

Final Report – Habitations June 2017

Karen Fennell, Maria Kefirova, Hanako Hoshimi Caines, Kelly Keenan, Sara Hanley

Karen Fennell:

For me the ‘Habitation’ provided an ideal space for the emergence of new ideas in an environment free from the pressures of production and presentation. While we primarily worked in an independent fashion on our respective projects, I found the simultaneous presence of the other artists in the studio to be a fertile ground for gentle cross-fertilization and stimulation. Personally, this helped me to focus my attention at a moment where, left to my own devices in the studio, I could have felt quite lost. In fact, I still did feel quite lost during some of the time, but somehow the structure of the Habitation provided a container for this experience that allowed me to perceive it as generative rather than frustrating. Overall I found the flexible, open structure of the Habitations to be quite refreshing, and I am excited to have been among the first wave of artists to benefit from this new opportunity offered by Tangente.

Maria Kefirova:

The Habitations offered the ideal conditions for the emergence of free, playful, inspired, and rich in subtle exchanges time and space. The time we spent together in non-direct communication, every one working with her own process/problem, was a catalyzer for new choices and ideas, feeding my own search. I experienced an accumulation of accidents, resonances and overlaps, which in a soft and fluid way modulated our time together and opened pools of ideas and potential working methods. I wish to continue the kind of work we started during the Habitations.

Hanako Hoshimi Caines:

Habitations was an opportunity to test out a communal work space as dancers. This is a very familiar way of working these days, i.e. lap-top-cafes and communal office spaces, but sharing a studio is I think still rather rare in the way dance thinks about work space and time. Initiatives testing the formats and viability of these shared spaces, either personally initiated or organized by institutions such as the CCOV, seem to be increasing and it was exciting to imagine and experience together new ways of working and sharing resources, material and immaterial.

Kelly Keenan:

It can be isolating as independent dance artists. Habitations provided a space where each member of this collective-like group could work on their individual projects in a shared space, but also engage in valuable dialogue and sharing of work. My personal practice weaves through reading, resting, moving, writing, dancing, and creating in general and I deeply appreciate the flexible studio hours that were offered at Habitations.

Sara Hanley:

The Habitation residency offered a time to be in a physical and mental creative space alongside peers I share a connection with on different levels. It was a time of permeation between our individual practices and a precious time for open-ended research. This group has been gathering at different intervals in the past years and once again this encounter opened doors to new collaborations.