



# Womb

By: Shaymaa Shoukry





# WOMB

A journey into the womb. Creating a dance solo that mirrors the womb to the globe, exploring how time and space can shift through music and the pelvic movement allowing a discography through multiple indigenous cultures, martial art influences, traditional and contemporary physical references to the center, the pelvis...

WOMB

A play between sound, light and the body, through repetitive movement that transform seamlessly and take the spectator on a trance like journey of inner reflection.


# About the Project



With an upbringing in the middle east, Egypt, a muslim country and attending a catholic school, I have had to re-question/ re-assess and re-evaluate a lot of norms that I was conditioned to, this is an ongoing journey with my society and surroundings, battering years of blockage, unjustified protection and self censorship.

But this is not a condition that is solely linked to Egyptian and Muslim societies. A wide range of cultures fear the female body and female sexuality, and its suppression becomes the core of patriarchy.


If women's bodies are a reason for such fear it is because it stores an unbelievable strength and force of life and creativity... through this work I wish to taste, visit and allow such force to shine, on a personal level that invites the audience to be touched by this journey, creating an affect via the effect.



A variety of civilizations base their traditional dance around the pelvises of their women yet a lot of cultures also censor, oppress and control that very same area; through ideas, social norms, mental and physical circumcisions.

Working through/on/from/with the center, the womb, the pelvis, the Dantian, the origin of life force, the cocoon from which creativity emerges, the space of power manifestation, the space of storing and offering vital energy, to brings us back to what we already know..

This work process will be an additional step in my own journey of cleaning my own conditioning, allowing, the central inner creativity to be affirmed, nourished and spoken.



# Research and Tools



The research would be on one end physical; exploring movement qualities that revolve around the center and express iconic points in our timeline as mankind and the history of tribal, traditional and indigenous dance. As well as exploring and inventing personal vocabulary through a focused choreographic research.

Working closely with Ahmed Saleh to compose a musical score that creates references, allowing a shining of certain physical qualities of being and the gradual transformation into other states, integrating live voice at times within the musical score. At other times using sounds and a collection of text by various women as a counterpoint to the physical action, also working with the resonance of sound... the after effect of a sound... silence... as well as the play of the body, its movement and states to calling a sound.

Looking into cultural connotations through anthropological research and pelvic movement, an overview in relation to dance, rituals, prayers, and the mainstream pop culture and how the role of the core/ pelvis transforms yet lives on.

This work is a cross line between the world of the Performing arts and Performance art, envisioning it between the theatre space and museum/gallery spaces as an Installation setup, questioning the format of which this work could be presented and what would format imply. How and where The body is witnessed, exhibited, presented, and used as a performative tool is a question to be researched in this project. Staying open to the idea of using open spaces/nature for inspiration or as video material.

The work is a quest to gathering those various yet connected elements into a unified coherent dramaturgical line.

# Shaymaa Shoukry

## Concept Choreography and Performance



Shaymaa Shoukry is a multidisciplinary artist with a background in visual arts who is interested in integrating diverse disciplines in her creations. She thrives on a passion for choreographing, performing, and creating video art and is motivated and inspired by working collectively, while developing personal work in an organic build-up process, where each project paves the way for the next. Shaymaa is currently interested in researching the origin of movement, repetition, and transformation while steadily questioning approaches to share her artistic practice with publics from diverse backgrounds and various landscapes.

Shaymaa studied Visual Arts and Theatre at the American University in Cairo and Dance at the Cairo Opera House School. She completed the Contemporary Dance Workshops program at Studio Emad Eddin 2008-2011 and the Cairo-based Seeds' Training for Dance Teaching in 2012-2013. Pursuing studies in martial arts and Chinese medicine at Meshkah, Cairo. Co-founder and artistic director of Dayer for artistic productions company based in Cairo and functions internationally.

Ahmed Saleh is a musician, composer and sound artist from Alexandria, Egypt. He had become one of the spearheads of the Electronic music scene in Egypt. (*Press - Cairosceen Magazine – March 2015*)

Saleh's experience as a visual artist had a great affection on his music. He composed his first live solo set and made an appearance at the 100LIVE Festival in 2009. Saleh is a member and one of the founders of the well-known band Telepoetic and he composed the soundtracks for many independent movies, Contemporary dance shows, documentaries and Theater. In 2014 he was a part of Jazz Nomades project and performed at La Voix Est Libre Festival (France) and in 2018 Saleh officially participated at Biennale De Dakar Saleh's music had been featured on many radio stations in Poland, Germany, France, London and Egypt.

Saleh collaborated with Oliver Coates (*London*) Mehdi Haddab (*France*), Mederic Collignon (*France*), Phillippe Gleizes (*France*), Predrag Sestic (*Belgrade*), Alessio Ballerini (*Italy*), Abdullah Miniawy (*Egypt*), Marc Nammour (*France*), Phillip Geist (*Germany*), Tomeka Reid (*USA*), Nick Mazzarella (*USA*), Ryan Ingebritsen (*USA*), Erica Mott (*USA*), Jamie Scott (*USA*). Saleh's music was released in Europe by the French record label based in Grenoble (*Full Fridge*) and the Italian record label (*Unexplained Sounds*) Currently Saleh is touring with his new record (*Mashi*).

# Ahmed Saleh



Music composition and performance



# Timeline



Conceptual Work

*September 2021 -Till Present*

Egyptian & Traditional Dance Movement Research

*December 2021 - March 2022*

Research residency Between the Seas 1927 Art Space  
Athens Greece

*April 2022*

Creation residency at *Dansometre, Vevey Switzerland*  
*Made possible though Prohelvetia studio residency*

*July- September 2022*

Technical Residency at Rawabet Cairo Egypt, followed by an  
avant Premier

*September 2022*

Premier Arab Arts Focus Cairo D-cafe festival

*D-cafe festival 2022*

# Production



Orient Productions

Dayer For Artistic Productions

Mophradat (*Artist Research Grant*)

Prohelvetia Studio Residency

# Previous works



## Website

[www.shaymaashoukry.com](http://www.shaymaashoukry.com)

## Bio/CV

<https://www.shaymaashoukry.com/bio>

## Choreography over view

<https://www.shaymaashoukry.com/choreography>

## Full works

Fighting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8NDzxlejuOI>

May7komsh: <https://vimeo.com/210678098>  
(Password: openingdcafrawabet)

Portray: <https://youtu.be/xMu-HjuujxE>

Walking: <https://youtu.be/7hicDv0FADY>

## Trailers

Fighting: <https://vimeo.com/394006480>

Minute: <https://vimeo.com/115096050>  
(compilation of works 2006-2014)

Portray: <https://vimeo.com/313178705>

Walking: <https://vimeo.com/313207424>

Turning: <https://vimeo.com/123850563> TT:

<https://vimeo.com/201523347>

The Resilience of the body: <https://vimeo.com/300460007>  
(showing of sight specific adaptation)

Video Art/Dance Works: <https://www.shaymaashoukry.com/video-art-and-media-installation>



Thank you

