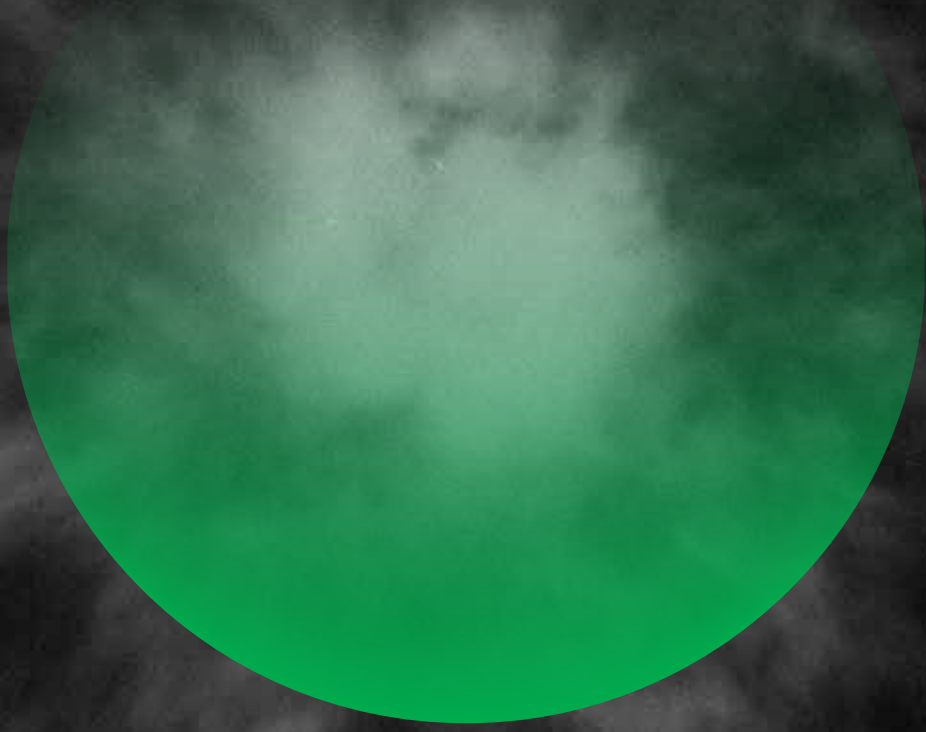


Free

An Immersive Film by
Dana Gingras



Production
Microclimat Films

Fall

Photo credits

The Workshop : p. 5, 8, 9 et 13

CDRIN : p. 10 -11

Production
Microclimat Films

An Immersive Film by
Dana Gingras

Free Fall

Original Text and Narration
Marie Brassard

Interpretation
Olivier Lemieux, Sovann Rochon-Prom Tep, Esther Rousseau-Morin

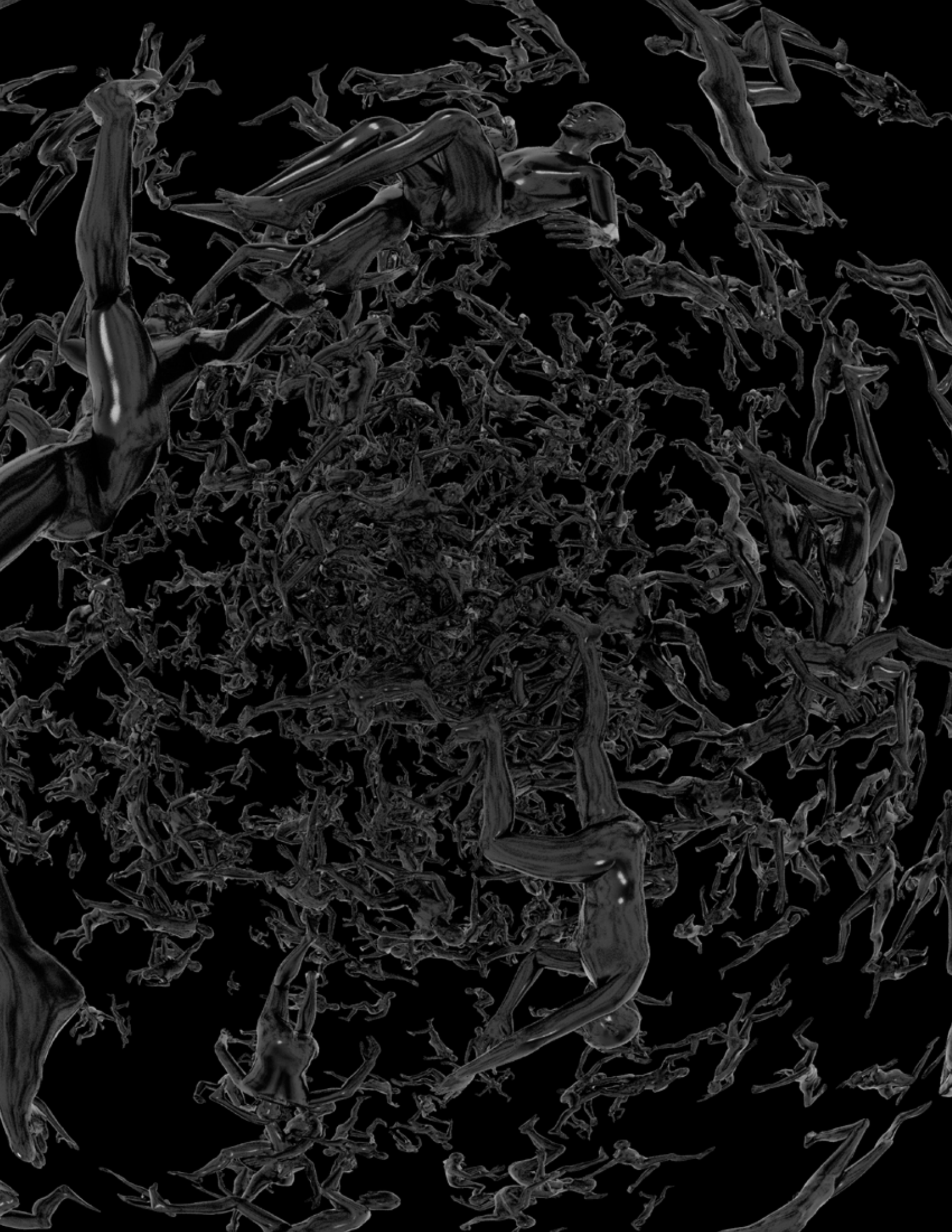
Art Direction and 3D Animation
Josh Sherrett

Sound and Music Composition
Roger Tellier Craig

Produced by
Catherine Chagnon

Free Fall is Dana Gingras's new creation for an immersive dome theatre and virtual reality. The immersive film is a physical experience of vertigo and transcendence, produced by the circular motion of falling bodies subject to gravity. This force flows in us, through us and around us. The immersive experience seeks to stimulate the viewer's senses in unexpected ways, causing surprisingly visceral and psychological sensations that give rise to a feeling of abandonment and movement through a vortex of interstitial space.

Presented in the Satosphère from April 2nd until April 27th, 2019, *Free Fall* offers a temporary escape while reminding us that the pull of the earth and our finality are inescapable. It evokes curiosity and a sense of freedom by blurring the lines between human forms and their movement, and by disrupting our usual understanding of space and how our senses engage within it.



Director's Intention

As a conceiver of physical possibilities, I seek to create transformative narratives for both those who contribute to the creation of my work and those who experience it. The theme of the fall has many metaphorical layers related to the loss of control: jumping, falling and flying are actions common to dream states. Vertigo is also a borderline state that marks the transition from a stable ground to an unstable ground, playing on gravity and anti-gravity parameters.

