

## THE MIGRANT BODIES PROJECT 2013-2015

# migrant **bodies**



**Migrant Bodies** was a two-year research project which ran 2013-2015, created through a partnership between The Dance Centre (Vancouver), Circuit-Est centre chorégraphique (Montreal), Comune di Bassano del Grappa (Italy), The Croatian Institute for Movement and Dance (Croatia), and La Briqueterie - Centre de développement chorégraphique du Val-de-Marne (France). Migrant Bodies used artistic and cultural tools to open up a civil reflection on migration in European and Canadian societies.

Each organization selected three artists: a dance artist, a writer, and a filmmaker. The dance artists, under the guidance of renowned Canadian artist Ginelle Chagnon, travelled to each host city to undertake residencies, take part in workshops and develop their research in collaboration with writers, filmmakers and migrant communities. The writers managed a blog hosted on the project's website, and filmmakers made short films inspired by the theme of migrations in relation to each local context. The project finished in Italy in July 2015 with an international symposium at the Opera Estate Festival Veneto.

The Vancouver dance artist was Su-Feh Lee, Co-Artistic Director of battery opera performance and the filmmaker was interdisciplinary artist Sammy Chien.

The other choreographers were Cécile Proust (France), Manuel Roque (Québec), Alessandro Sciarroni (Italy) and Jasna Vinovrški (Croatia).

## About Migrant Bodies

The world of today is traversed, physically, by a population almost as big in numbers as a continent: the population of migrants. Migrants due to hunger, war, persecution, or by choice, all of them carry their own territory in their bodies – often their only ‘belonging’ and their core identity. Migration resonates differently and has different impacts in each of the involved cities, influencing the demographic, social, cultural, artistic, economic and political scenes. Migrants are increasingly seen as a core element of our self-perception, and the key to understanding ourselves and others. They contribute to a new sense of multicultural citizenship and transform our sense of belonging. In turn this calls for constructive dialogue on cultural differences, to reinforce social inclusion and fight against discrimination and prejudices, creating a sense of mutual understanding and a space of dialogue and tolerance upon which we build new worlds. Migrant Bodies seeks to create a European/Canadian laboratory, in which mainstream images in relation to migration are examined through the universal language of the arts. The body of the artist is seen as the ideal medium to portray new identities that come to be as a result of migration across territories and continents.

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**Read more** on our blog: [thedancecentre.ca/blog](https://thedancecentre.ca/blog)



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