

## Vienna / ImPulsTanz: DD Dorvillier with *Dance is the archaeologist, or an idol in the bone*.

The austere stage with its blackened rear wall and the morbid charm of the Schauspielhaus in Vienna provide an appropriate backdrop for the choreographer and dancer DD Dorvillier, born in Puerto Rico and living in France since 2010. Here, she presents her solo *Dance is the archaeologist, or an idol in the bone*. in its Austrian premiere.

DD Dorvillier offers this minimalist piece, developed in 2024, without any props. Accompanied by subtle sounds and rare variations of light, she embarks on a quest inspired by a dream she had after dance practices and research near an archaeological site in France.

In the silence, she starts by circling her fists, observing them, adding her arms, exploring the stage space, and intensifying the movements. «What if?» she asks repeatedly. She opens her hands, measures space vertically and horizontally, closes her eyes one at a time, thus exploring her perspective, then the inside of her body — she tears at the flesh of her arms, digging down to the bone, thus revealing her inner self — and her voice («Ahhh»), balanced on the balls of her feet, creates immense tension.

Even the pipe in the corner catches her interest. She screams, shrieks, squeaks, sings high notes. She punctuates her movements with sounds. As if a very old mechanical apparatus creaked with every motion. Sound fragments are added. She makes her shoes squeak on the floor, thus examining the ground she stands on, testing the nature of the surface that conceals deeper layers, runs in circles with an imaginary flag in her hands, brandishes it on the spot, slowly raises her arms, and positions her hands like a pointed roof above her. Then she returns to the corner, to the starting point.

She then begins a second pass of this choreographic sequence, with slightly modified gestures and a few additions compared to the first circle. She also uses the recording of the acoustic events from the first round. Moreover, she asks: «What if ... water?» And later: «What if ... distance?» And as if she wanted to begin a third round, she emerges from the corner only to bow.

Water, as a geological element, which, though soft, is capable through its constancy and persistence of shaping the hardest realities, uncovering buried layers and then washing them away, becomes a complex metaphor. It symbolizes working with the unconscious, the mass's power to shape reality, and patience. Distance, an essential condition for contemplating oneself and the world, is introduced as a necessary tool in the second, the “present round.”

The images she works with, the discreetly added electronic sound by Sébastien Roux, and the lighting framing the cycles (Madeline Best) support the same style. Remarkable for their simplicity and clarity, they develop a particular poetic force. **The multiple dimensions evoked lift this work beyond personal experience. Making the echoes of the past heard in all that we are and all that makes up the world, showing how the old always gives birth to the new and how the latter is nourished by it, becomes an image of a future that will emerge from the present.**

Archaeology is also, in a way, a science of the future, because the link between the past and the future consists of processes whose knowledge allows understanding the present and predicting probable futures. **With this sensitively conducted excavation, DD Dorvillier embarks on a quest for personal, artistic, but also social, societal, political, and spiritual pasts and traditions, to feel their echo in the present and draw a vision of the future from it.**

**With this humble, tender, cautious, yet concrete and intelligent work, integrated into her series *Untitled Landscapes*, DD Dorvillier also advocates awareness of these forces and processes. Because this awareness enables freedom, creativity, and the assumption of responsibility, thus laying the foundations for shaping oneself, futures, and art in this sense.**

DD Dorvillier / human future dance corps, *Dance is the archaeologist, or an idol in the bone*.  
On 21.07.2024 at the Schauspielhaus in Vienna as part of the ImPulsTanz Festival.

Rando Hannemann