— Dana Gingras

A Word from the Author

Falling in love or falling into decay and abandonment. The voluntary, confident fall and the irremediable descent of our existence and our abilities. And the vertigo, generated by the fall, in the moment between its initiation and its completion. The political falls of the Chinese dynasties and Roman Empire. The gradual fall of the light, when night falls, and the small accidental falls, which remind us of our fragility and the importance of consciousness. The vision of the defenestrated victims hitting the asphalt border of the ground, and their bodies, those armors that had become unbearable, now defeated, recumbent, after the liberated spirit has flown into the air.

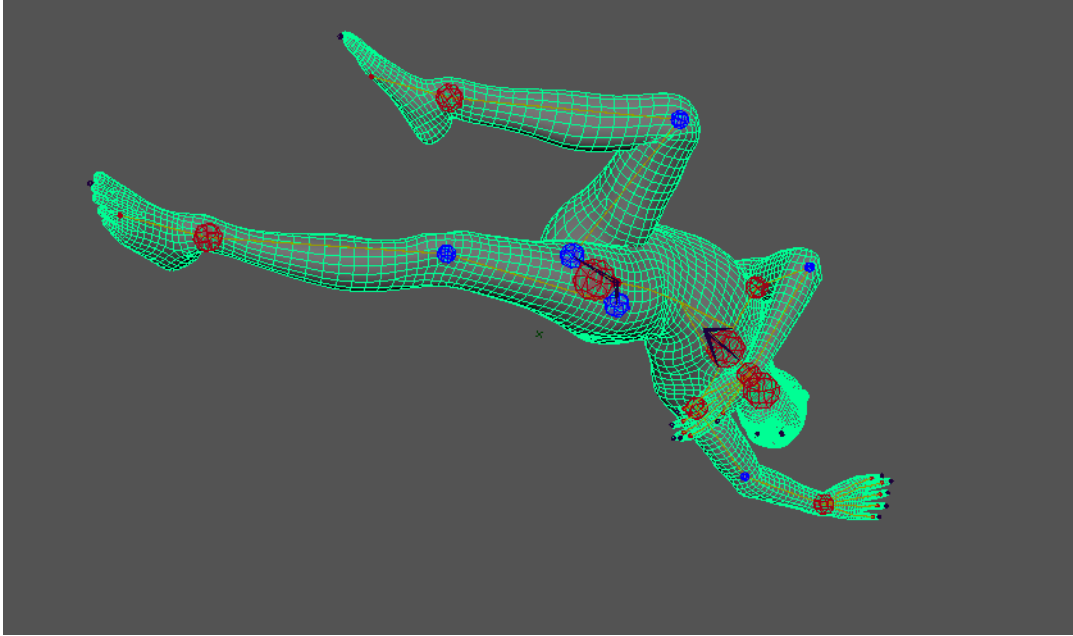
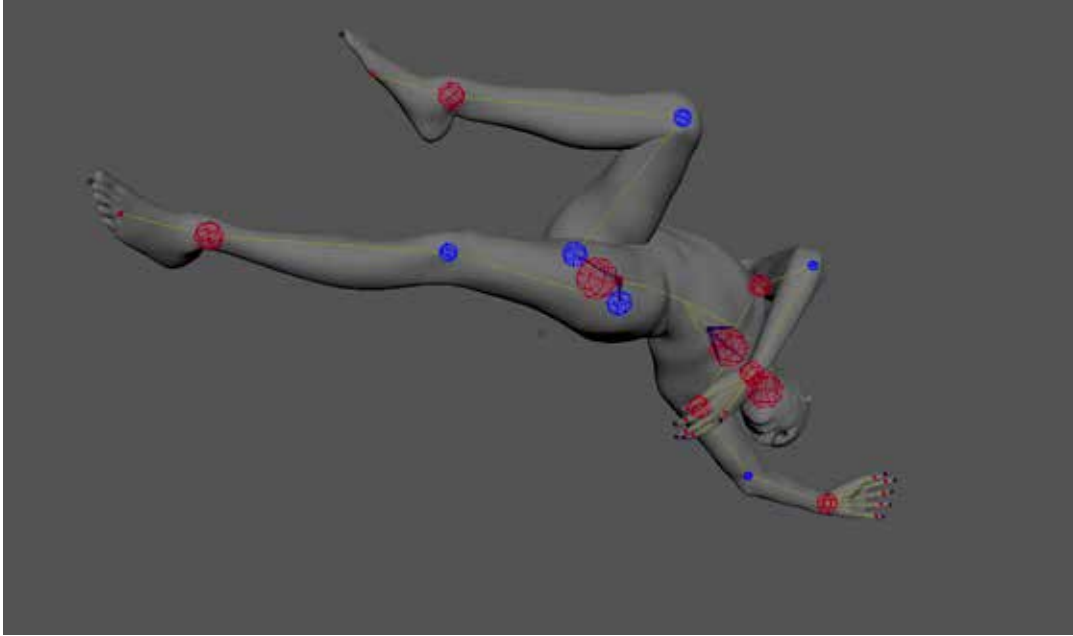
And if the fall had no end? If falling was uninterrupted, in an air corridor, devoid of resistance or obstacles? A permanent fall, floating out of the natural laws that govern the earthly beings. From what fiber would this vertigo be made, inhabited by the visions of a world that streams around us, that we can no longer grasp? This unbearable lightness that flirts with Kundera's idea of an existence without ties, without havens and without accidents. What vertigo, what unimaginable liberation?

