NC 28

Le Carré des Lombes

Danièle Desnoyers



New
Creation
2028

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Each new creative process emerges from a specific context in which the body—**with its social and poetic dimensions**—remains the epicenter of my research. This is complemented by an important collaborative dialogue centered on concepts that will shape the initial contours of an evolving artistic project.

In such ugly time, beauty is the true protest_ These words by the artist and activist Phil Ochs, quoted as part of a memorable exhibition at the Dries Van Noten Foundation in Venice, haunted me throughout my six-month artist residency in Rome. They invite us to place greater value on the concept of beauty —not merely in its formal or aesthetic dimension, but rather as the foundation of our humanity.

During my stay in Italy, I eagerly immersed myself in research on the representation of bodies in **public and private spaces**. I explored the layers of memory in this part of the world and examined the evolution of its many artistic expressions, then related them to our current reality. As the succession of civilizations is evident everywhere, the notion of **cultural syncretism** resonates with me, and I've developed an obsession with what brings us together today. I observed all this art created by "small hands"—these emotions bursting forth from stone transformed into flesh, these drapery of fabrics lifting bodies as if by an immense divine breath.



Abe Simon Mijnheer © Luc Senécal

Ovid's Shadow_ I immerse myself in the writings of Ovid, whose ***Metamorphoses*** echo a visceral need to escape an unbearable condition. Centered on the theme of transformation, these metaphorical tales evoke "the tension between **order and change, the fluidity of identities**, and **the dynamic relationship between the body and nature**" (Galleria Borghese). I grasp their full power and their multiple resonances with the current sociopolitical context. I observe the multiple **reconfigurations** of these mythological figures; those by artists such as Damien Hirst, Louise Bourgeois, and Ben Russell speak to me most deeply. I gather observations and sensations, which become **fertile ground** for the development of my creative project.

Here and Now. No one ever returns unscathed from an extended stay in Rome. I thus bring multiple layers of memory into tension, summoning and reactivating them while taking into account what drives us collectively today. And while my relationship to history and beauty are intimately connected, they seep into a stage piece in which the body remains the central core of my approach. **Dance not only exults in its physical power**, but it also gives form to deep convictions and weaves bonds imbued with **desire, joy, and humanity**.

Inhabiting the Present_ The stage becomes a space where different ways of expressing time overlap or intertwine. Shifting from rhythmic virtuosity—drawing on the world's diverse rhythms—to expanded tempos, the soundscape designed by Ben Shemie engages the **audience's senses**, while a flexible set design allows viewers to tangibly experience the transformation of the space.

Danièle Desnoyers

Choreographer



Crédit photo: Danièle Desnoyers par Isabel Rancier

Danièle Desnoyers is the artistic director of Le Carré des Lombes dance company. Throughout her career, the choreographer has received support from numerous organizations, including Agora de la danse, Rencontres chorégraphiques internationales de Seine-Saint-Denis, the Baryshnikov Arts Center, the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, Danse Danse, the Banff Centre for the Arts, the Théâtre National de Chaillot, Montpellier Danse, the Festival TransAmériques, and Usine C. The choreographer is also invited to create works for internationally renowned companies. TanzMainz (Germany), Aterballetto (Italy), and the Montreal Symphony Orchestra are among the organizations that have commissioned original works from her.

Ben Shemie

Composer

Ben Shemie's extensive experience as a musician, singer, and composer, and his international career as both a solo artist and the leader of the band Suuns enable him to combine experimental electroacoustic music, pop music, and functional music (such as the Chanel commercial), moving from one to the other with the same dedication and creativity. We continue an artistic partnership rooted in a shared passion for research, exploration, and musical composition that engages the audience's senses. *UNFOLD | 7 Perspectives* (2019) and, more recently, *Soulèvement* (2025) are the most notable collaborations between the composer and the choreographer.

Crédit photo: Ben Shemie par Susan Moss



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Created in **Fall 2028, Montreal**
Co-presented by **Danse Danse and Agora de la danse**
Performance area: **at least 40' wide (12.19 meters) + wings on each side, 36' deep (11 meters) + a 4' (1.22 meters) backstage area at the back of the stage**
Running time **60 minutes**

CREDITS **(IN PROGRESS)**

Artistic Direction and Choreography
Danièle Desnoyers
Performers
6 dancers
Original Music
Ben Shemie
Production
Le Carré des Lombes
Co-production
Danse Danse, l'Agora de la danse

PARTNERS

Canada Council for the Arts
Quebec Council for the Arts and Letters
Montreal Arts Council
Montreal School of Contemporary Dance / Le PONT Program
Les Minutes chorégraphiques

CREATIVE RESIDENCIES

Quebec Studio in Rome (CALQ)
Trois C-L | Maison pour la danse
Agora de la danse
Circuit-Est centre chorégraphique

CONTACTS

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