

Abstract submitted by Vilelmini Andrioti

Title:

Body Displacement

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As an artist based in Athens in the heart of the economic crisis, I both witness and experience vulnerabilities exposed by structures of economic inequality, which has deeply affected my work as an artist. Throughout my work I question the boundaries of fragility, vulnerability and precariousness. Dance reflects the mechanism of awareness of human body and mind. How much space do we have; to think, to function. Who determines the time and space and what it means to change. I would like to see the body not only as bones and flesh but rather as an engine of free spirit, as a vehicle to activism which is socially and politically important for the benefit of the community. I think that we are all refugees and immigrants and have witnessed the loss of identity. I would like to raise awareness about the body displacement. Additionally, I would like to highlight what it means to restart and what we are going through demanding our dignity.

Target group: My aim is to assist in the process of restarting, of communication and creativity between different groups of people regardless of their background, culture, age and health status. To do so, it will be very helpful to interact and include each of you and especially those people who witnessed or witnessing displacement and for those ones who might want to enrich with their material the present condition in their countries.

Aims of the workshop: People are aware that color, language, gender, and physical ability are connected to privilege and power. The workshop's rationale can be used to spread the word of resistance, claiming human rights but also develop anti-bias attitudes, in general. This body workshop challenges stereotypes, protocols, prejudice and aims to the following:

- Empower creativity
- Observe the boundaries of thought
- Empower a system based on our believes
- Rethink the educational system
- Allow differences

- Value experimental learning
- Create an anti-bias environment
- Resist to stereotyping and discriminatory behavior
- Understand racial differences and similarities
- Define gender identity
- Analyze cultural differences and similarities
- Learning from doing
- Show confidence demonstrating/performing

Concept: Storytelling is my basic tool I employ to bring fresh vision to powerful stories which deliver an anti oppressive environment. Next step will be the participants to testify with their bodies, or parts of their bodies, those stories reflecting how they fled to neighboring countries, creating their own path into the unknown: a dialogue between bodies in order to move, and function.

As a part of my workshop I am available to give a speech regarding refugees issue on documenting my experience in Greece and Palestine...

Everyone who would like to participate in this seminar and work together to co-create is welcome.

CV

Choreographer Vilelmini Andrioti

Vilelmini is a Greek political choreographer. She has studied Sociology, Dance, Theater and her MA Research is on Choreography and Performance with more than 20 years experience performing and teaching in dance studios, community programs and schools. She has been giving lectures on dance performance and activism: Sasha Waltz & Guests Berlin Athens Biennale, AthenSyn, Autonomous Academy, Trise Festival, CID, Palestine, etc.

As an activist she has coordinated a squat with 1500 refugees in Piraeus Athens. She is interested in the mass displacement of people here in Palestine and throughout the world. Incidentally, her family lost everything overnight in 1922, escaping Asia Minor as victims of war and became refugees.