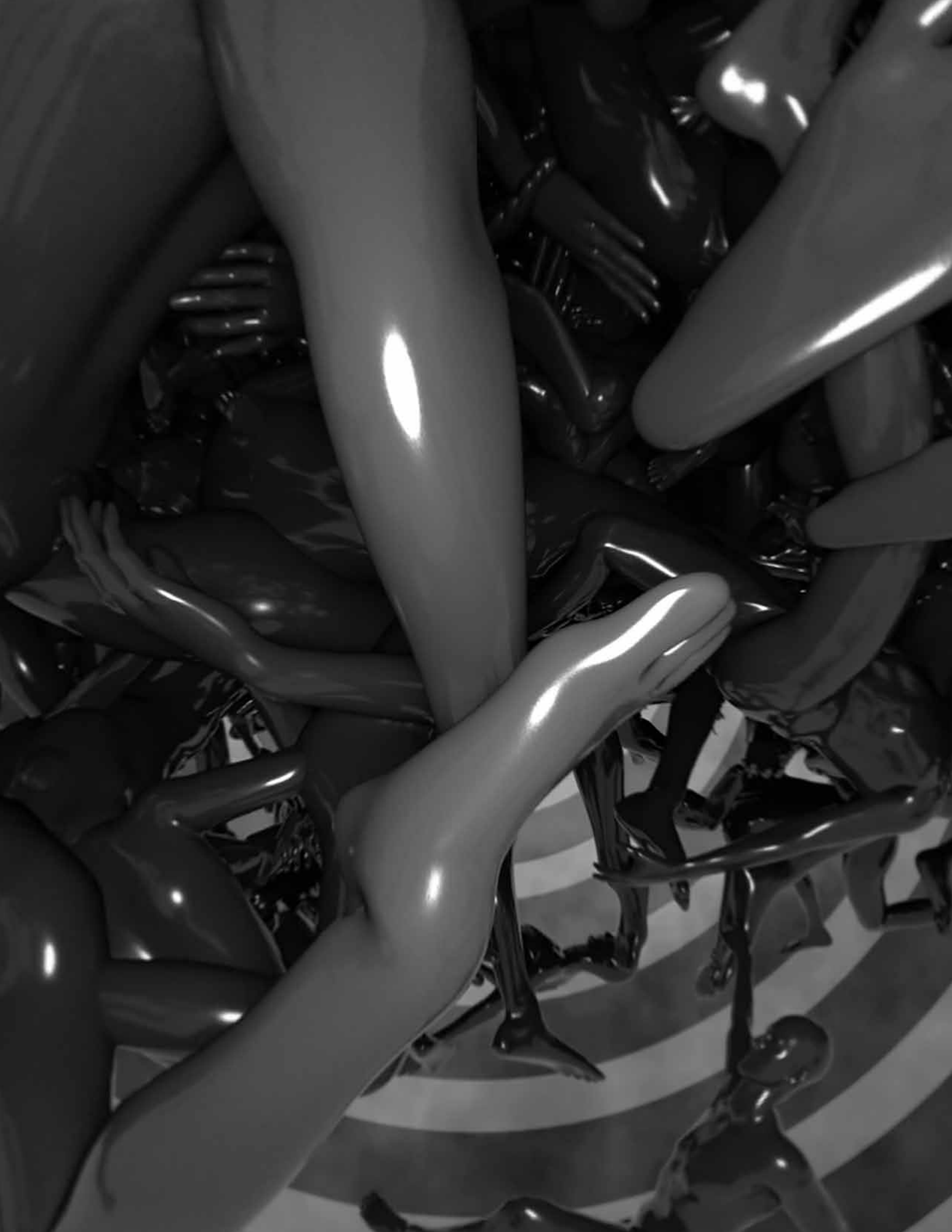
— Marie Brassard

I dream that I am standing on the roof of a skyscraper. There is blood on my hands. My teeth are crumbling, and I am pulling on them one by one. Then, they begin to fall out by themselves. They are regenerating and falling again: a rain of teeth is falling out of my mouth. I watch the little pieces of bone bouncing off of my feet, before falling towards the faraway ground. In the dream I think: teeth falling... this is quite a predictable dream. It might tell of my fear of growing old and losing my power. Or of a nostalgia for childhood. Or that I have trouble holding things together. Maybe while I was awake, I allowed something to escape from my mouth that I shouldn't have. Did I reveal something I should have kept for myself? Something careless or vicious? Have I exposed a secret?

