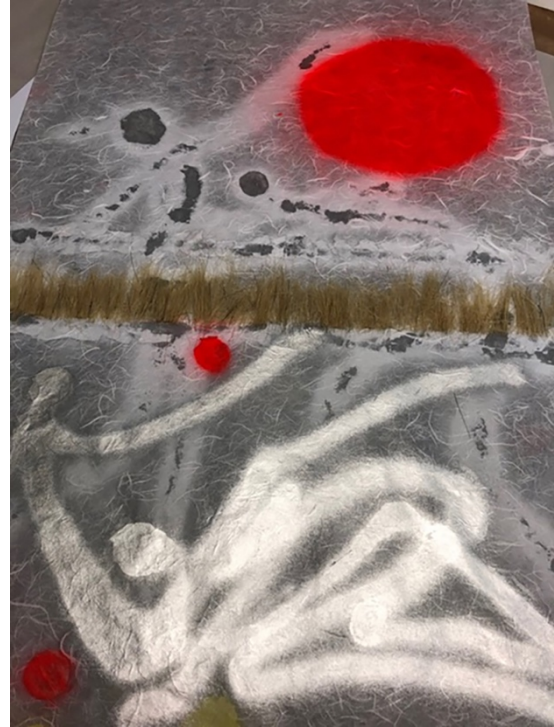


MERRY X-MAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

Time to sum up another year, a year of so many new experiences. Now we're ready to move forward with full power. The spring season will be fantastic! But first of all a few words about the year that will soon be over.

Dansehallerne has been working a year and a half without a building of its own; I think we have managed well. We have done it with good partners around Copenhagen and all over the country. We have done it with great artists and a curious, engaging and always inspiring audience. We have done it with you.



In 2018 we have staged about 150 performances in Copenhagen and another 350 on tour around the nation for a total audience of almost 26 000. 19 000 children and youth all around Denmark have experienced choreographic art 'in action'. We have kept our activities in *The Artists Research Lab and Residency Program* working at full speed; we have the first *RESA* resident in place; we have launched the *Innovative Leadership Network (ILN)*; we have established our participation in the EU funded project *Centriphery* and lots more. Our Project Centre has administered 63 active artists, we have carried out 200 training sessions and another 50+ activities for the artistic community. 203 artists are currently members of Dansehallerne. I'm grateful to all of you!

In our work we have a focus on developing a variety of formats for dialogue, both with respect to our performances and with audience participation in events and discussions about themes such as the role and relevance of art in society. Many

conversations in our *Meet, Eat and Talk* events have been on political topics, which gave us a basis for a range of wider discussions on cultural politics, which we held during the spring. At the end of this we wrote a paper to the Ministry of Culture with suggestions for the further development of dance and choreography in Denmark.

There is truly a lot to do, a lot to listen to and act on. Together with our artists and audience I dare say that we are a strong force in the development of choreographic performative art. It is amazing how much we manage to create from a very restrictive economic base, which is how you must value the yearly funding we get from the Ministry. Our financing is markedly lower than what other similar institutions get, for instance within the theatre. We work hard to change this in the future. So far we have thought that we do it best by creating a qualitative and successful institution, but this is simply not enough. We need the backing of our supporters, in all categories: audience, artists, professional organizations and many others. We must be able to shape the future together.

The transformation of *Kedelhuset*, the old building that will be our new home, is in full swing. It's hard work, but rewarding, since we are building a new hub for choreographic performative art in Denmark. Dansehallerne's new house will be open and welcoming both for the audience and the artists. It's our ambition to move into *Kedelhuset* in the summer of 2020 and open up a new season of activities in the autumn of the same year. We're really looking forward to this! Our present homelessness offers new experiences and new partners, but it limits us in our wish to shape our institution and give support to the artist community. We know how hard it is for artists to find premises for training and rehearsals and we find it very difficult to rent facilities in Copenhagen at rates we can afford. We really need *Kedelhuset*.

As some of you already know, I will leave my post in April 2019 and a new leader will take over this fantastic mission that I have been charged with for the past three years. Those years have been challenging, exciting – and successful. In April I leave Dansehallerne and all of you with pride. I do so with the ambition to return to my artistic activities. I know I can do this, because I also know that the organization and the activities at Dansehallerne are so strong that the staff and the artists have much to contribute when they welcome the new person that will lead Dansehallerne to the

opening of *Kedelhuset* and the period beyond that.

It will be exciting to find out who will take over. But until then I will still be with you, to present performances, to open discussions under Choreography in Action and to take part in sessions of Meet, Eat and Talk. I will have to wait until May before I can return to my studio, to my drawings, to the dance, to my cow and my writing...

When you have enjoyed Christmas, rested and lived a peaceful life, do come to our activities and get charged with new activities. At dansehallerne.dk you can find a calendar over our programmes and activities. I can promise you a really exciting spring season! Check out the programme and book whatever you know you shouldn't miss.

Do enjoy the holiday season. See you next year!

Efva