Gessnerallee

Open Call Workshop

Keep going like zombies: moving forward to rethink the movement
with Chiara Bersani

Short Description

This workshop invites participants to rethink movement through the desires and possibilities of their own bodies in dialogue with Chiara Bersani's project *Left Behind*. Drawing on the figure of the zombie and conventions of the horror genre, participants reflect on what it means to keep moving when forward movement seems like the only possible form of existence.

Facts

- Location: Gessnerallee Zürich, Nordflügel
- Date: Friday, 27.11.2026, 10.00 - 18.00h
- Registration until 31.10.2026 via E-Mail
- Max. participants: 20

Accessibility

- Wheelchair accessible
- Covid Safer Space: The workshop will be held as a Covid Safer Space. Testing is compulsory. Wearing masks is compulsory for public moments.
- Different options to sit or lay down will be provided, like beanbags, chairs, a mattress and cushions.
- Air filtration: The workshop space has two CO_2 filters that provide a good air quality.
- Language: The workshop will be held in spoken English (Whisper translation into German and Italian can be provided)
- For more information, please contact us via workshops@gessnerallee.ch

Schedule

Get in
from 9.30 -10.00
Workshop Part 1
10.00 - 13.00

Lunch break
13.00 - 14.30 – A warm vegan & vegetarian lunch will be provided at Gessnerallee for free
Workshop Part 2
14.30 - 18.00
Get out
18.00 - 18.30

Structure of the workshop

In this workshop, participants are invited to rethink movement starting from the desires and possibilities of their own bodies. The workshop is part of Chiara Bersani's broader research project, Left Behind. Drawing inspiration from the conventions of the horror genre, the artist explores whether certain marginalized groups can generate fear as well as experience it. The performance interrogates the present. Zombies are the starting point: bodies that never stop moving. Performers with and without disabilities become zombies. They walk. They keep going. A misplaced gesture. A parasitic action in public space, where something else is already happening.

They ask: What kind of zombies are we becoming? Walking becomes an exercise. A way to stay. A way to move forward. And perhaps, simply, an invitation: is it possible to desire to become like us? What does it mean to keep moving forward when moving forward seems to be the only possible form of existence?

Participation
The workshop explores, both physically and conceptually, the possibility of moving forward. It is open to persons who want to enjoy movement and be part of a group, with or without mobility disabilities and with or without previous performance experience. Access needs are taken care of during the workshop.

Registration

Interested individuals can register via E-Mail by 23.11.2026.
To register, please send the following information to workshops@gessnerallee.ch.

- A few sentences describing your interest in the workshop and what background or practice you'll bring into the space.
- Your preferred communication language(s) (German, English, or both)
- If applicable, the accessibility offers you would like to use during the workshop.
- If you have other access requirements, please let us. We will let you know whether we can offer them as part of this workshop.
- Your dietary requests
- Applications are also welcome in audio or video format (max. 5 minutes).

Questions about accessibility can be sent in written or audio format to: workshops@gessnerallee.ch

After your registration, you will receive a mail confirming your participation within 24h

Biography Chiara Bersani

Chiara Bersani is an Italian performing artist and choreographer exploring the politics of the body and how the images we create interact with society's narratives. Her research is based on the concept of the "Political Body" and the creation of practices aimed at training its presence and action. Her "manifesto" work of this research is Gentle Unicorn, a performance included in the Aerowaves circuit. In 2018 she won the Ubu Award as best performer under 35. Her creation Sottobosco (undergrowth) explores the relationship between disabled bodies and natural landscapes. Chiara Bersani has been an artist of apap – Advancing Performing arts project – Feminist Future, co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union. As an activist Chiara works on the accessibility of disabled artists in the performing arts scene. In 2020, she was one of the co-founders of Al.Di.Qua.Artists, a trade association for artists with disabilities. In 2023 the Kunsthaus Baselland, hosted Deserters, Bersani's first solo exhibition in a European institution in collaboration with Gamec in Bergamo and with the support of the 11th edition of the Italian Council, promoted by the Directorate General for Contemporary Creativity within the Italian Ministry of Culture. The same year she was nominated for the Black Carpet Awards and the Diversity Awards for her commitment as an activist. In 2025, she won the ANTI Festival International Prize for Live Art in Kuopio, Finland. She is co-curator with Giulia Traversi of the Spazio Kor (Asti) season and Guest Curator for the 2025 edition of the Bastards international performing arts festival (Trondheim, Norway). In 2026 she was shortlisted for the prestigious Salavisa European Dance Award (SEDA). In the same year she was performer and consultant for the opening ceremony of the Milan-Cortina 2026 Winter Paralympics, directed by Marco Boarino. She is an associate artist of Triennale Milano Teatro 2025-2027.