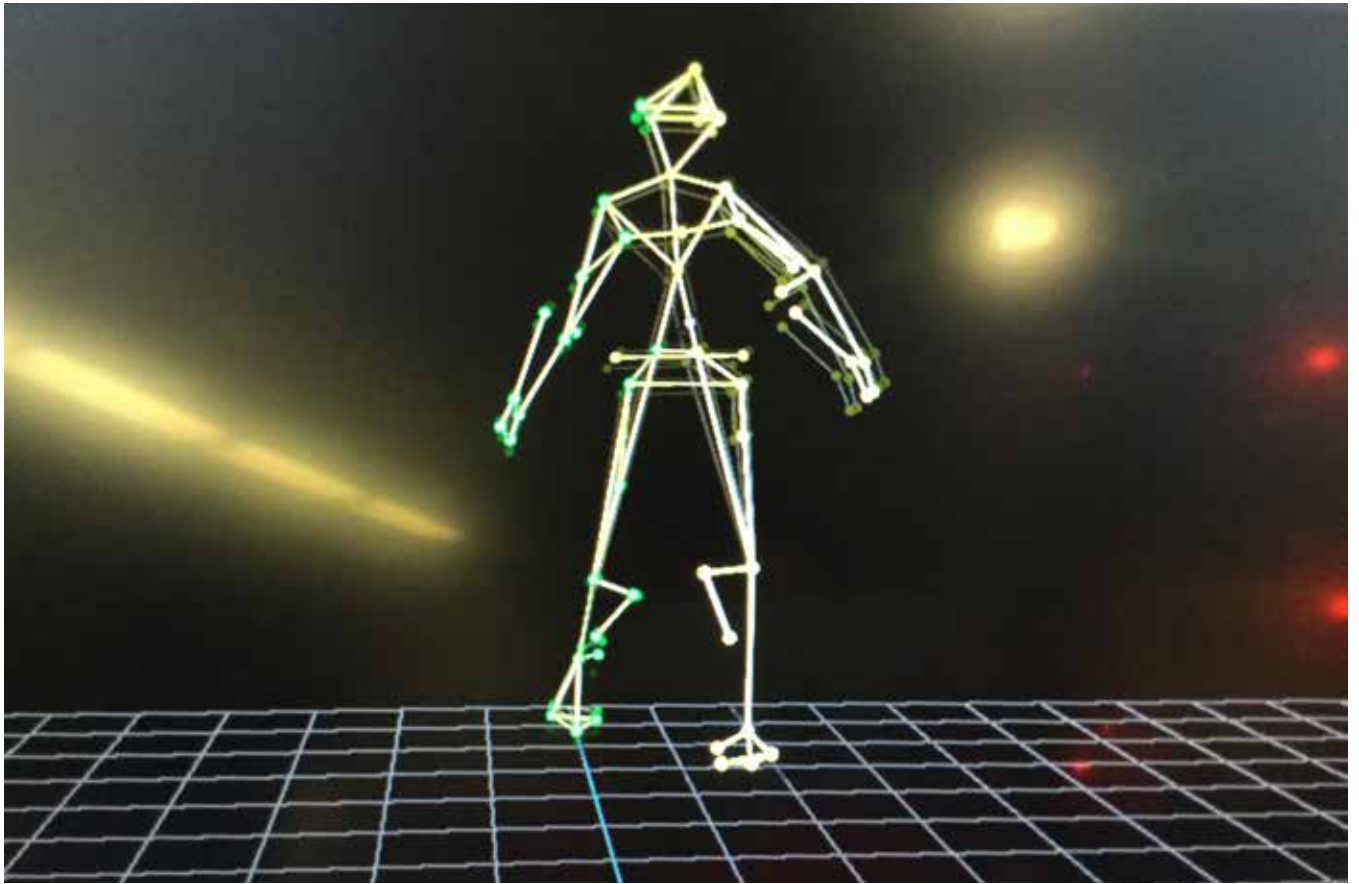
While getting lost in these thoughts I haven't noticed that the landscape around me has shifted somehow. The horizon slowly begins to move upward, and the clouds fade away. Am I dying? I am falling... I begin to count the building's floors as I see apartment windows passing by in front of my eyes. 57th floor, red curtains on an open space, 56th floor, blue shades and green sofa, 55th, a man is cooking a steak in a kitchen, 54th, a couple is making out on a wooden floor, 53rd, children are playing games, 52nd, an empty space in dimmed light...

