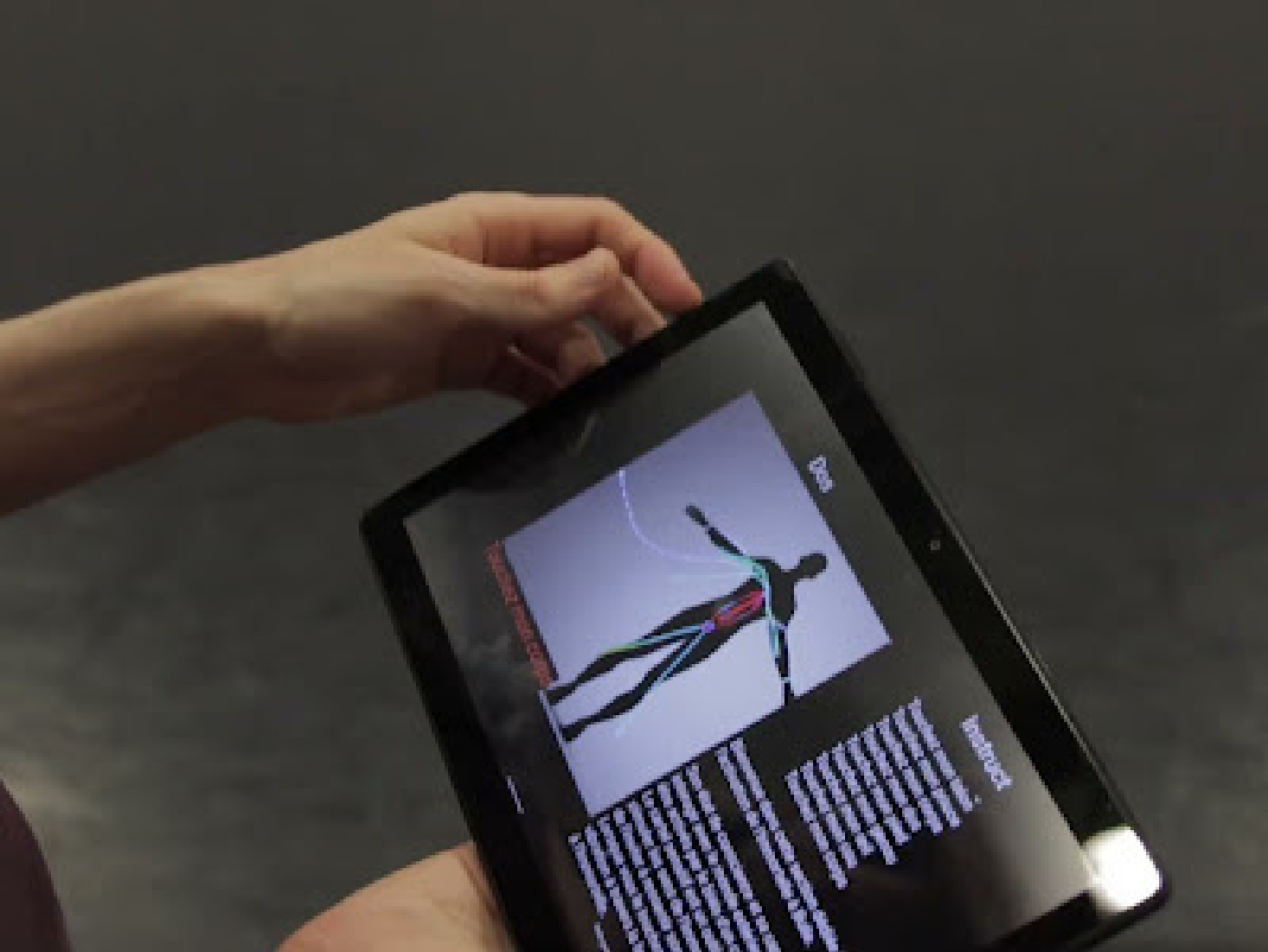


ETERNITY





photos from an experimental residency

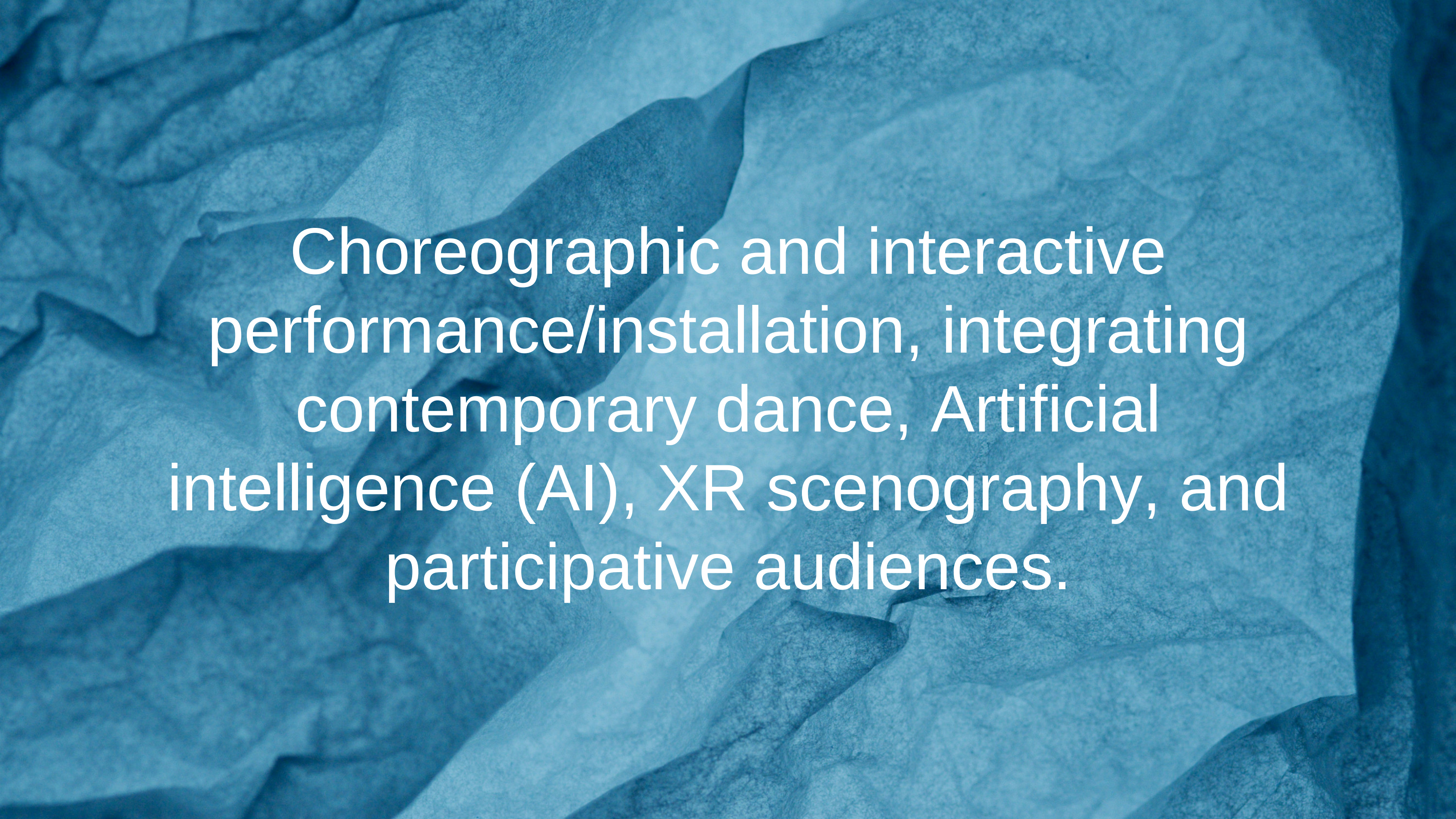




Project 2025-2026

video excerpts of an experimental performance, 2024:

<https://vimeo.com/1047968984>



Choreographic and interactive
performance/installation, integrating
contemporary dance, Artificial
intelligence (AI), XR scenography, and
participative audiences.

ETERNITY

The ETERNITY project explores the theme of immortality through an interactive and choreographic performative installation, integrating contemporary dance, artificial intelligence (AI), XR scenography, and audience participation. The performance, conceived by Jean-Marc Matos, imagines a techno-scientific fiction set in a future where immortal creatures, created by advanced technologies, are exhibited as curiosities, and where there is a possible physical contact between these creatures and the participating audience.

Introduction

The project features three dancers as hybrid creatures, "near-humans", in a dark space, enclosed inside vertical and protective beams of light, and controlled by an AI. This AI coordinates interactions between the audience and the creatures, adjusting lighting, sounds, and projections based on the creatures' reactions and audience stimuli. Visitors-spectators, free to navigate around, using their smartphones, tactile interfaces, other interactive sensors, and for some, VR headsets, can interact with the creatures, influencing their behavior and movements.

Science Fiction Dance and Technological Interaction

The performance is set in a speculative future where visitors observe and interact with an immortal creature confined within a defined space by an azimuthal light projection. This setup, akin to a sideshow attraction, allows the audience to engage with the creature, making it relive past experiences through gestures and stimuli controlled via smartphones and tactile labels. The AI collects and interprets these interactions, generating new scenographic elements in response.

Scenography and choreography

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Dramaturgical Context

Projected into the year 2084, the ETERNITY project imagines a world where the war against death has been won, leading to the confinement of immortal beings by their creators. This narrative backdrop sets the stage for the creative experience, where the immortal, a sophisticated humanoid specimen, attempts to reconnect with humanity. The audience, free to explore and interact, becomes part of the creature's last attempt to understand human emotions and existence.

