

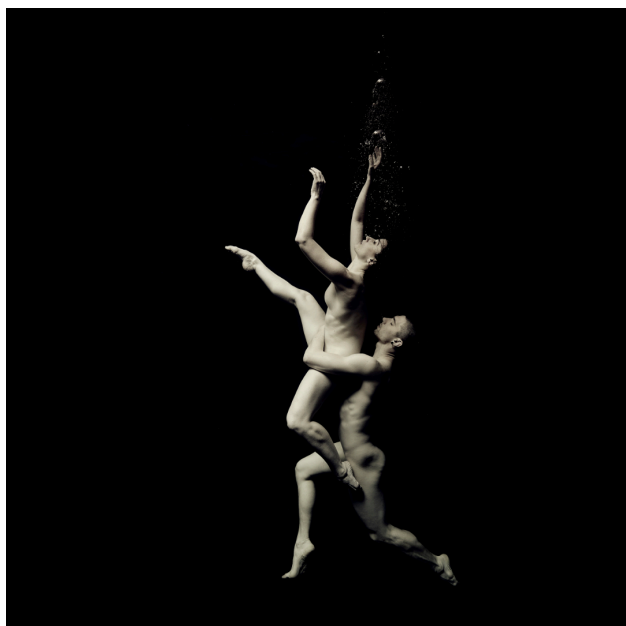
Iratxe Ansa

For more than twenty years, the Basque dancer Iratxe Ansa danced for some of the most important European companies. Basel Ballet, the defunct Gulbenkian Ballet in Lisbon, the National Dance Company at the time of Nacho Duato, the Opera Ballet of Lyon, as well as the Nederlands Dans Theater (NDT) all form part of her career path.

When she left the NDT in 2009, she also left behind a brilliant career as a dancer. A career that started upon her graduation from the John Cranko Schule in Stuttgart, and which took her to hone her skills for outstanding European companies. She danced for legends of the twentieth century such as William Forsythe, Jiri Kylián, Nacho Duato, Mats Ek, Ohad Naharin, Wayne McGregor, and Crystal Pite, just to name a few. Nonetheless, she was still far from reaching the end of her career.

Instead she was now set to begin a new chapter in her career as a freelancer. It took her across the world to work for dancers of different cultures, schools, and nationalities. She kept on dancing and creating, increasingly developing her own methodology. In this manner, she delved into matters about physicality and musicality, two principles of utmost importance in her understanding of dance, and which have helped consolidating her as a researcher of the body.

In 2020 she was recognized for her efforts with the National Prize for Dance in Spain. Her work with Igor Bacovich started in 2013.



Igor Bacovich

The professional career path of the Italian dancer and creator, Igor Bacovich, started at the Accademia Nazionale di Danza in Rome, where he enrolled in 1998. In 2004, he continued at CODARTS in Rotterdam, where he furthered his studies, always with an inclination towards what has always been a very relevant aspect of his work, physicality. As a professional performer, he had enriching experiences dancing for Kirsztina de Châtel, Bruno Listopard, and Nanine Linning.



As a choreographer, he has also amassed a long list of creations, many of which have been created in liaison with Iratxe Ansa. His work has also required him to travel extensively across five continents, visiting cities such as Sydney, Wellington, Shanghai, Taipei, St. Petersburg, Mexico City, London, or Prague, amongst many others.

His notions of the choreographic work both begin and are integrally constructed in the studio. This is where he embarks upon the project through direct agreement with the dancer. Nonetheless, not all his experience is linked to dance. For eight years, he dedicated himself to social work. This became a vital experience in helping him shape his creative and inquisitive spirit. It also brought him to take an interest in matters of leadership and management, which have proved very useful to him, especially in developing and consolidating his company Metamorphosis Dance. His cooperation with Iratxe Ansa started in 2013.

Iratxe & Igor

More than 30 countries have welcomed Ansa and Igor, whether to dance, share their methodology, set up their Metamorphosis International Residency, offer their experiences forming works of art together with associated artists, or simply to create. Together, the pair has staged more than 20 choreographies for relevant groups and institutions such as Lines Youth Ballet in the United States, the Opera Ballet of Lyon, the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts, Arts Umbrella in Canada, and the National Dance Company in Spain, for which they created Jián (2018).

Since starting to work together, Ansa and Bacovich have discovered that their ideas, forms, and focus, have moved in the same direction. Beyond a mere shared understanding of staging, the pair coincidentally shared an interest and passion for the work in the studio with other dancers. This motivated them to create and develop tools to make the work of the dancer more efficient. This research ultimately became their methodology. Simultaneously, they have created choreographies on request as well as a large series of their own work, which have been shown in theatres, gala events, and festivals across the globe.