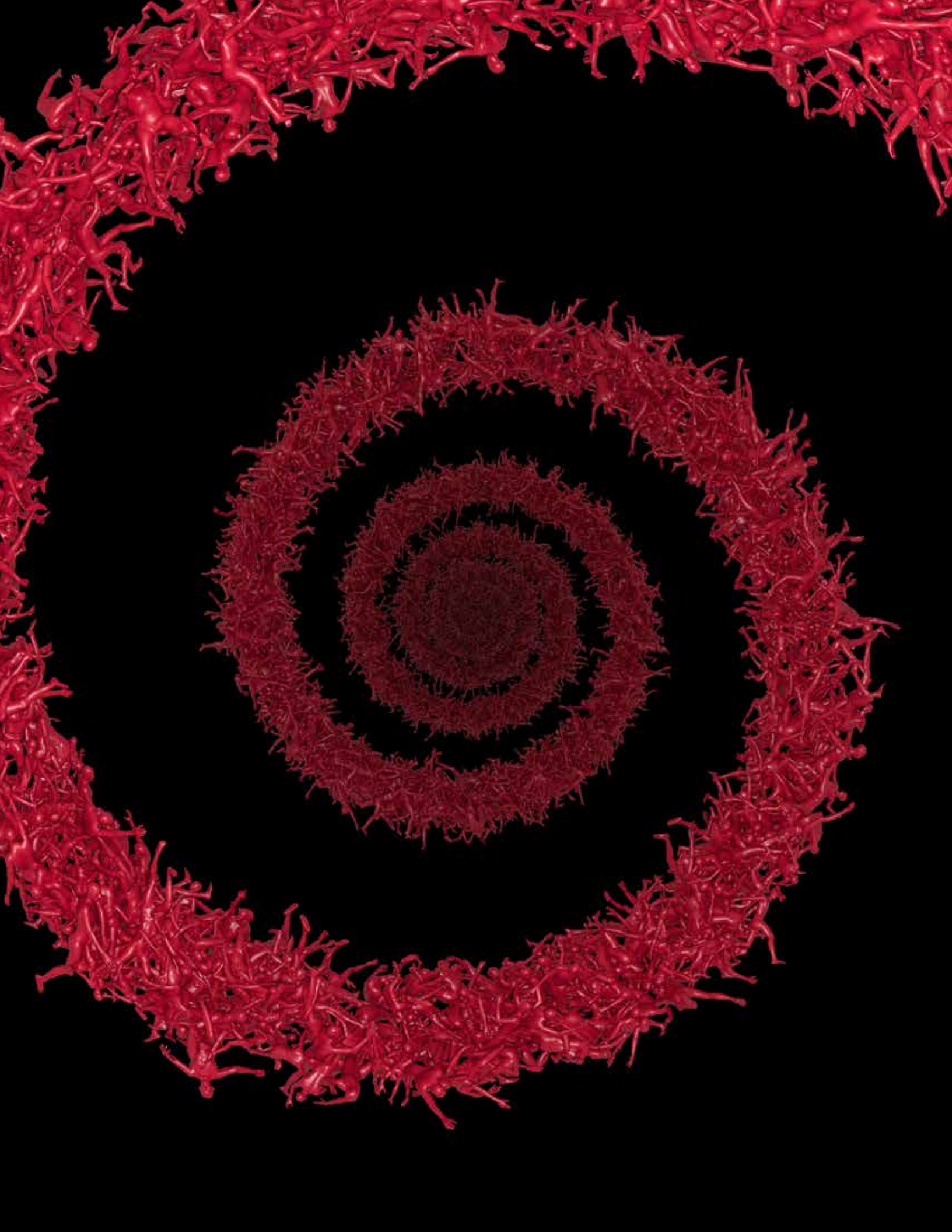
In the dream I think: I will soon reach the dark Underground. I wish I were in love. My love would come and rescue me. Rescue my reason and my wisdom. Instead I'm writing poetry in my head. As I fall 47th, 46th, 45th floor. Down my wisdom and my will, 39th, 38th, 37th. I'm falling down from limbo.











Biographies

DANA GINGRAS is a choreographer, filmmaker, performer and teacher. She co-founded The Holy Body Tattoo (1993), and then with Animals of Distinction (2007), earning numerous awards and honours for its stage and film work. Her short film *Chainreaction* (2014), a Microclimat Films production, world premiered at TIFF. In 2016, *monumental* (2005), this expanded version of the piece with Godspeed You! Black Emperor playing live, has been performed at the Adelaide Festival, Montreal's Place des Arts, Grand Théâtre de Quebec, as part of Luminato Festival at The Hearn Generating Station in Toronto, the Edinburgh International Festival, BAM's NEXT WAVE Festival, the ROMAEUROPA Festival in Italy, MONA FOMA in Tasmania, Australia and most recently at The Barbican Centre in London. In 2017 Dana Gingras/Animals of Distinction was granted the long term residency at the CCOV (Centre de Création O Vertigo) at Montreal's Place des Arts and through this will produce new large scale work entitled *Frontera* which will premiere November 2019.

