



**Dasha Che: A Weak Queer Body: New ways of exploring connections with oneself and their queer kin?**



Dasha Che is a queer non-binary dance practitioner and performance artist, scholar, activist and Founder of Telaboratoria - a dance improvisation program for trans and queer youths that Dasha facilitated in St Petersburg, Russia from 2017 - 2019. Discover how a weak and unstable queer body can defy current neoliberal LGBTQ politics, which demand compliant rigor, a certain kind of strength and subjectivity, and empowerment as normativity. Explore how dance practices that invite the body to leave the vertical plane and explore co-being, intimacies with other bodies and their surfaces, can be a gateway into a new and deeper connection with oneself and our queer kin.

**TOP EMBODIMENT TIP:** Welcome the strangeness of your own body and your encounters; welcome different strange encounters with yourself and with non-human objects in your life.

**Exploring Weak Queer Body Practices: The weak queer body, vertical planes, and intimacy with inanimate objects**

- A weak queer body yields, sinks to the floor, is unstable, laughs, cries and doesn't have to present as 'perfect.'
- The weak queer body is not seen or heard. It goes unexplored, and the intimacy there goes unnoticed.
- The queer body is strange sometimes. Scary, but also exciting.
- Exploring non-vertical planes: A new kind of agency can emerge from a non-vertical body.
- Entering into intimacy with inanimate objects - performing *Future Parts: What Happens When It Stops* (2020), a piece of Performance Art with four inanimate dancers: a mic stand, a shovel, a large pillow, and a sea rope.
- We need other bodies for activism and protest.
- Strength comes from feeling weak in the queer body.

**Horizontal Somatic Exercise: Surfaces, posture, strangeness, pleasurable entanglements with inanimate objects**

- Feeling the surface that is holding your body. How is the surface receiving your body? Breathing into the contact.
- Think of your body as an assemblage of many different things and parts. Sometimes they are in unison and supportive of each other, sometimes they are in opposition.
- Your body is always a little strange and unknown to you, in terms of what it can do, how it lives, how it is right now. Can you feel the pleasure in this unknowing and strangeness?
- This slightly strange room is seen by this slightly strange body. Can you meet in this strangeness?
- In connection with an inanimate object in your space, propose these questions:
  1. What kind of intimacy is possible with non-human or inanimate objects and entities in space?
  2. How can a human body enter a pleasurable entanglement with an object?
  3. Is it possible to have a pleasurable entanglement with the object so that it is not just serving your needs?
- Exploring this duet with the object. It may be a dance or stillness. Perhaps it doesn't need to make sense at all.
- Continue exploring these questions of intimacy and pleasurable entanglement on your own, where you and the inanimate object two can make your own rules and choices.

**Resources**

- ❖ **Email:** [Telaboratoria@gmail.com](mailto:Telaboratoria@gmail.com)



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