



DUETS

GABRIEL SCHMITZ

EXHIBITION OF DANCE AND DRAWING

CURATED BY ILIYANA NEDKOVA AND WENDY TIMMONS

26 MAR – 1 MAY 2023

FREE AND OPEN TO ALL MON-SUN 10AM-6PM

SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE

43-45 HIGH STREET, EDINBURGH, EH1 1SR

TRADITIONAL
DANCE
FORUM OF
SCOTLAND

SUPPORTING DIVERSE TRAD DANCE IN SCOTLAND THROUGH
MEMBERSHIP, RESIDENCIES, FESTIVALS, EVENTS AND OPPS.
PART OF TRACS. REGISTERED CHARITY SC045085 TDFS.ORG

TRACS // TRADITIONAL
ARTS-CULTURE
SCOTLAND



#traddance
#pomegranates
#dancearoundtheworld



— POMEGRANATES —

SOWING THE SEEDS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADITIONAL DANCE

TRADITIONAL
DANCE
FORUM OF
SCOTLAND

SPRINGTIME FESTIVAL CURATED BY ILIYANA NEDKOVA, ELEANOR SINCLAIR AND WENDY TIMMONS

[LINKTR.EE/POMEGRANATESFEST](https://linktr.ee/pomegranatesfest)

DUETS BY GABRIEL SCHMITZ

ILIJANA NEDKOVA AND WENDY TIMMONS



We are pleased to introduce **Gabriel Schmitz** – one of the three newly commissioned artists-in-residence at Pomegranates 2023 – the springtime festival initiated by the Traditional **Dance** Forum of Scotland. Established in 2022 as part of Edinburgh Tradfest, Pomegranates returns in spring 2023 to once again sow the seeds of international traditional dance in Scotland and celebrate UNESCO's International Dance Day (29 April).

Born in 1970 in Dortmund, Schmitz is a visual artist who after graduating from Edinburgh College of Art, settled in Barcelona where he has lived and worked since the mid 1990s. In response to our curatorial invitation to undertake a residency at Pomegranates 2023 alongside trad musician **Jon Bews** and performance poet **Ian McMillan**, Schmitz said:

"For me contemporary dance has always been an important source of inspiration because for a figurative painter to capture the subtle and profound language of a body in motion is at once the most challenging and the most rewarding task an artist can face. I am really grateful for the opportunity to take up residency at Pomegranates 2023 festival as it allows me to engage with traditional dance for the first time in my practice."

The artist's lasting fascination with dance dates back to 2014 when Schmitz started to explore the possibility of drawing movement with the Spanish dancer **Magdalena Garzón** in Barcelona. This was followed by his artist's residency at MANA Contemporary in Jersey City where Schmitz had the opportunity to draw during a month-long rehearsal of the also resident dance company ArmitageGone!Dance. Out of this experience came a sketchbook which the artist published a year later as a facsimile limited edition.

From there on collaborations became more frequent and most recently led to the artist's participation in the accompanying programme at 59th Venice Biennale 2022, where he showed a selection of his dance paintings and drawings in the European Cultural Centre's Palazzo Mora as part of the group exhibition *Personal Structures*, alongside five live events for which he invited various dancers during the seven-month run of the exhibition.

Pomegranates 2023 will provide Schmitz with the first opportunity to explore world dance and music during the first festival day of intensive professional development led by trad dance artists and choreographers, including **Pia Walker** (Scotland), **Chinyanta Kabaso** (Zambia), **Yefeng Zhu** (China), **Karlis Caucis** (Latvia), **Oksana Banshikova** (India), **Mariannela Desanti** (Costa Rica) and **Lara Russo** (Italy).

Schmitz also follows in the footsteps of our inaugural Pomegranates 2022 artist-in-residence **Claudia Nocentini** who danced away with her iPad and stylus throughout the day of professional development workshops to create over 80 gestural life drawings which provided the moving image accompaniment for the costume promenade on the festival stage.

