

La visite



La visite © Anne Volery- Palais de la Porte Dorée

Filmed in the historic forum of the Palais de la Porte Dorée (Paris), *La visite* is a dance short created in collaboration with director Tommy Pascal and dramaturge Dirk Korell and inspired by Wanjiru Kamuyu's Bessie Award-winning solo *An Immigrant's Story*.

December 2020 commission by the Etablissement Public du Palais de la Porte Dorée, in partnership with Théâtre de la Ville.

Télérama

Rosita Boisseau | May 5, 2021 | N°3721 | Sortir

“As if a violent gust of wind were carrying her off into zones of turbulence with no escape, Wanjiru Kamuyu launches into a dance of tremors.

Fluttering hands, closed eyes, a body pierced through, she is seized from within by a trance. In the sumptuous setting—rich in imagery and graphic forms—of the Palais de la Porte Dorée, now the Musée National de l’Histoire de l’Immigration, which served as a source of inspiration, the dancer and choreographer, under the precise and attentive camera of Tommy Pascal, calls upon both her distant and recent history.

From Kenya she left for the United States and now lives in France. It is from her piece *An Immigrant’s Story* (...) that this film, titled *La visite*, was born.

A long slow motion—like an immense dizziness—leaves the performer bare, seated on a bench. A storm has passed. A lull replaces it.”

Beaux Arts

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“December 2020, “*An Immigrant’s Story* was unable to have an audience. The project was transformed and became *La Visite*, a short film directed by Tommy Pascal, set within the historically charged décor of the Palais de la Porte Dorée, now the Musée National de l’Histoire de l’Immigration.

Wanjiru Kamuyu, alone, dialogues through movement with the Forum, whose décor, created in 1931, was intended to showcase France’s contribution to its colonized countries. Through it, she evokes her own relationship with immigration—first from Kenya to the United States, and later to France.

A haunting creation to watch online during the fourth edition of the L’envers du décor festival.”



C.F. | May 1, 2021 | N°416

“Like a wild beast released into the arena of the mezzanines and the Art Deco forum of the Palais de la Porte Dorée, Wanjiru Kamuyu dances a story. That of humanity as a whole—moving, coming and going, circulating, searching. Isolated, almost disjointed, her inhabited body—a shifting form unfolding into a primal cry—moves among the frescoes, bas-reliefs, and geometric parquet floors, all emblematic testimonies to the history of colonialism and immigration.

This journey—between displacement and otherness—lies at the heart of the choreographic work of the cosmopolitan Kenyan artist, whose commitment to the cause of refugees is fundamental.

Conceived by dramaturge Dirk Korell and director Tommy Pascal, the filmed version of her solo echoes this perspective, placing emphasis on the eloquence of detail.

The language of her hands and her expressions radiates. It explores the convulsions of battered identities and restrained emotions—then, finally, their release. Like torn skin that at last falls away.”