# thINKingDANCE

## Upping the ante on dance coverage and conversation



Photo: Ryan Collerd

# Bricolage: A DIY Response to Trump

### by Janna Meiring

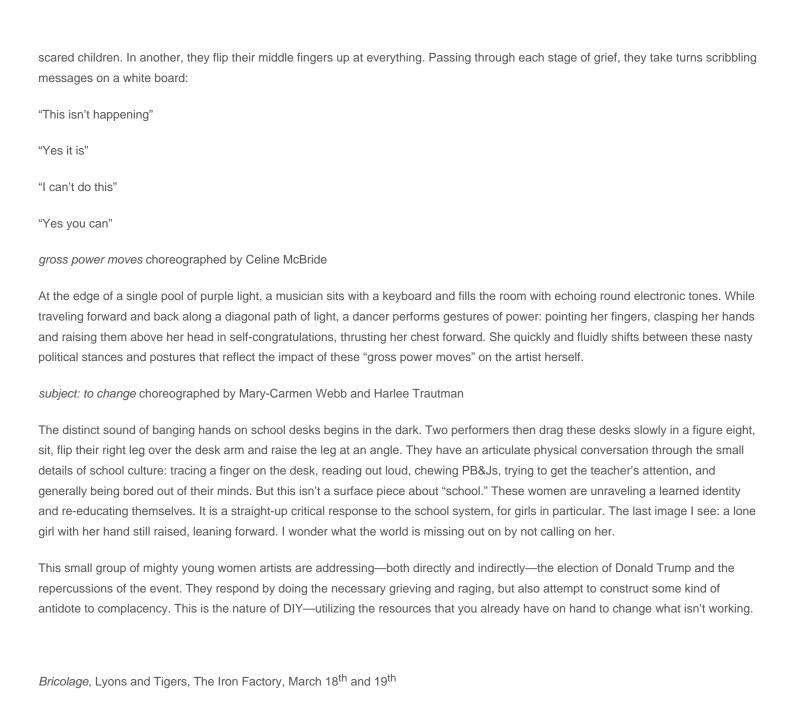
"Bricolage" is a French contemporary term for DIY, where you take different elements of whatever is handy, and combine them to make something arty or functional. In this case, *Bricolage*—an evening of new dance works presented by <u>Lyons and Tigers</u>—does both by offering four pieces choreographed by local artists.

Refract, Reflect, Absorb choreographed by Meredith Stapleton

As it happens to be playing on NPR at this exact time, the voice of director Jordan Peele, speaking about the reality of racial violence, comes over the speakers. Three young white women enter and walk along the wall of exposed brick. "We are told that we are not seeing what we are seeing," he says to Terry Gross on Fresh Air. The women seem to be taking movement cues from each other. The sequences are observed first then echoed by the second and again by the third dancer. I sense a quality of segmentation and reconnection as they drop their heads, roll them along their chests, and finally land together in stillness low to the floor. Even through it wasn't planned, I feel a pang of recognition in the play between the choreography and the interview; in regards to racism, white people tend to take cues from each other as they grapple with how to proceed.

#### 5 Stages of Grief choreographed by Darcy Lyons

The reflection on racism established in the previous piece is followed keenly by 5 Stages of Grief. I feel a tug on my heartstrings as it begins. A loud recording of Fox Media reporting live from Pennsylvania on election night overtakes the space. Four women, wearing subtle stripes of red, white, and blue, clump close together facing the audience. They progress slowly through postures and facial expressions of worry and shock as the news rolls in. There is a terrible feeling in the pit of my stomach. The four shake and tremor, fall as if from exhaustion, drag each other, and pull each other up. In one moment, they hold their knees tight and rock back and forth like



By Janna Meiring March 24, 2017