

2019, June 16

Report: Week 1 of 3 (10.-15.06.2019)

Artistic residence program at Choreographic Centre Heidelberg 2019

by Tillmann Becker

in collaboration with the dancers

Francesca Ciaffoni, Cecilia Castellari, Claudia Greco, Daniela Querci,
Ada Daniele and Sara Enrich Bertran

BABYLON

The cipher "Babylon" is the starting point of my choreographic planning. It gives me the opportunity to be inspired, as I reflect similar experiences nowadays.

After a warm welcome of the group at the Choreographic Center Heidelberg, the dancers got a brief introduction about the topic of the research.

We translated the image of Ferdinand Olivier: The Jews in Babylonian Captivity (c. 1838) into movement and developed the first scene with the focus on the boundaries and borderline experiences that people "on the River of Babylon" today experience. Captivity, suffering, oppression, demarcation, isolation from home are just a few terms that describe the exile Babylon.

What does it mean to be surrounded by walls and borders?

In our present time, walls and fences are becoming more explosive. Powerful people are always inventing new ways to defend their claims to property.

Often violent and brutal. Human dignity and human rights are trampled underfoot. Different possibilities of threats can arise in the form of adaptation, collaboration and decay.

During the research we explored different **ways woman choose to respond to such boundaries and barriers.**

In this case I developed an improvisational score to let the dancers experience and explore what does it mean to react or not react towards a conflict situations, to support or not to support to take action or just observe the inner reaction.

The score delivered us motives which we used to create further movement material in order to set or reproduce them. We called them "motive one and motive two" considering "problems". We generated physical issues and brought them into composition.

After the first week we gained a rough draft of an **17 minutes** outline of a 30 minutes length of the whole piece. Further on we already gathered new movement material such as solo, duo, unisons as set material and worked a lot on composition.

Personally I allow myself to mention that I feel very honoured to work with those **strong personalities** which is for me reflected in their **movement quality** inside of the studio and also their way of encounter outside the studio. We are very thankful to have the chance to create this work at the Choreographic Center in Heidelberg. These credits belong to our wonderful hosts Bernhard Fauser and Jai Gonzales! Many, many thanks for giving us the space to create **to be what we are!**

Throughout the topic of my research I found it very appropriated that my collaborators get the chance to express themselves here and now:

Cecilia Castellari:

"This week was a perfect way to start a new project/adventure. We connected very much as a group thanks to the guidance of Tillmann during work time, and to the sharing the living time in this nice space. During the process of creation a moment which touched me in particular was when we faced the topic of borderline experiences as women and started to translate all this information into movements through guided improvisation tasks. It was very interesting and beautiful to see how all of us came out as individuals but still felt we as a group were a whole."

Francesca Ciaffoni:

"The initial process of creation was inspiring and enjoyable. In one week we manage to create a very strong group of women of which the energy is very much felt in the studio. This feminine powerful energy we built up was one of the point of departure of the creation. I feel that We, as a group, are all very committed in working together and inspired from each one another. And this is so beautiful, and it creates a really pleasant atmosphere during work and living time!"

Ada Daniele:

"6 women in the studio is powerful. Given the topic of the research even more... I think the essence of this process came through already in this first week, because sweat struggle dedication talent individuality weakness complicity, friendships, new friendships and all different backgrounds came together already.

I find one of the most important aspects of this research the fact that we, as well, live all together and I'm sure Tillmann experiencing this with us will manage to bring that experience in the studio as well."

Daniela Querci:

"I felt this first week really productive and enjoyable. The power of the group was strong since the beginning and I felt definitely connected with the other girls. The feminine energy and the enthusiasm of Tillmann gave me the strength to work in a nice and relax atmosphere even though the aim of the piece is to bring the woman position/situation now a days which in some part of the world is still a big topic to analyse."

Claudia Greco:

"Babylon day 6th. : "in a room with 5 great women and 1 great man "
discoveries:

from the very first improvisation task , on day one, it was clear to me that in the room, between the 7 of us, there was a very strong will for listening and understanding. established that

In the next days, i discovered that the work we are doing and the thematic that we are touching trigger empathy

towards the others and helped me going deeper into awareness towards my interior feelings. In the studio i felt sustained and protected and i surprised myself rising a sense of satisfaction and confidence given by the consciousness of a sense of "common purpose" and the power that can generate from there."

Sara Enrich Bertran:

"Our first week started by getting to know each other inside and outside the studio, as a team, as woman. Through improvisation tasks and the share of personal experiences, we explored different physicalities and states of mind related to our concept. With the guidance of Tillmann, we worked deeply in the group's connection, the actions, the reactions... I felt from the first day that we were extremely aware of each other, that brought us to embrace a strong connection as a group, where each one of us gained trust and support within each other."