

# International ChoreoLab Austria 2016



Tanz Atelier<sup>Wien</sup>  
Sebastian Prantl

**'BODYHOOD\_NARRATIVE & composition'**

## ICLA CountryLab 24-31 July 2016

Art-based research where the body, mind and nature meet  
at the Art and Nature Sanctuary in St. Margarethen/Burgenland

**SHOWING: Sunday, 31 July, 4 pm**

## ICLA CityLab 2-5 August 2016

Further research, abstraction and final presentation of the findings  
in the 'White Cube' at Tanz Atelier Wien (TAW)

**SHOWING: Friday, 5 August, 6 pm**

All movement enthusiasts are welcome to join!

**DETAILED PROGRAM AND INFORMATION:  
[WWW.TANZATELIERWIEN.AT](http://WWW.TANZATELIERWIEN.AT)**



# 'BODYHOOD\_NARRATIVE & composition'



St. Margarethen – Sculptors' House



Tanz Atelier Wien

## DUAL FRAMEWORK

The Art and Nature Sanctuary at St. Margarethen/Burgenland in Austria and its unique Sculptors' House, will serve as ICLA's opening location: 'CountryLab', the 'White Cube' – Tanz Atelier Wien functions as headquarter and 'CityLab' for ICLA 2016.

## THEME

'BODYHOOD\_NARRATIVE & composition' focuses on the universal stories born of immanent stillness. Here, the term 'BODYHOOD' stands for contemplation, anchorage and origin. The ChoreoLab opens a discourse concerning the multiplicity of storytelling and its return to a corporeal origin; whether as diverse idioms of dance vocabulary or as manifold forms of verbal expression (speech, poetry, song), a narrative is always present. Fundamental frameworks of composition such as context, condition, pulse, cut, pause, rhythm, order, sound, attitude, symbolism, are examined and explored with regard to time and space: to what extent are recurring stories (repeated structures) part of our collective oeuvre, and to what extent do they sustain our cultural identities? We will also analyze how collective "dramas" that seem to haunt us repeatedly, develop from the subjective codes. We, as itinerant protagonists in time and space (as performing artists in a stage setting) are the subject matter of the narrative and generate timbre, timing, rhythm and content.

Where contemplative stillness becomes activity that energizes the space around it, is where the moment of opening occurs, where resonance emerges, where dynamic interplay begins and trans-formation becomes possible. In an age marked by ever faster communication facilities and constant accessibility through the global network (driven by so called progress), we are exhausting our creative resource increasingly. On the other hand, we are becoming aware that a sublimation of content is only possible if we take time to regenerate in "places of stillness". Ultimately content that is experienced and reflected upon authentically, suggests further composition which can then emerge with effectiveness and assurance.

## CONTEXT

'BODYHOOD\_NARRATIVE & composition' will consider and evaluate paradigms of today's performance theory and practice. For many years, both the arts and sciences analyze realities within their discrete frameworks, regardless of their contextuality. The 21st century calls for interconnecting performance practices and formats in order to foster, visualize and integrate tangible contexts and (re)connect art and life. Within particular era, artists as the pioneers and/or provocateurs will generate and (re)create innovative structures, upholding the viability of art beyond considerations of commerce and "design". Performance practices and their recipients will change accordingly, especially with regard to trans-cultural narratives.

## TARGET GROUP

ICLA is characterized by the internationality, motivation and enthusiasm of its participants and experts. It is aimed at people from various fields such as choreography, dance, music, acting, visual arts, architecture, humanities, (new) media, life sciences and pedagogy... Anyone interested in and enthused by movement and body work is welcome to join. The language of instruction is English (with spontaneous translation into other languages if needed).

## MISSION

ICLA experiments with trans-cultural narratives that manifest themselves within a wide variety of idioms and compositions. It is our premise to enhance a unique setting as an intangible, universal space for thought and action within an autonomous view to art-based research.

- We open up new approaches to art (works) in a discourse balanced among theory and practice.
- We set store by freedom, spontaneity and continuity.
- We break through and overcome conventional conditions and networks.
- Collaborative working fosters individual further development.
- Improvisation in multi-layered contexts teaches us to deal with uncertainty.
- We fulfil our visions and dreams.
- We define ourselves through the arts – in search of the miraculous!

## AUTHORS

The International ChoreoLab Austria was founded in 2009 by the choreographer/dancer Sebastian Prantl and the concert pianist Cecilia Li as a nexus of different art forms based on performance practice and theoretical discourse. Both have been Artistic Directors of Tanz Atelier Wien (TAW) since 1988. The ICLA fosters and studies choreography beyond the confines of stage production and expands it to cover structures of movement related to daily life, knowledge production and cultural techniques of body, mind and nature. The ICLA is designed to stimulate the sharing of expertise beyond the confines of single disciplines in order to create a forum where new synergies may flourish. Based on individual approaches, the ChoreoLab links media, movement, language, writing, building, gardening, cooking...



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## Tanz Atelier Wien

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## TEACHING EXPERTS

**Raffael Frick** (Austria) holds a degree in photography from the graphic school of design in Vienna and has studied communication and philosophy at the University of Vienna. He assisted the photographer Alexandra Pawloff and helped to develop the format www.wienweb.at. Further engagements included camera assistance for several shows of the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF). He has been teaching at the Institute of Sociology at the University of Vienna Ethnography and Scientific Film since 2010, and is founder and owner of „plus8media“, a company specialized in B2B Video production, photography and communication. He did various short films for Tanz Atelier Wien, where he enjoys the interdisciplinary improvisational format. His film language combines clear abstracted narratives in regard to music and architecture.

