

# What Age Brings to Dance

Choreography, dance videos #résonances, multi-screen installation  
Cécile Proust and Jacques Hoëpffner

While most dancers disappear from our stages as they grow older, some avoid this fading into oblivion. The persistence of their creativity is at the heart of this project. It challenges Western assumptions that assume dancers over the age of 70 are too old to perform on stage. Our intuition, however, is quite different: does the maturity of these dancers not contribute to the emergence of the exceptional qualities of their movements? It is from this question that *Ce que l'âge apporte à la danse* (What Age Brings to Dance) is developed, in a series of filmed interviews, #résonances dance videos, and a choreography.

*Ce que l'âge apporte à la danse* questions our validation practices. If the poetics of only young bodies' movements is valued, dance is deprived of other form of poetics. Poetic choices are also political choices.

We honor senior dance, its freedom, its resistance, its joy, its audacity, and its hymns to pleasure. With age, the virtuosity of youth does not diminish but becomes internalized. It is this transition, from a vibration on the surface to a vibrant interiority, that we highlight.

This project attempts to shed light on the artistic, perceptual, and kinesthetic imaginations that the interviewed artists employ. What aesthetics and poetics do they defend?

This work is careful not to romanticize or exoticize their stories. Without obscuring the difficulties they may have encountered, or the social and material conditions that made their expression possible, the interviews question the links that may exist between dance style, cultural contexts, and the possibility of continuing to dance at an advanced age.

Through their stories, their filmed dances, and choreography, *Ce que l'âge apporte à la danse* provides direct and sensitive access to a multitude of dance stories from around the world.



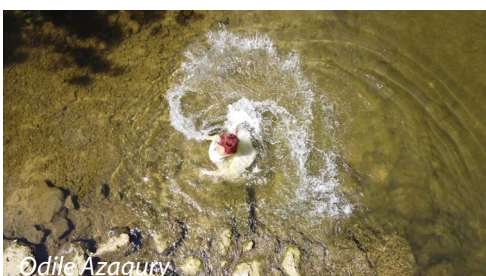
## On tour and broadcasting:

- A documentary choreography performance with Elisabeth Schwartz, Elsa Wolliaaston, and Cécile Proust
- [cqaad-choregraphie-documentaire-extraits](#)

## 4 dance videos, screened at various dance and art venues and festivals

- #résonances, *terav* with Leela Samson, Saswati San, Uma Sharma et Daksha Seth  
[#résonances, terav](#)
- #résonances *kéralaises* with Maya Krishna Rao, Kottakal, Michel Lestrehan, Mario Barzaghi, Krishnakutty  
[#résonances kéralaise](#)
- #résonances, *rituelles* with Susan Buirge, Malavika, Elisabeth Schwartz et Elsa Wolliaaston  
[#résonances, rituelles](#)
- #résonances, *eaux douces* with Odile Azagury, Dominique Boivin, Jean Guizerix et Jean Rochereau  
[#résonances, eaux-douces](#)
- 43 filmed interviews shown in a multi-screen installation  
[cqaad-installation-st-eng](#)

## 27 dances created specifically for the project by the artists filmed





Elsa Wolliaaston



Larrio Ekson



Dominique Boivin

## Artists featured in the various works

### Europe and West Africa

- *Dominique Boivin*, contemporary dance, September 23, 2021, in Val-de-Rueil (France)
- *Susan Buirge*, contemporary dance, October 6, 2021, in Vitry-sur-Seine (France)
- *Jean Guizerix*, classical, baroque, and contemporary dance, November 3, 2021, in Poissy (France)
- *Dominique Dupuy*, modern dance, November 14, 2021, in Paris (France)
- *Françoise Michaud Dupuy*, modern dance, December 12, 2021, in Paris (France)
- *Elisabeth Schwartz*, free dance, January 3, 2022, in Pantin (France)
- *Odile Azagury*, contemporary dance, February 23, 2022, in Poitiers (France)
- *La Tati flamenco*, flamenco, March 3, 2022, in Madrid (Spain)
- *Jean Rochereau*, contemporary dance, March 13, 2022, in Paris (France)
- *Germaine Acogny*, contemporary dance, May 6, 2022, in Toubab Dialaw (Senegal)
- *Elsa Wolliaaston*, contemporary dance with African influences, June 21, 2022, in Paris (France)
- *Malavika*, Bharatanatyam, July 7, 2022, in Paris (France)
- *Malou Airaud*, contemporary dance, August 8, 2022, in Wuppertal (Germany)
- *Anne Martin*, contemporary dance, June 6, 2024, in Lyon (France)
- *Larrio Ekson*, contemporary dance, June 14, 2024, in Saint-Raphael (France)

