

A photograph of two mannequins in a dance pose. One mannequin is wearing a dark brown, form-fitting outfit and is positioned upside down, with its right arm extended horizontally to the right and its left hand resting on a wooden beam. The other mannequin is wearing a bright yellow, form-fitting outfit and is also upside down, with its head resting on a wooden beam and its arms tucked in. The background is a dark, solid color.

ERWIN OLAF

Dance in Close-Up
Hans van Manen seen by Erwin Olaf

October 29 - December 31, 2022

RABOUAN MOUSSION

This year, for Hans van Manen's 90th birthday, Erwin Olaf presents his new series of photographs « Dance in Close-Up » which pays tribute both to their 40 years of friendship and to the important contribution of Van Manen to the world of ballet.

Indeed, Hans van Manen is considered an international dance legend. He began his career in 1951 as a dancer in the Dutch company of Sonia Gaskell then became a choreographer, dancer and artistic director at the Nederlands Dans Theater where he spent more than ten years before joining the Dutch National Ballet in 1973, the first dance company in the Netherlands. Today, he is resident choreographer for the National Ballet. During his career he created more than 125 ballets which were danced by more than 50 companies.

Hans van Manen and Erwin Olaf met each other in 1983 in Amsterdam during a photoshoot at the dancer's house. At that time, Hans van Manen was already a recognized choreographer and photographer. Through him Erwin Olaf met many artists from the Amsterdam scene and introduced him to classical music and fine arts. This common interest in photography and their common inspiration for the work of the American photographer, Robert Mapplethorpe marked the beginning of a long friendship that we find today in this project, initiated by Olaf. Together they selected specific moments from Hans van Manen's iconic choreography and captured details. Olaf shows us body fragments, arched backs, contracted muscles, bent toes, outstretched fingers pointing...

« As always with Olaf, the visuals create seductive, intoxicating stories. The incredibly precise lighting adds layers of tone, shadow and depth. But here, he's trained his lens on Van Manen's austerity – the pristine and purposeful poses. »

The photographs and videos of the series are presented at the Rabouan Moussion gallery at 11 rue Pastourelle in Marais. The gallery space has been redesigned to create a new atmosphere and guide the visitor through this experience.



Dance in Close-Up, Déjà vu III, 2022
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Joost van Krieken and cameraman Thomas Kist of NTR followed Hans van Manen and Erwin Olaf during the making of Dance in Close-Up. The making-of is included in the exhibition.

Hannibal Books published the catalogue of Dance in Close-Up, which contains the photographs by Erwin Olaf, and essays by Michael James Gardner and Nina Siegal. The catalog is available at the gallery and on the website www.rabouanmoussion.com.



Dance in Close-Up, Grosse Fuge I, 2022
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RABOUAN MOUSSION

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Monday - Saturday, 10 am - 7:30 pm

Opening on Saturday 29th of October

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Dance in Close-Up, Hans van Manen and Erwin Olaf bow, 2022
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