

– Media Release –

THE PERCEPTION EXPERIMENT SECURES FUNDING TO TOUR NATIONALLY

Artback NT has secured funding from Playing Australia to tour nationally *the perception experiment* in 2020.

*A trickle of salt becomes a torrent, becomes a cloud, becomes a pattern;
capturing breath and heartbeat before slipping away.*

the perception experiment invites audiences to explore time and space in an innovative and experiential live dance performance, sound and sculptural installation. Through provocative sensorial immersion, choreographers Frankie Snowdon and Madeleine Krenek, GUTS Dance//Central Australia (GUTS Dance) examine how audiences may experience the physical world, blur its edges and offer an alternative view of how they might navigate through it.

The performance will tour nationally in 2020 to Hobart, Kalgoorlie, Warrnambool, Coffs Harbour, Townsville and Katherine. “From the creation, to the coordination, to its presentation across the nation, this tour of *the perception experiment* is 100% regional” said Louise Partos, Executive Officer, Artback NT.

This is the first work Snowdon and Krenek have made in Central Australia. *the perception experiment* premiered at the Araluen Arts Centre in 2017 and has become one of only two contemporary Australian dance works to be invited to perform at the *Festival Cultural de Mayo* in Mexico, 2019 alongside Dancenorth. Ahead of its national tour, audiences and potential venues will be able to see the performance at the Arts House, a City of Melbourne program that champions independent artists’ practice as part of Dance Massive 2019.

Frankie Snowdon, Choreographer, GUTS Dance said *the perception experiment* is “highly concept-driven ... we [GUTS Dance] don’t come with a narrative perspective of the body as self. We are interested in the body as a conduit for action and movement and the stripping of ego/identity to achieve this.”

the perception experiment can be performed end-on or in-the-round. This work is an intimate experience that invites the audience to break the fourth wall by being led individually into the dance space. Shoes off, the audience finds themselves standing where the dancers would be as the lights go dark and the sound installation begins. What follows is a sensory experience of moving sound and a shifting landscape as the performers wind between the audience who are then invited to sit, surrounding the dance floor, becoming engrossed in an exploration of mind and movement as figures interweave in mesmerising circles of salt.



This highly immersive experience provides *the perception experiment* with the unique capacity to reach diverse audiences beyond language and engage children and adults-alike. Xavier Dannock, Senior Venue Coordinator, Lighthouse Theatre, one of the national tour venues said “Warrnambool has a thriving dance community – with an appetite to experience not just traditional forms of dance, but also contemporary masterpieces. The ability to program a work such as *the perception experiment* allows us to continue to provide high quality contemporary dance pieces to our dance community, and drive our audience development of younger wandering audiences”

Invested and passionate about carving out spaces for professional artistic offerings in locations and communities that can be otherwise overlooked, Snowdon and Krenek understand the value of regional and remote reach. *the perception experiment* has been designed to tour and can be adapted to suit a range of performance spaces making it versatile and ensuring each venue on the national tour is a unique experience. Debbie Carmody, CEO Tjuma Pulka Media Aboriginal Corporation said “the show [when it tours to Kalgoorlie] will be adapted to our outdoor performance space on a salt lake ... [and] will provide an opportunity for a regional audience to access and participate in dance performance.”

Louise Partos, Executive Officer, Artback NT said “the organisation [Artback NT] is committed to engaging with regional communities and has a strong commitment to seeing Northern Territory productions grow and thrive. With offices located in Darwin, Alice Springs and Borroloola, Artback NT coordinates multiple tours, festivals and events throughout the year and we are delighted to be able to support and tour this ground-breaking work, showcasing it to the nation.”

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.

TOUR DETAILS - For information about being one of the national tour venues contact: Elizabeth Rogers | Performing Arts Manager | Artback NT | +61 (0) 8 8941 1444 | performing@artbacknt.com.au

SHOW DETAILS - To view publicity images and trailer:
<https://artbacknt.com.au/show/the-perception-experiment/>

GUTS Dance//Central Australia; Louise Partos, Executive Officer, Artback NT are available for interview upon request.

