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Someone will always be missing

a collaboration between Kabinet K and the textile department
2023-2024



Kask & Conservatorium
Hogeschool Gent
Textile design department
Jozef Kluyskensstraat 2
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The 3rd bachelor students textile design worked intensively for two months in collaboration with the dance company kabinet k, the universe of creators Joke Laureyans and Kwint Manshoven.

They contributed to the performance Someone will always be missing...

In 2017, Joke & Kwint visited different artists in refugee camps in Lebanon. In 2019, they returned to Ramallah (Westbank) with a workshop as part of Les Ateliers Deplacés, an initiative of les ballets C de la B. In 2022 they worked with Palestinian dancers and children in Jenin, in Jerusalem, in Gaza (online), in Lebanon and in Ghent.

12 dancers come together as if for a reunion of distant relatives. There are children among them, youngsters, and adults of all ages. Due to circumstances - a lingering political conflict - not everyone can attend. Someone will always be missing.

How to create proximity in a world that drives people apart?

The imposed diaspora, the impossibility of crossing borders, the ban on visiting native land or homeland, the daily restriction of living and movement space, life in camps, overcrowded classrooms, occupations, blockades, queues, intimidation, detentions, checkpoints, the wall - Palestinian reality can be read as a crisis of movement. Movement - related concepts such as mobility, development, growth... but also the everydayness of a walk or a sports activity, are conflictual within the Palestinian reality. For choreographers like Joke and Kwint who make their work with bodily freedom as the highest good, there seemed to be a universal story in the conflicted bodies of the Palestinians they met. From this intuition came the plan to create a performance.

Team:
Laure Van Brempt, Joanna Reuse,
Joke Laureys en Kwint Manshoven

Participants:
Nora Roukaerts, Diewer Jacobs, Polly Jean
Hollanders, Abril Adell Pina, Gabrielle Barbé,
Muriel Delvigne, Kyra Voordeckers & Yui Ishiwata

Thanks to BIC carpets for the material

The students explored how textiles could support the narrative, both visually and in terms of use, materiality, and tactility. They worked around terms such as encounter, connection, making the absent visible, leaving a trace, border, from A to B...



INTRODUCTION TO THE KABINET K UNIVERSE

Wednesday, 17/11 & Friday, 2/2/24

In November, we attended the final performance of "Promise Me" by Kabinet K at Het Paleis. We had the opportunity to witness the dancers' warm-up and see how they prepare for their performance.

At the beginning of February, Joke & Kwint visited the textile studio, where they introduced us to their creative universe through books, images,

texts, videos, and stories. They offered us a glimpse into the process of creating a dance performance, sharing their distinctive visual language and approach.

REFLECTION & PRESENTATION

Wednesday, 7/2 & Friday, 9/2/24

After gathering all the reference images, the students grouped them and assigned overarching terms. Within the theme of "connection/encounter," the most relevant and recurring concepts

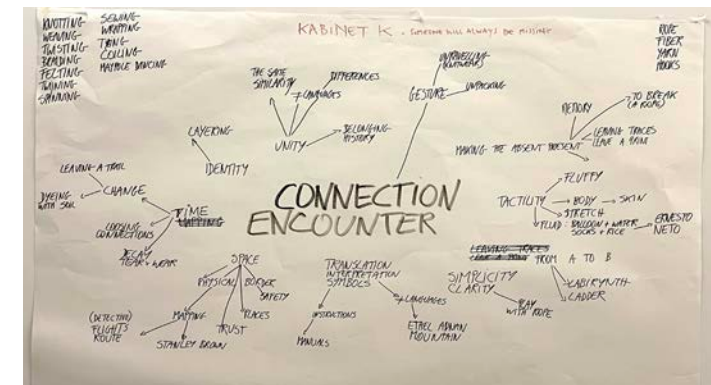
were identified. A key recurring focus was: "How to move from A to B?", which included elements such as instructions/manuals, borders, and making the absent present or leaving a trail.

In addition, we held a brief brainstorming session on "ways of visualizing/telling." This allowed us to explore various methods of visualizing an idea, concept, or story. From this reflection, we identified several relevant approaches to use during our presentation, including: Analogue mind mapping with images and words, verbal discus-

sions & material activation.

As a group, the students further developed a visual overview on the wall, organizing selected themes with corresponding images, words, and questions. They demonstrated specific materials or activations related to these three groups, helping to clarify the concepts. Additionally, they compiled an extensive list of textile properties and actions linked to these themes.

All of the above was presented to Joke & Kwint.



KABINET K ATELIERS

Wednesday, 14/2/24 & Friday, 16/2/24

Atelier LaGeste

rials, along with words and gestures related to textiles, such as spinning, twining, braiding, knotting, and looping.

Kabinet K organized a workshop week with dancers and children. We joined the warm-up, observing, taking notes, and recording the process. Based on the feedback from our presentation, we provided materials such as ropes, ribbons, knitted pieces that could be unraveled, and stretchy fabrics for them to manipulate.

We introduced the participants to these mate-





REFLECTION & WORKSESSION

Friday, 1/3/24

Reflections after the improvisation sessions and worksession with feedback, working towards some final propositions.

Joke & Kwint aim to have the dancers and children merge more deeply with their movements, reaching a 'state of being' rather than just 'movement for the sake of movement.' This process requires time and focus, with the set, scenography, and music being just as important as the movement itself. A central idea is to create an object, such as a cloth or tapestry, that holds notations and traces from previous duets. This

object acts as a witness to the process, symbolizing connection and transformation. Dancers can add their notations to it or incorporate elements from it into their duet, fostering a continuous dialogue between past and present.

Students are encouraged to think on a larger, more three-dimensional scale. Not everything needs to provoke direct interaction; sometimes, an object can simply 'be' and subtly influence the perception of the space or the dance. Themes like memory, connection, and leaving traces are central, with symbols such as flags, shrouds, and cloths that carry scents or instructions representing absence and the desire for connection.



FINAL IDEAS

Friday, 8/3/24

Two final concepts emerged from the previous workshops: a large woven tapestry, stitched together like a patchwork, made from felted yarns, and a net, knotted from straps of old sheets. The felted yarn of the tapestry exudes both softness and roughness, and its thickness allows the yarns to shift and adjust. This means that the dancers' actions are recorded in the weaving itself, leaving behind traces of their presence. As the dancers engage with the woven piece, their

movements become imprinted on it, creating a living record of interaction between body and material. The net, on the other hand, serves as both a boundary and a point of connection. As the dancers interact with it, the net can define space or act as a tactile element to support their movements. The choice of old sheets makes the scenography accessible and adaptable in various circumstances, while the pattern pays homage to the traditional design of the Keffiyeh.





COLLABORATION "Someone will always be missing"

MAKING AND PRESENTATION

Friday, 15/3 & Saturday, 16/3/24

Kopergieterij Rabot

The students collaboratively developed the two concepts that were activated during the final presentation. They worked as a group to bring these ideas to life.

The works were activated in a final presentation.