What is more, Schmitz' festival residency is accompanied by *Duets* – his first solo exhibition in Scotland which we curated specifically for the Storytelling Court. Opening ahead of Pomegranates 2023 festival weekend, *Duets* runs 26 March – 1 May 2023 and features a curatorial selection of 20 new dance drawings, cutouts and paintings – all showing for the first time, alongside a dozen of dance films and animations, including *Incontri (Encounters)* – a creative documentary about the five live dance and drawing duets at Palazzo Mora, Venice.

Duets also offers opportunities to experience Schmitz' life drawing duets with dance, paper and charcoal during the exhibition preview at the Storytelling Court on 25 March and the first day of workshops on 28 April as part of the Pomegranates 2023 festival weekend. For anyone who won't be able to make Schmitz' live dance and drawing duets on 28 April in-person, a livestream option is also available.

What is more, for the first time we are also spreading the Pomegranates seeds way beyond Edinburgh by presenting another unique iteration of Schmitz' dance and drawing performances in the exhibition space of our festival partner Goethe-Institut Glasgow on 28 March.

When reflecting on the process of life drawing in motion, Schmitz said: *"My duets are more of a working method than a defined performance, which is why they adapt easily to a wide range of contexts, including traditional dance. It is crucial for me not to know who I will be facing as not to lapse into preconceived drawing habits. My sensitivity has to be pushed to the limit, the urgency of the mark making has to flow directly from the eyes to the hands, by-passing the brain. Any learning process has to be purely intuitional and instinctive."*

"During my live events I often feel I turn into a seismograph of a happening that the audience can experience in real time. This offers the viewer-witness, a wide range of possible focus points: the dance itself, the drawing process—so rarely observed, and of course the relation of the two—the translation process with all its flaws and findings. There are occasions when the music chosen by the dancer determines the duration of the piece. On other occasions the action simply comes to an end when I run out of paper."

We believe that Schmitz' duets as part of Pomegranates 2023 offer a new kind of experience – when the dance and music stop we are left with nothing but our own memory of what we have just seen – a tangible real trace in black and white, albeit somebody else's vision against which we can measure our own recollection of the dance and drawing performance. The movement is likely to linger in the space as the traces in charcoal on paper make the shared moment last.

There is so much honesty in Schmitz's duets because both the dancer and the artist are exposed. They risk displaying all the flaws and failures while also sharing the brief moments of confluence that they have set out to find. We do hope that such creative risk taking can bolster our collective resistance as we continue to nurture the seeds of our Pomegranates festival in these times of uncertainties, displacement and border restrictions.

EXHIBITION PREVIEW & LIVE DUETS

25 MARCH 2023 6-8PM

BOOK AT [LINKTR.EE/POMEGRANATESFEST](https://linktr.ee/pomegranatesfest)

IN-PERSON EVENT

FREE

Preview our Pomegranates festival exhibition *Duets* and enjoy a complimentary sparkling pomegranates cocktail (or a mocktail) on arrival courtesy of The Haggis Box. Experience **Gabriel Schmitz'** first life drawing duet with traditional dance. See the artist, using charcoal and paper, as he partners with choreographer **Vincent Hantam**, dancers **Yuxi Jiang**, **Fengyuyi Jiang**, **Tianru Xu** and oud player **Chris Lyons** – part of the first sharing of our production *Dances with Ouds and Fiddles*.

SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE

AN EVENING OF DANCE & DRAWING

28 MARCH 2023 7-8PM

BOOK AT [LINKTR.EE/POMEGRANATESFEST](https://linktr.ee/pomegranatesfest)

IN-PERSON EVENT

FREE

Join us for **Gabriel Schmitz'** first life drawing duet in Glasgow as we sow the seeds of our Pomegranates festival beyond Edinburgh. Discover the potential of dance and drawing for creating new possibilities for movement and body language. Featured dancers **Carmen Berbel Lapaz**, **Francesca Till** and **Alexandra Tsiapi**.

