. Performers Marie Claire Forté, Andrée Juteau, Brice Noeser, Georges-Nicolas Tremblay, Andrew Turner and Catherine Lavoie-Marcus will appropriate these new images and turn them, with the complicity of sound designer Michel F. Côté, into "tableaux vivants" physically enacting the history of dance, between the homage and the outrage.

With Dance Anarchives, Lavoie-Marcus questions the taboos of her discipline by inventing new ways of writing movements, based on an anarchic appropriation of the documentation of Quebec's dance archives. In this exercise, leading figures in the heritage of dance collide in a disordered, disproportionate and anachronistic manner. "From this collision of images, new documents arise creating in turn new and remarkable memories. The archives' anarchic potential bursts: no historical figure remains untouchable; no temporal or aesthetic hierarchy is maintained. Liberated, the bodies detach from their surroundings and defy the laws of gravity." – Catherine Lavoie-Marcus

Research: Gabrielle Larocque

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A third part of this research will take the form of the exhibition *Interprétations à l'œuvre*, organized by the Darling Foundry in collaboration with Astérides, during the Festival international des arts & des écritures contemporaines Actoral. Including 14 Canadian and French artists and performers, this exhibition will be presented in Marseille, at La Friche la Belle de Mai, from August 27 to November 27, 2016.

MORE ON THE ARTISTS

Zoja Smutny (*Rosé Porn*)

dancemakers.org/zoja-smutny

Zoja Smutny is an artist working at the intersection of dance, visual arts, music and writing. She recently completed her Masters at UDK, Berlin, and she now divides her time between Berlin, Toronto, and Montreal, performing, creating choreographies and teaching. Her research emerged out of her curiosities around intimacy, presence, popular culture, the cinematic frame, critical theory and shared practices.

Catherine Lavoie-Marcus (*Dance Anarchives*)

Catherine Lavoie-Marcus is a choreographer, performer, teacher and researcher in dance. Since 2008, she has presented her creations in theatres and artist-run centres in Quebec (Tangente, Studio 303, Usine C, Centre d'art Skol, Darling Foundry) and has shared her personal and group research internationally (France, China). She publishes theoretical and critical reflections in the form of articles and essays in Presses du réel, Dance collection Danse Press/es and magazines such as Spirale, Jeu, and esse arts+opinions. Catherine Lavoie-Marcus is newly a columnist for the publication esse in collaboration with Michel F. Côté and continues her doctoral research at the University of Quebec in the program "études et pratiques des arts".

Dancemakers

Dancemakers is a contemporary dance creation center in Toronto that programs residencies, performances, workshops, and ancillary activities to support the development of the field of contemporary dance in Canada. Dancemakers organizes long-term fully resourced residencies for a rotating roster of local, national, and international artists, developing a cohort of artists and a body of works that is consistently shifting and in development. Through an overarching vision elaborated by the Curator Amelia Ehrhardt, Dancemakers animates a space where contemporary dance creation, presentation, and development provoke unexpected discoveries, sensations, and meanings. Dancemakers' home is The Centre for Creation, in Toronto's Distillery Historic District.

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Wen 12h – 19h
Thu 12h – 22h
Fri-Sun 12h – 19h
Mon-Tue CLOSED
Admission 5\$ / Free on Thursdays