

Dirgy Dancing – Lisen Ellard

April 13 – May 26 2024

The tall walls of the large exhibition hall have been covered in black curtains. On each of the bright, almost transparent veils hanging from the ceiling, films of dancers, deeply immersed in personal choreography, are projected.

Dirgy Dancing is a collection of lament dances by local dancers from different places, and is based on the dancers' own experiences of grief. They are dances dedicated to people, memories, times and places, and a way of dealing with the unmentionable that has been lost. How can grief be accommodated in the body, how can it be translated into movement?

Choreographer Lisen Ellard works through different notions of perception-expanding practices and has a penchant for the crooked and caring, often in relation to slowness and death. Together with the stage artist Mattias Lech, she has worked with themes around death and its rituals for several years, resulting in the performances Funeral and DÖDEN. With the dance anthology Dirgy Dancing, Lisen Ellard continues the investigation of loss, and the relationship between grief, memory and movement. The performance has previously been shown at, among others, Dansens hus in Stockholm, and at Art Lab Gnesta it takes the shape of an exhibition that is activated on special occasions through the presence of the dancers.

In the next room, curator duo Mourning School presents Sorgebiblioteket, a room for contemplation where visitors are invited to reflect on grief themselves and contribute to a hanging installation that will be further developed during the exhibition period. Mourning School is an artistic investigation into the everydayness of being in mourning, initiated by Lucie Gottlieb and Rosa Paardenkooper.

Caroline Malmström, curator

*The video installation is approximately 1 hour and 10 minutes long,
and runs continuously during opening hours.*

Dirgy Dancing by: Lisen Ellard

Artistic advice: Mattias Lech

Lament dances by: Efva Lilja, Abdoulaye Camara, Andrea Aja Svensson, Mohinur Nurmatova, Mike Gamble, Nathalie Ruiz, Sindri Runudde, Maia Means, Tarika Wahlberg, Conny Borg, Lisen Ellard, Elise Brewer, Johanna Chemnitz, Marie Kaae, Maria Naidu, Khamlane Halsackda, Julienne Doko.

Film/photo: Milja Rossi

Lighting design: Anton Andersson

Sound design: Elize Arvefjord

Technology/Projection: Peter Widell

Producer: Vilma Sohlberg och Sara Bergsmark

Administration: Smart

Illustration: Tove Dreiman

Supported by: Swedish Arts Council

PROGRAM

May 11 Performance in the exhibition by dancer Maria Naidu

May 25 Finissage with performance in the exhibition by dancer Elise Brewer followed by a concert in the greenhouse by Elize Arvefjord and Cicely Irvine

Workshop: The Tower of Tears

May 11 and 25

In Konstverkstan we invite everyone, young and old, to build the tallest tower ever dedicated to the loss of someone or something. Our sorrows and memories become building blocks, giant walls that together support each other. With cardboard and textile, we create our inner rooms that can take place in the Tower of Tears. Participation is free and we provide materials.

Exhibition production Art Lab Gnesta

Curator: Caroline Malmström · Exhibition technicians: Erik Viklund · Communication: Emanuel Hallklint

Executive director: Maline Casta · Pedagogue in Konstverkstan: Olle Halvars & Lisa Grip · Artistic leaders:

Signe Johannessen & Caroline Malmström · Exhibition guides: Milo Rören & Rufus Kjellgren