

Cécile Bouffard/Ruth Childs (Scarlett's)



Photo: Dorothée Thébert Filliger

Delicate People

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Delicate People

Performance by Cécile Bouffard & Ruth Childs

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Tutu Production, Lise Leclerc and Cécilia Lubrano

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Photo: Manon Briod

PERFORMANCES (IN SITU)

2021

12.06.21 : La Becque, La Tour de-Peilz, Switzerland

02.07.21 : Centre culturel suisse. Paris, France

18.09.21 : Constellation Festival at Toulon, France

21.11.21 : Grütli, Geneva, Switzerland

2023

02.06.23: Arsenic, Lausanne, Switzerland

17.06.23: Extension Sauvage, Combourg, France

23-24.09.23: Cité Internationale with CCS on Tour, Paris, France



Photo: Sébastien Prigent



Photo: Cécile Bouffard

Ruth Childs and Cécile Bouffard started the project *Delicate People* in 2021 aiming to combine their respective disciplines, dance and sculpture. *Delicate People* is a series of vignettes dealing with figures and motifs of disturbing identities and fine-tuned movements. Both artists cultivate intuition and indeterminacy, fostering suspension of judgment and disruption in form.

During their first work session at La Becque, in partnership with L'Arsenic, five initial forms were created to fit Ruth's body. Cécile's work is an invitation to self-projection: an outline incites a grip, a curve a gesture. Her sculptures, arranged with folkloric motifs, call for the recognition of a certainty that can tip over into fragility as soon as the viewpoint is shifted. Ruth responds to the forms with her own intuitive, sensing that the objects are choreographing her body. They seem to want to be manipulated, to spend time with Ruth, and to become creative partners. Rhythmic patterns arise, some tender, some more brutal, changing Ruth's physicality. The ambiguity of the object's utilitarian but also organic character makes the body curious, fragile, hesitant and playful. These uncertainties create a perpetual metamorphose of gesture, rhythm and mood. Despite the hesitation, the act of taking charge is also liberating, an act of power capable of reversing a situation at any moment.

These mutations are precisely what attract the two artists- the evolving nature of things and situations. Their passage through movements, figures and affects create stories nourished by references common to both artists. The term *delicate* describes both the illustrated figures (such as the hermit, the marginal, the loony, the abnormal) and their creative process. The key being delicateness and attentivity to an evolving choreographic story and sharing the experience of wandering.

It is in this logic of deconstruction and digression that Cécile Bouffard and Ruth Childs seek to create a space of emancipation as much in the narrative structure as in the production method.



Photo: Manon Briod



Photo: Manon Briod



Photo: Marie Magnin

Ruth Childs

British-American dancer and performer Ruth Childs was born in 1984 in London. She grew up in the United States where she studied dance and music. In 2003 she moved to Geneva to finish her dance training with the Ballet Junior de Genève. Following this, she started working with many internationally known choreographers and directors including Foofwa d'Imobilité, La Ribot, Gilles Jobin, Massimo Furlan, Marco Berrettini and Yasmine Hugonnet. Since 2015, she is also working on a re-creation and revival project of the early works of her aunt, the American choreographer Lucinda Childs.

In 2014 she founded her company Scarlett's in order to develop her own work through dance, performance, and music. Scarlett's favors intimate and collaborative artistic processes, cultivating intuition and the indefinable. In 2016 the state of Geneva awarded her a scholarship and research residency in Berlin of 6 months to develop her own work. Her first stage piece in collaboration with Stéphane Vecchione, *The Goldfish and the Inner Tube*, premiered in April 2018. She premiered *fantasia*, her first solo at the ADC, Geneva in October 2019 and then *Blast!* in 2022 at the Festival de la Bâtie in Geneva.

Ruth is currently one of the artists in residence at Arsenic in Lausanne and the associated artist at CCN2-Centre chorégraphique national de Grenoble (2023-2024.)

Cécile Bouffard

Cécile Bouffard, born in 1987, lives and works in Paris. A graduate of the National School of Fine Arts in Lyon in 2014, she has since co-founded the artist-run-space Pauline Perplexe in Arcueil. In 2015 and then in 2021, she was in residence at the Cité internationale des arts, and in 2020 at Villa Belleville.

The artist benefited from personal exhibitions at the Centre d'art contemporain Les Capucins in Embrun in 2019, at the Guadalajara 90210 gallery in Mexico City, at Rond Point Projects in Marseille and at La Salle de Bains in Lyon in 2022. She participated in group exhibitions, including: "La fugitive" at Crédac in 2022, "Ricochette" at Berceau in 2021, "Your friends and neighbours" at High Art and "Sâr Dubnotal" at CAC Brétigny in 2020.

Since 2021 she has been collaborating with dancer and choreographer Ruth Childs as part of the Delicate people project, and since 2018 has led several lesbian collective projects such as VNOUJE with Clara Pacotte and Roxanne Maillet and La Gousse with Barberin Quintin and Roxanne Maillet.

Her works have been included in the collections of the Cnap, the Contemporary Art Fund - Paris Collections, the art libraries of the City of Strasbourg and the Maison des arts de Grand Quevilly.

www.cecilebouffard.com