

## PRESS RELEASE



### As part of INVENTUR 2 from June 01 to 03, 2017 the field's most prominent performers discuss central topics in tanzhaus nrw

Presenting more than 35 experts from around the globe, **the INVENTUR 2 Conference** invites you to investigate the current situation of contemporary dance and performance across genre boundaries in nine topical blocks at the tanzhaus nrw from June 1st until June 3rd. Twelve years after the first INVENTUR of 2005 in **Vienna, artists and other cultural entrepreneurs, scientists, theoreticians and publicists** will again discuss central questions of current developments in dance and the arts, with a backdrop of recent political, ecological and economic crises. Nine panels on topics such as “The body in crisis”, “Audience & attention”, “Social practice and politics in dance”, “Strategies of self-empowerment”, “Postcolonialism”, “Education” and “Performance and the museum” negotiate the current situation in a global context, intending to open potential for the future.

Choreographers and dancers – artists whose medium is the body – deal with central topics of our times such as refugees' experience, migration, or ostracism of minorities as well as the expectations connected to one's own actions. The panel will include, among others, Brazilian choreographer Lia Rodrigues, British choreographer Jonathan Burrows, British dancer Dan Daw, New York choreographer and dancer Trajal Harrell or Turkish sociologist Gurur Ertem. Lia Rodrigues, for example, is conducting work in one of Rio's largest favelas with her company. Jonathan Burrows, now more than ever, is interested in the social practice of his artistic actions. Dan Daw, formerly a dancer in the British Candoco Dance Company featuring dancers with and without physical impairments, broaches the issue of inclusion. Trajal Harrell's choreographic work reflects dignity, identity, racism, and homophobia. Unstable structures are at the centre of attention for lateral thinker and dance scientist Susan Leigh Foster and Gurur Ertem.

The conference reaches out **to dancers, choreographers, students and other cultural entrepreneurs**, looking for a prolific exchange from different perspectives, coming from practice. At the same time, the conference regards itself as an encouragement for the dance scene and its protagonists, with their gaze more and more refocused towards social realities.

The three-day conference in Düsseldorf – an attendance of 300 is expected by the tanzhaus nrw – will be complemented by a lecture performance titled “Ich räume auf (I clean up)” by Düsseldorf choreographer Raimund Hoghe as well as with the guest performance “Displacement” by Syrian choreographer Mithkal Alzghair.

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**Artistic Director: Bettina Masuch**



Landeshauptstadt  
Düsseldorf

Ministerium für Familie, Kinder,  
Jugend, Kultur und Sport  
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**The concept for INVENTUR 2** has been drawn up by dance curator and academic Sigrid Gareis (Berlin), dramatics, dance and literary studies researcher Gabriele Brandstetter (Berlin), Martina Hochmuth (Rennes), dance curator and head of production at the Musée de la Danse, as well as by the artistic director of the tanzhaus nrw, Bettina Masuch (Düsseldorf).

**Conference language will be English.** A prior registration € 30,- (excluding performance programme) at [www.tanzhaus-nrw.de](http://www.tanzhaus-nrw.de) will be required.

**Background:** While the first INVENTUR in Vienna in 2005 focused on an East-West exchange as well as on a departure towards a united Europe, the status today is markedly different. EU optimism has long waned, and considering multiple political, economic, social and demoscopic crises, the world now faces a radically changed situation. From the perspective of a lot of cultural entrepreneurs, the current state in dance is marked by complexity and undecidedness. With an emphasis on distribution programmes, lobbyism, and a mostly economic networking, dance, at least in wide parts of Europe, faces the danger that the current dance development loses view of artistic processes as well as of the artists themselves. Therefore, INVENTUR 2 primarily aims for an exchange between artists, from their practice.

**PS:** At the same time, the tanzhaus nrw welcomes 36 directors from **the European Dance House Network (EDN)** who are conducting their meeting in Düsseldorf. The network, which has been created in 2005 and just recently secured EU-funds for their activities during the coming four years, provides the means for a prolific, Europe-wide exchange between artists, institutions and their staff. [www.edn.com](http://www.edn.com)