

ARTISTIC CURRICULUM VITAE

Nicola van Straaten

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I am an artist, dancer, writer and researcher. I work across multiple mediums, with a focus on bod(ies) and Spirit as sites of political and social transformation. I was born and grew up in the city of Durban, South Africa and I have lived and worked in France, Namibia, South Africa and Germany. I am currently working as a freelance artist and performer in Berlin.

Education: University of the Arts Berlin - Hochschulübergreifendes Zentrum Tanz (2017-2019)
Masters in Solo / Dance / Authorship.

University of Cape Town (2008-2012)
Bachelor of Arts in English Literature, Contemporary Dance and Choreographic Studies
Bachelor of Music (Honours) in Dance Studies (First Class)

Danville Park Girls High School (2002-2007):
Senior Certificate with Endorsement (Distinction)

Awards: Dean's Merit List (2008)
AW Mellon Scholarship (2012)
University Research Scholarship (2012)
DAAD Scholarship for Foreigners in the Field of Performing Arts (2018)

Artistic Work: *December 2020 - Current:* Part of the Stream live art writing collective, based in Berlin.

February-April 2023: Invited to participate in Alexandre Achour's artistic research project "Choreographic Games" exploring the intersection between choreography and LARP.

April-May 2023: Performed for Xavier Le Roy's "Le Sacre du Printemps (2018)" with the Comedie Itinerante de Valence.

April-June 2023: Created and performed in "Fallen!Zusammen" with Coila-Leah Enderstein, an open-air dance performance for children from 3 years about the potential of collapse. (Supported by Offensive Tanz programme for young audiences.)

April-June 2023: Artistic and archival research project "Tanz macht glücklich" interviewing people over the age of eighty about their relationship to dance and music. (Supported by the Performing Arts Fund with funds from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media as part of NEUSTART KULTUR)

July-August 2022: Made in Berlin Residency at Lake Studios.

January 2022: Co-teaching with Litó Walkey at HZT Berlin with BA students.

January - July 2022: Commissioned by Tanzausbildung Biennale to document the 8th Tanzausbildung Biennale in Stuttgart alongside Parvathi Ramanathan.

January - September 2022: Created and performed in “geistzeit” with Coila-Leah Enderstein, an experimental and performative parcours near Wilhelmstrasse, Berlin exploring the topics of colonial history and ghostly resonance. (Supported by Supported by the German Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media)

November 2021 - July 2022: Invited as research fellow for the “Bodies (un)protected” Programme on Bodies, Art and Protection at Mousonturm, Frankfurt.

December 2020 - August 2021: Supported by Dachverband Tanz in the framework of Dis-Tanz-Solo programme to pursue the research project, “how to be haunted”.

May - July 2021: Co-directed site-specific performative research project, “Visitations”, with Coila-Leah Enderstein (Supported by the German Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media).

February - September 2021: Co-directed and performed with Coila-Leah Enderstein in “Crossing the Pale River”, a site specific audio-walk with performances. (Supported by the German Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media in partnership with Tanzfabrik Berlin).

June - July 2021: Participant in “Landing-Nesting”, a research project initiated by Shelley Etkin inviting children with migration experiences to build an autonomous space together.

September 2019 - February 2020: Writer at the dance review portal, Tanzchreiber.de.

August - September 2019: Performed in “Retrospective” by Xavier Le Roy at the Hamburger Bahnhof Gallery, Berlin.

November 2019: Co-created and performed in “courtyard dances”, a film and sound installation and performance with Coila-Leah Enderstein at Zwitschermachine Gallery, Potsdamerstr. 161, Berlin.

June 2019: Created and performed “i’m haunting you now” commissioned for the Antidote Movement Festival in Soest, The Netherlands.

March 2018: Facilitated writing and movement workshops in the context of Any Body Dance Lab performance residency in Cape Town.

January 2017 – October 2017: Organizer & participant in “Live Arkive”, a performance exchange between artists from Windhoek, Namibia and Cape Town, South Africa investigating creative archival practices.

February 2016 – December 2020: Co-founding editor of ANY BODY ZINE, a non-profit cultural organization and publication for independent dance and movement artists in southern Africa.

October 2015: Performed “TOME” with Coila-Leah Enderstein and the solo “Shirtology – With Apologies to Jérôme Bel” at the Baxter Dance Festival Off Main Program, Cape Town.

November 2014 – February 2015: Co-founded and worked on editorial team for Artwolfe Zine, a DIY Namibian community publication about art and performance.

Languages: English - Mother Tongue
French - Intermediate (Level B2)
German - Intermediate (Level B2)

References: *Litò Walkey:* Artist and educator. Email: lito@klingt.org
Xavier Le Roy: Choreographer and artist. Email: xavier.le.roy.11@gmail.com