

International House NY
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Ius
Global

I am the consequence of something, or multiple things that happened before me, – like ripples in once still water. I believe myself to be extraordinarily lucky – it is, however, no achievement of mine. It is a manifestation of the humans closest to me, those who have shaped me, and those who shaped them. We are enveloped in change and experiencing times requiring immediate action. I believe it is the time to look back in order to move forwards. A time to learn from our mistakes and our triumphs to approach what lies ahead with kindness, compassion, and perseverance. It is a time to remember what we have gone through in the past, how far we have come, and how much there is yet to do.

Through its transient nature and its innate ability to encapsulate both visually and kinesthetically the visceral power, freedom, and vulnerability of the raw human psyche and physicality: dance reveals both time and humanity.

I am currently developing a dance film entitled 'Ius' with the goal to film during summer 2021. 'Ius' contemplates humanity: our past, the present and the hope of the future. It is a reminder of vulnerability, unity, strength, solidarity, individual power and beauty (I speak of the the beauty of life and the immense beauty of the world). The work is centered around the Declaration of Human Rights. I use *All Human Beings* from Max Richters' album *Voices* as the musical accompaniment, and the rhythm and meaning of the words from the Declaration of Human rights as a choreographic framework. It is not enough to acknowledge the existence of Human Rights, they need to be upheld on a daily basis, – become an integral part of how we interact. It is also necessary that we engage and actively reflect on our current enactment of these rights, as it is clear they are too often not being upheld. This is the purpose of this film, a small first step of a larger project that will, hopefully, spread to many corners of the world, reach many eyes, ears, and bodies.

During the Summer of 2020 I started working on an idea, and with help from my mother, father, and younger sister created a test film of a dancer (myself) ostensibly dancing on water (in this case still lake close to our family house in Sweden). I would like to develop this to the next stage, please see the attached video link for the test video created last summer:

<https://vimeo.com/484724432/2a0640ca8b> .

A short-term aim of the work is to create little moments of peace, and a chance to reflect on the world that we share. Hopefully this would occur as a result of, or meanwhile watching the film. Long-term, once the film has been disseminated, I am working to inspire awareness and engage in discussion to encourage taking an informed stance and action on humanitarian efforts. This would be done through a series of workshops, which would take 'Ius' as a point of departure for discussion and reflection on how we enact Human Rights, the effectiveness of humanitarian efforts, and how they can be upheld, improved or continued. The hope is that the discussion, and the creative kinaesthetic process would fuel future projects with Humanitarian aims. The workshops would have the following overall structure:

1. *Reflect*- What are Human Rights? How do you contribute to up-hold Human Rights on a daily basis? How do your actions reflect your point of view?
2. *Experience* - Internalise and interact with these ideas through movement, with the goal to make it a tangible experience that is remembered in the body.
3. *Create together* - engage with the other participants in the workshop to create with a Human Rights framework and message.

It would be desirable to conduct these masterclasses in person, as the kinaesthetic

and haptic nature of dance is best experienced first-hand. Thus, it is necessary to wait until the current pandemic situation is under control, allowing for the masterclasses to be completed safely. Hopefully, they would be able to take place in Spring 2022. EBB Dance Company under Artistic Director Jean Philip Dury has already agreed to 2-3 days of masterclasses engaging in this material. I am in contact with Concha Hernandez to hopefully be able to present the work at the next 'Ellas Crean' festival (<https://ellascrean.com/en/>) in Madrid, and hope to be able to collaborate with the

Royal Academy of Dance and the Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance (my alma mater), as starting points for my Masterclasses.

I am requesting these funds to fulfill the first and short-term aim of this project: To create short moments of peace, and a space for self-reflection. The funds will specifically go towards the creation of the platform that I will dance on, and hire a professional drone operator. The platform I created with my father from an old wooden fence is not stable enough (greatly limiting movement possibilities). With a more stable platform, which will be created by *Lignum surf* (<https://www.lignumsurf.co.uk>) from sustainably sourced wood in the UK, I would be able to better perform the work, and enhance the visual effect of dancing on water. The circular platform, to be created, will lay just at the edge of the water, and have rounded edges. Furthermore, it will have stabilizers so that I can take a step or two away from the center without it tipping over. Last summer my younger sister (of 16 years) taught herself to fly and film with a drone to help me achieve my vision, however, it became clear that a professional would be imperative in order to fly in time with the musical accompaniment, control the light settings. I am currently interviewing drone operators Sebastian Schieren (<https://sebastianschieren.com/filmmaking.html>) and Martin Bochatay (<https://vimeo.com/airdrift>) capture the 'Ius' on film.

'Success' in this case would be multidimensional, and in the initial stages difficult to measure quantitatively. To begin with, is the creation of the film, creating a work which emanates the qualities listed above (vulnerability, unity, strength, solidarity, individual power and beauty). Thereafter, is audience engagement with the work itself, and its message. Engagement could here be seen through the response to the work, for example if it is frequently shared and how wide an audience it reaches. On a final level, would be the longer term impact of the film in conjunction with the masterclasses, and its potential influence on future projects, this, however will not be measurable in this first stage.

The multifarious beauty of life and how we experience this through body and time captivates me. 'Ius' is a call for united strength, an initiative to engage and actively reflect on our efforts. It is vital that the words of the Human rights declaration are respected, reflected upon, and upheld. It is the time to re-think about the meaning and actively engage with the words, and their moral standards. In short, it is time to act and keep spreading the ripples that those before us started, so that those after us can feel the motion.