Choreographic Research and the Role of AI

Jean-Marc Matos explores the movement of an immortal being by dissociating different body parts and varying rhythms, while the computer programming focuses on integrating AI into the performance. This involves the use of sensors and generative programming to create interactive and adaptive scenography. The AI's role extends to sociological, technological, and artistic domains, including gesture tracking, automatic generation of texts, images, and sounds, and deep learning processing of movement data.

The AI coordinates scenographic elements based on interactions between the immortal creatures and the audience, adapting visual, textual, and sound elements. This setup aims to evoke a matrix of strong emotions such as pain, madness, dread, and tenderness through a sophisticated choreographic expression.

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of crumpled, light-colored paper. The paper has a textured, wrinkled appearance with various folds and creases. Overlaid on this image are two solid color shapes: a blue triangle in the top-left corner and a purple triangle in the bottom-right corner. The text is centered and rendered in a white, sans-serif font.

XR scenography

The entire stage setup made of the "immortal" creatures, confined within their azimuthal light columns, along with the free spaces between them and the video projection surfaces on the floor and surrounding walls, is the scenography itself for an XR mixed-reality experience. Within this environment, some audience members will be able to live a parallel journey through additional information, narrative fragments, and other audiovisual content, accessible via VR headsets.

Team

Jean-Marc Matos, choreographer

Laure Lapeyre, performer

Stefan Veselinovic, dancer performer

Ariadna Logvinova, dancer performer

Arnaud Courcelle, digital artist and programmer

Flaure Diallo, costume designer

Guilhem Cléry, light designer

Loïc Matos, video and photos

Ecological and Societal Commitment

The artists aim for a sustainable approach:

Minimizing the environmental impact of digital tools and travel.

Using open-source software with low energy consumption.

Reducing plastic use and encouraging DIY (Do It Yourself).

Promoting fair social and wage conditions for all collaborators.

Providing free or reduced-cost access to workshops and presentations,
depending on available funding.

By combining poetry, technology, and performance, ETERNITY invites a speculative contemplation of immortality, where humans and machines meet and question each other.

Méthodologie

Artistic Creation:

1- Collaboration between a choreographer, dancers, and a digital artist to design a performance where a two-way communication is established between the participating audience and the dancing "creatures."

The audience receives invitations to interact with the creatures, who respond in turn.

The performers' reactions then modify the initial messages and influence the visual and auditory environment.

2- Development of the Scenic and Technological Device:

Design and creation of a system equipped with intelligent sound and body sensors capable of detecting the performers' movements and intentions.

Programming of touchscreen tablets, similar to museum labels, to allow remote audience participation.

3- Experimentation and Iterations:

Testing the system in an experimental setting to refine the interactions between dance and technology, incorporating feedback from participants.

4- Public Performance:

Presentation of the ETERNITY performance in artistic venues to offer the audience a unique, immersive, and poetic experience exploring the relationship between humans and technology.

The project builds on a series of experiments conducted in 2002, 2023, and 2024 with a pilot system that has yielded excellent results, both artistically and technologically.

Projected Timeline

Pre-conception – Remote Preparation: Spring-Summer 2025

Research, Development, Testing, and Experimentation: Fall 2025

Advanced Design: December 2025-January 2026

Research Residencies: February-June 2026

Further Development, Advanced Testing, and Experimentation: September-October 2026

Presentation of Results: November-December 2026

See the portfolio of the performance - installation: <https://www.k-danse.net/en/portfolio/eternite/>

Projected support, for future production (confirmed and under investigation)

European Project AEPYDEA (CSGO Best) France/Bulgaria/Greece (2025-2026)

European Project Bodynet-Khoros France/Spain/Greece (2022-2025)

Institut Français Paris (IF digital)

Euro-regional Project Cos(ArtEina2) Occitanie/Balearic Islands/Catalonia
(Festival Ecos, Barcelona) 2025

City of Toulouse

General Council of Haute-Garonne

Bellegarde Cultural Center, Toulouse

Cultural Services of Villeneuve-Tolosane (Toulouse Métropole)

Le Quai des Savoirs, Toulouse

Médiathèque José Cabanis, Toulouse (Scroll Festival)

LAAS (Laboratory for Analysis and Architecture of Systems - CNRS, Toulouse)

Planned complementary residency locations

La Gare aux Artistes, La Vannerie, ArsFabrik (Combaillaux) - Cie Yann Lheureux

A photograph of a virtual reality exhibition space. In the center, three people are standing on a platform, each wearing a VR headset and holding a controller. They are surrounded by large, vertical digital displays showing various images. The room is dimly lit, with three spotlights illuminating the central area. In the foreground, the silhouettes of several people are visible, some holding up their phones to capture photos or videos of the exhibit. The overall atmosphere is futuristic and interactive.

Contacts

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photos from an experimental residency