Media Enquiries - Rebecca Renshaw | Communications Manager | communications@artbacknt.com.au | +61 (0) 8 8941 1444 | 0407 311 855

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Level 2, Harbour View Plaza,
8 McMinn St, Darwin City NT 0800
GPO Box 535, Darwin NT 0801
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About the Work:

In 2016 Frankie Snowdon and Madeleine Krenek received funding to develop their first professional work in Alice Springs/Mparntwe, bringing together a world class team of collaborators: Adam Wheeler (director of Tasdance), Jenny Hector (Lighting and Set Design for Ilbjerri's *Blood on the Dance Floor*, Jodee Mundy's *Imagined Touch*) and Darcy Davis (*Dr. Strangeways, Mycology*, Advanced Dip. of Music Performance), in partnership with local organisations Red Hot Arts and Studio B.

Following the first development and in-progress showing, state and federal funding was secured to establish *the perception experiment* premiere season in a gallery of the Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, May 2017. Although Alice Springs is not revered for its support nor abundance of professional, touring contemporary dance projects, GUTS Dance is overturning this misconception. The Company showcases Central Australia as fertile ground for high quality, rigorous practice that is on a level playing field and comparable to the contemporary dance delivery outcomes of metropolitan Australia.

The work is not designed for a traditional proscenium setting and therefore works well for a smaller audience (capacity 100). It has a simple design and a small touring party which means it can be manipulated to fit different spaces. The choreographers are passionate about being part of a movement and conversation that sees support for and interest in work that is borne of places less well known; to showcase these works; and enable capacity to present contemporary dance works.

Snowdon and Krenek are also producing repertoire workshops to be made available to local dance communities, including one week residencies with dance groups and a work-in-progress showing.

About GUTS Dance//Central Australia

GUTS Dance is a new Alice Springs/Mparntwe based contemporary dance organisation founded by Frankie Snowdon and Madeleine Krenek. Situated in the unique environment of the Central Australian Desert, it is the only platform for contemporary dance investigation, creation, training and performance within a 1,500km radius. GUTS Dance aims to be recognised as a centre for artistic growth and excellence, championing bravery, risk, community and collaboration as tools for the development of great art, meaningful experiences and empowered societies.

Snowdon and Krenek are Victorian College of the Arts alumnae and since graduating have collectively worked with companies: Chunky Move, Lucy Guerin Inc., Not Yet It's Difficult, Opera Australia, Lucky Plush Productions (USA); independent choreographers: Jo Lloyd, Russell Dumas, Brooke Stamp, Martin Del Amo, Adam Wheeler, Carlee Mellow, Stephanie Lake, Shelley Lasica, Sara Black, Michael Monataro (Canada) and New Zealand choreographers Julia Harvie, Julia McKerrow and Fleur De Thier.



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Snowdon and Krenek are the founding members of Melbourne based dance collective 2NDTOE, whom they have performed and choreographed with since 2007 presenting four full length works and many short works. Their individual and collective dance works have been presented by Next Wave Festival, Lucy Guerin Inc., Theatre Works, Movement Art Practice (NZ), Body Festival (NZ), and Salonathon (USA). Award credits include Greenroom nominations, Dancers to Watch in Dance Australia Critics Survey and Ian Potter Cultural Trust Grants.

About Artback NT

Artback NT is the Northern Territory's visual and performing arts development and touring agency. The organisation works with individuals, groups and arts based organisations to present and tour a dynamic range of arts experiences locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. Representing a landscape of over 1.3 million square kilometres, Artback NT ignites sparks in a creative Northern Territory. Artback NT's multi-art form program (Visual Arts; Theatre and Dance; Music and Indigenous Traditional Dance) sees the organisation with offices in Darwin, Alice Springs and Borroloola.