



School: Music and Performing Arts

Researcher: Prof. Dr. Thomas Kampe

Project Title: Releasing the Archive

UOA 33: Music, Drama, Dance, Performing Arts, Film and Screen Studies

300-Word Statement

The collaborative practice-led project '*Releasing the Archive*' with dance-scholar Carol Brown (NZ/AUS), aims to re-articulate marginalised modernist exile-dance practices and histories, with reference to the work of Austrian Jewish choreographer Gertrud Bodenwieser (1890-1959) who pioneered Modern Dance in New Zealand and Australia after 1939. It embraces trends towards somatic-informed dance practices, performance-as-archive, and the revisioning of modernist dance legacies.

While re-activating proto-somatic practices within choreographic contexts, it excavated an alternative feminist legacy of contemporary somatic practices with reference to European dance & body-cultures. The work tested how early modernist dance aesthetics and body-politics of co-creational expressivity can be re-embodied, and how a nearly-lost dance legacy can be un-archived in contemporary forms through somatic-informed processes.

The project facilitated collaborations with international partners including *DaNZ*, *The New Zealand Dance Company*(NZDC), *Tempo Festival Auckland*, *Dock 11 Berlin*, *ImpulsTanz Vienna*, *International Documentation of Dance Education (IDOCDE)*, *Tanz-Kongress Hannover*, and *Theatermuseum Vienna*.

The project initially evolved by re-articulating modernist body-culture and exile-dance processes through academic presentations, workshops, writings, and through developing somatic-informed choreographic processes in dialogue with *TNew Zealand Dance Company*. These 'soma-ecstatic' practices developed by Kampe & brown were further formed into two screen works *Releasing her Archive* (2017) and

Displaced/Displayed (2018). The project tested the application of emerging embodied vocabularies and ethico-aesthetic making-practices in the immersive performance work LOST & FOUND (2018), activating a 'doorway to the past' of exiled European dance histories (Klein 2017). The research-portofolio includes the interactive mobile-phone dance installation 'I Travel with You' (2016), the article 'Entangled Histories, part 2' (2017), the chapter 'Tanz als Überlebenskunst: Die Choreographin Hilde Holger und ihr Einfluss auf die britische Tanzkultur' (2019), and the article 'Practices of Freedom – The Feldenkrais Method & Creativity' articulating the influence of Bodenwieser's work on the 'The Feldenkrais Method' as an alternative somatic history.