### India

- *Kottakkal Nandakumaran*, Kathakali, January 27, 2024, in Ottapalam (Kerala)
- *Mario Barzaghi*, Kathakali, January 28, 2024, in Cherutturutty (Kerala)
- *Sadanam Krishnakuty*, Kathakali, January 30, 2024, in Trissur (Kerala)
- *Kalamandalam Kshemavati*, Mohinyattam, February 2, 2024, in Cherutturutty (Kerala)
- *Sharon Lowen*, Odissi, February 19, 2025, in New Delhi (Delhi)
- *Mallika Sarabhai*, Kuchipudi, February 22, 2025, in Ahmedabad (Gujarat)
- *Raja and Radha Reddy*, Kuchipudi, February 24, 2025, in Chennai (Tamil Nadu)
- *Madhavi Mudgal*, Odissi, March 2, 2025, in New Delhi (Delhi)
- *Saswati Sen*, Kathak, March 5, 2025, in New Delhi (Delhi)
- *Leela Samson*, Bharatanatyam, March 10, 2025, in Chennai (Tamil Nadu)
- *VP & Shanta Dhananjayan*, Bharatanatyam, March 10, 2025, in Chennai (Tamil Nadu)
- *Anita Ratnam*, contemporary dance, March 11, 2025, in Chennai (Tamil Nadu)
- *Raghunath Manet*, Bharatanatyam, March 13, 2025, in Pondicherry (Tamil Nadu)
- *Maya Krishna Rao*, Performance, March 16, 2025, in Bengaluru (Karnataka)
- *Daksha Seth*, contemporary dance, March 18, 2025, in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)
- *Uma Sharma*, Kathak, March 20, 2025, in New Delhi (Delhi)

### Japan

- *Sengiku Bando*, Nihon Buyo, October 24, 2024, in Tokyo
- *Sumako Koseki*, Butô, November 8, 2024, in Okayama
- *Mitsuyo Uesugi*, Butô, November 10, 2024, in Tokyo
- *Kei Takei*, contemporary dance, November 11, 2024, in Tokyo
- *Yuho Furosawa*, Jiuta-Mai, November 12, 2024, in Yokohama



Maya Krishna Rao



Kottakkal Nandakumaran



Raja Reddy



Key Takey



Yuho Furusawa



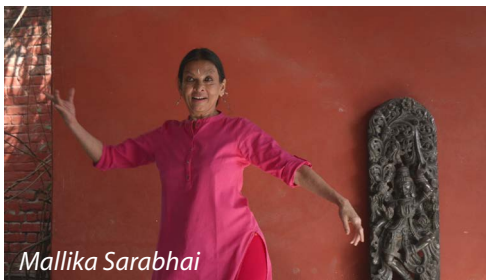
Sumako Koseki

## Interviews with people who question the concept of ageism

- Thierry Thieû Niang, choreographer, December 31, 2021, in Paris
- Isabelle Launay, dance researcher, February 11, 2022, in Paris
- Roland Huesca, philosopher, July 19, 2022, in Paris
- Emmanuel Flamand-Roze, neurologist, August 31, 2022, in Paris
- Juliette Rennes, sociologist, November 23, 2022, in Paris

## What age brings to dance is accompanied by a scientific committee

Pauline Boivineau, historian / Anne Décoret Ahiha, anthropologist / Barbara Formis, philosopher  
Isabelle Ginot, dance researcher / Juliette Rennes, sociologist.



Mallika Sarabhai



Daksha Seth



Leela Samson

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- CND / Support for research and heritage in dance
- CCN in Caen, Normandy / Support for writing
- Institut français / MIRA support for mobility in India
- EHESS / Tepsis funding

## Coproductions

### CDCN:

- Echangeur, Chateau Thierry / La manufacture, Nouvelle Aquitaine / Chorège, Falaise / Ateliers de Paris/ Les Hivernales, Avignon / Danse à tous les étages, Bretagne/ Le Dancing Bourgogne – Franche-Comté / Le Pacifique, Grenoble – Auvergne – Rhône-Alpes / Touka Danse, Guyane / Le Gymnase, Roubaix – Hauts-de-France / Pôle-Sud, Strasbourg / La Place de la Danse, Toulouse – Occitanie / La Maison, Uzès – Gard – Occitanie / La Briqueterie du Val-de-Marne

## Diffusions

- La maison des métallos, Paris, mai 2022
- Chorège, CDCN, Falaise, mai 2023
- Echangeur, CDCN, Chateau-Thierry, septembre 2023
- Le Manège, Scène nationale, Reims, novembre 2023
- Mois du genre, Université d'Angers, février 2024
- Festival À corps, TAP scène nationale, Poitiers, avril 2024
- Maison de la Danse, Lyon, octobre 2024



Sengiku Bando



Saswati Sen



VP & Shanta Dhananjayan