**Silvia Maria Grossmann** (Switzerland/Austria) has a teaching degree with a focus on languages from the University of Zurich. She studied sculpting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna under Professor Franz X. Ölzant. From 1996 she was heading the Gallery Atrium ed Arte in Vienna and worked as a curator. Various stipends and residencies took her to New York, Ningbo, China and Italy. Currently, she lives and works in Vienna. Her solo exhibitions were held in contexts such as: „Round Tower“, Copenhagen; Ecole de beaux-arts, Besançon; Gallery Iseyoshi, Tokyo; Gallery Lilian Andrée, Riehen/Basel; Gallery Litera, Prague; Gallery Rieder, Munich... Group exhibitions: "Open 2002", Lido, Venice; "verzweigte Verbindungen", Künstlerbund Bozen; „Trans Alpin“, exhibition exchange between Vienna and Zurich.

**Othello Johns** (USA/Germany) works internationally as a dancer, choreographer and stage instructor. He studied dance, choreography and design at the University of Louisiana after having been awarded a scholarship to the Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance in New York. He was Rehearsal Director of the Erick Hawkins Company whose choreographic oeuvre influenced him fundamentally. Othello Johns is currently Co-Founder and Artistic Director of KABAWIL dance theatre productions in Germany and is engaged in choreographic community projects all over Germany. He performed in various pieces of TAW.

**Cecilia Li** (Austria), pianist and Co-Founder of ICLA, was born in Taipei/Taiwan. At the age of 14 she continued her concert class studies at the University of Music and Performing Arts Mozarteum Salzburg. She received various awards and high honors. Besides her solo/chamber music concerts she is also a distinguished teacher at various music universities. In 2004, Cecilia Li founded her own CD label 'shiuling records' and she is Musical Director of the Tanz Atelier Wien/Trans Art Works.

**Mei Kuang Li** (Taiwan) graduated from London Contemporary Dance School. She is a freelance dancer, choreographer and active movement practitioner. She has been performing internationally as a member of Ku & Dancers since 1999. She participated in various artist residency programs, such as World Dance Day in India and Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris. As a dance educator in Taiwan, she has organized workshops for Taiwan's various communities and populations, from the physically challenged to opera singers and musicians. She has worked with the National Theater and Concert Hall in Taiwan giving public lectures. She currently teaches at National Taiwan University of Arts and at the Dance Forum Taipei & Company. She is the Director at "Perennial Tree Creativity/Psychology Programmes".

**Sebastian Prantl** (Austria) is choreographer, dancer and Artistic Director of Tanz Atelier Wien and ICLA. Since the 1980s, he has been engaged in pioneering work in the field of contemporary dance. (His father, the sculptor Karl Prantl (1923–2010), initiated the International Sculptors' Symposia movement in St. Margarethen where ICLA Country Lab is hosted. Sebastian Prantl received his education in dance/theatre, performance and vocals in New York in the early 1980s, where he studied at Dance Theatre of Harlem, Martha Graham School, Juilliard School, Whitney Independent Studio Program and took part in NY's post-modern dance milieu (Yvonne Rainer, Elaine Summers, Simone Forti...). He is a key figure for independent dance initiatives in Austria and teaches and choreographs in various formats around the world. He received several Austrian and European prizes for choreography and staging. Within the context of

Tanz Atelier Wien, together with his wife – the pianist Cecilia Li, he realized more than 50 project series and continuously has been expanding on interdisciplinary research (Trans Art Works, ICLA).

**Kirstie Simson** (UK) has been a continuous explosion in the contemporary dance scene, bringing audiences into contact with the vitality of pure creation in moment after moment of virtuoso improvisation. Called "a force of nature" by the New York Times, she is an award-winning dancer and teacher who has "immeasurably enriched and expanded the boundaries of New Dance". Simson's eternal subject is freedom, as she dares to go beyond the boundaries of form and structure to create movement out of the rhythm of life itself. For the past 30 years, Kirstie has collaborated with many dancers and musicians who share an interest in improvisation, including Steve Paxton, Nancy Stark Smith, Simone Forti, Michael Schumacher, Adam Benjamin, Julyen Hamilton and Le Quan Ninh. She teaches throughout the world with notable companies, such as Cloud Gate in Taiwan and Sasha Waltz and Guests in Germany, and leads open workshops and classes in institutions of learning, including the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London, the Danish National School of Performing Arts and SNDO in Amsterdam. Currently, she is teaching dance at Illinois University USA.

**Soenke Zehle's** (Germany) background is in comparative literature, philosophy and translation. He thinks of himself as a media theorist, framing other interests that inform (sometimes simply erupt into) his teaching, thinking and writing. He publishes regularly, often with close collaborators, as research practice, as craft, as collaborative constitution. Currently, he is lecturer in Media Theory at the Academy of Fine Arts Saar, where he also co-initiated and works as Managing Director of the academy's xm:lab – Experimental Media Lab. His work at xm:lab frames (institutionally and conceptually) his research activities, and frequently co-develops projects with colleagues from Communication Design, Fine Arts, Media Art and Design, Media Informatics and Product Design with a particular focus on practice-based and transcultural approaches.