GOETHE-INSTITUT GLASGOW

A DAY OF DANCE, DRAWING & MUSIC

28 APRIL 2023 9AM-5PM

BOOK AT [LINKTR.EE/POMEGRANATESFEST](https://linktr.ee/pomegranatesfest)

HYBRID EVENT

PAY WHAT YOU CAN

Are you a trad dance practitioner who could benefit from our Pomegranates festival workshops? Join us for an intensive day of twelve 30-minute professional development workshops led by trad dance artists of diverse cultural backgrounds. The workshops are accompanied by our festival artists-in-residence, including **Jon Bews** (fiddle) and **Gabriel Schmitz** (charcoal on paper),

ST LEONARD'S LAND DANCE STUDIO, THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH + ONLINE

EXHIBITION TOURS

28-30 APRIL 2023 7PM DAILY

BOOK AT [LINKTR.EE/POMEGRANATESFEST](https://linktr.ee/pomegranatesfest)

IN-PERSON EVENTS

PAY WHAT YOU CAN

Grab your last chance to see **Gabriel Schmitz's** solo exhibition *Duets* during the three nights of our Pomegranates festival live shows and social dancing. Start each night at the Storytelling Court with a guided tour by **Gabriel Schmitz** and curator **Iliyana Nedkova** – go behind the scenes of the artist's process blending dance and drawing.

SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE





EXHIBITION CHECKLIST

1. **Karen Mora** – cutout mounted on board, charcoal on paper
2. **Akira Yoshida and Lali Auguade** – drawing, charcoal on paper
3. **Hanna Filomen** – painting, oil on canvas
4. **Soweto 1** – drawing, charcoal on paper
5. **Teresa (Ana Perez)** – drawing, charcoal on paper
6. **Spell (Kehua Li)** – painting, oil on canvas
7. **Soweto 2** – drawing, charcoal on paper
8. **Breathe** – painting, oil on canvas
9. **LA II (Lali Auguade)** – drawing, charcoal on paper
10. **LA I (Lali Auguade)** – drawing, charcoal on paper
11. **Kehua Li** – cutout mounted on board, charcoal on paper
12. **Livorno #2 (Elena Giannotti)** – drawing, charcoal on paper
13. **Livorno #1 (Elena Giannotti)** – drawing, charcoal on paper
14. **Cristina Marti** – three large performative drawings, charcoal on paper
15. **Arch Akesson** – cutout mounted on board, charcoal on paper
16. **Magdalena Garzon** – a series of five sketches, charcoal on paper
17. Five dance films on a 30-minute continuous loop:
 - **Maiko Nishino** 2.16 min
 - **Cristina Marki** 3.48 min
 - **Elena Giannotti** 2.20 min
 - **Incontri (Encounters)** 10.13 min
 - **Kintsugi** 10 min
18. **Warming Up (Helena Lizari)** – performative drawing, charcoal on paper
19. **Olga Sasplugas** – a series of 40 single frame drawings from a handmade animation film, charcoal on paper
20. Intermissions of six handmade animation films of about 10 sec each:
 - **Kintsugi I – V**
 - **Bach**

**SELECTED WORKS AND BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR SALE
DIRECTLY THROUGH THE ARTIST. PLEASE ENQUIRE AT
GABRIELSCHMITZ@YAHOO.ES**



EXHIBITION PLAN

20

WELCOME

2
1 3

5
4 6 7

8 11
9 10

13
12 14

STORYTELLING
COURT

19

STORYTELLING
CAFE

18
16 17

15
16

STORYTELLING
CORNER

POMEGRANATES FESTIVAL PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY

TRADITIONAL
DANCE
FORUM OF
SCOTLAND

TRACS



THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
Moray House School of
Education and Sport

TASGADH
Traditional Arts Small Grants

Administered by
The National Lottery

Funding from
The National Lottery



EDINBURGH
TRADFEST



Hidden Door
Festival



POMEGRANATES FESTIVAL COCKTAILS

ORDER AT THE STORYTELLING CAFE
CHOOSE AN ALCOHOLIC OR NON-ALCOHOLIC VARIETY
BOOK + ENJOY ALL POMEGRANATES FESTIVAL SHOWS



TRADITIONAL
DANCE
FORUM OF
SCOTLAND

TRACS // TRADITIONAL
ARTS-CULTURE
SCOTLAND



SPRINGTIME FESTIVAL OF INTERNATIONAL TRADITIONAL DANCE ACROSS EDINBURGH AND GLASGOW

LINKTR.EE/POMEGRANATESFEST