ALIEN DIVINE / chapter#1: gallery edition
at Vognporten + follow-up residency at Dansehallerne
by Joana Öhlschläger

„Aliens are an index of the human imagination: they represent our desire for *new forms*." - *Jackie Wang*

ALIEN DIVINE is a choreographic investigation into meeting and befriending the unknown. Through the figure of the alien – both as a pop-cultural phenomenon and as a broader term for otherness – the work explores how we encounter one another within the (post)modern condition of alienation and skepticism. What role do wonder and enchantment still play in everyday life, and how do we continue to nourish them as a pillar of community?

ALIEN DIVINE / chapter#1: gallery edition consists of 10 performative interventions at the gallery Vognporten in January and February 2027 as part of the group exhibition *Twitching Contour*. It will mark the first chapter of a choreographic project running over the next three years, with versatile public outcomes on the way. The goal is to establish a strong artistic foundation for a performance series/concept, adaptable to different sites and contexts and able to sustain a long touring life.

ALIEN DIVINE approaches the alien not as a sci-fi character, but as a shifting figure through which contemporary anxieties and desires around otherness, belonging, transcendence and contact become visible. The alien exists at a threshold where science dissolves into wild fiction: as much astrophysics as childish dream, existential projection or matter of belief. The emergence of aliens is a reaction to the basic human question "Are we alone?" which also carries a religious dimension. Do we need something larger than ourselves – something shared, transcendent or unknowable – in order to feel connected?

The project researches those questions via physical expressions of alienation through body, voice, sound and duration. Objects „of awe" — tangible and metaphysical ones that trigger embodied excitement or wonder — will play a central role in creating choreographic material that trains modes of encountering things as if for the first time. *ALIEN DIVINE / chapter#1: gallery edition* will take place as a series of solo performances over the four-week group exhibition. It will combine dance, text, object manipulation and singing and will be created in collaboration with vocalist and vocal coach Laura Marie Madsen and dramaturge, researcher and writer Lotta Beckers.

By working with shifting parameters each of the 10 performative interventions will be different and responsive to the specific gathering with the group of spectators: exploring ways of sharing space through proximity, elongated performing states and shifts of pace. Physical traces from each performance are integrated into the group exhibition and will create an accumulative dramaturgy.

This chapter of *ALIEN DIVINE* deliberately reaches beyond the traditional dance audience: the performances at Vognporten take place within a visual arts context, creating an encounter with spectators who may not normally seek out contemporary choreography. The intimate setting will offer a new context to my choreographic craft, which works in close correspondence with the spaces it inhabits — aiming to create sincere, humorous and profound sensory experiences. The event will be promoted by Vognporten through printed and online material and Social Media.

The performance series will be concluded by a one week follow-up residency at Dansehallerne, bridging into the next chapter of the series. By working in and with the large, epic stage room Hallen I will investigate how these intimate encounters can expand into a collective experience within a vast architectural space, laying the foundation for the next chapter of the work.

In 2029 the *ALIEN DIVINE* series will culminate in a dance performance to premiere on Dansehallerne's stage Hallen. Envisioned as a long-duration work for 5–7 dancers and vocalists, it combines choreography, contemporary organ music and live singing.