MARIE BRASSARD is an author, director and actress. In 2001, she initiated a solo career and founded her own production company, Infrarouge. Since then, in close collaboration with musicians and visual artists, she has created surrealist theatre with virtuoso acting skills and innovative video, light and sound installations. Blending voices and music, crossing different levels of reality, her productions carry us to a world in which the lines between private and public become blurred. Indeed, in this world, the relationships between humans and technology become intimate. Expression of a singular voice in the theatrical landscape, her pieces have been presented and warmly received in many countries in the Americas, in Europe, in Japan and in Australia. She occasionally works in the dance world and sometimes acts in films. In the summer of 2016, she was awarded the Quebec's Order of Arts and Letters.

OLIVIER LEMIEUX is a Montreal based trampoline virtuoso and artist acrobat who has worked in high level trampoline. He has performed for Catwall Acrobats, Productions Haut-vols, Cirque du Soleil (*Dralion*), Cirque Éos, and Cirque Éloïze. He has 25 years of experience on stage including tv shows.

Promoted in 2007 from the School of Contemporary Dance in Montreal (EDCM), ESTHER ROUSSEAU-MORIN has since collaborated with companies such as Le Carré des Lombes, L'organisme (Caroline Laurin-Beaucage), Le fils d'Adrien danse, Montréal Danse, Créations Estelle Claretton, Trois Tristes Tigres, and most recently she appeared in *monumental* a production by Animals of Distinction. Rousseau-Morin continues her development by participating in training workshop of the repertoire of several works. She also worked for 6 years as assistant to Sylvain Lafortune's classes, with whom she created *L'un L'autre* presented at Danse Danse in October 2018. The piece *Gratter la pénombre* marks a precious collaboration of 12 years with the company Alan Lake Factori(e).

SOVANN ROCHON-PROM TEP, aka Promo, grew up immersed in Montreal's breaking community. He becomes a member of the Sweet Technique group, with whom he participates in many competitions over the years, further developing his talents. To date, he has chalked up over thirty victories and is frequently invited to participate in competitions around the world, either as a participant or as a judge. His passion for the mastery of the body spurs him to enter the École de danse contemporaine de Montréal in 2011. Since then, he has worked with Animals of Distinction, Castel Blast, RUBBERBANDance Group, 14 lieux, Lilith & Cie and Susanna Hood. Rochon-Prom Tep continues to refine his approach through his own creations and the different workshop he teaches.

Biographies

JOSH SHERRETT is a Montreal-based filmmaker and visual effects master who embodies the rare combination of technical virtuosity with a finely attuned aesthetic instinct. He has worked on countless projects for worldwide high-end corporate (YSL, Mozilla/Firefox, Samsung, Hermès Paris, Reebok, Kijiji, RBC, Sprite, SAQ, CBC, Discovery Channel and National Geographic) and film industry clients (in films such as *Sin City* and *300*) for over 25 years. In 2009 he founded his own post-production house, The Workshop, in the neighbourhood of Mile End. Recent work includes an Art installation with the Sanchez Brothers for Leonard Cohen: *A Crack in Everything* at the MAC and Wiz Khalifa's *Hopeless Romantic* music video.

ROGER TELLIER CRAIG is a Montreal-based electronic musician. Fascinated by both digital and analog tools, his work explores a range of different approaches and technologies to develop a timeless aesthetic. He was a founding member of Fly Pan Am, Et Sans (with Alexandre St-Onge), Set Fire to Flames and Pas Chic Chic, and a guitarist for Godspeed You! Black Emperor. He is currently working very closely with video artist Sabrina Ratté, providing the soundtrack for most of her videos, as well as duet with Sabrina in the audiovisual project, *Le Révélateur*.

CATHERINE CHAGNON produced *Danse Macabre* in 2008, a critically acclaimed short film that won the TIFF Best Canadian Short Film, Jutra and Genie Awards in 2009. In 2010, Chagnon founded the production company Microclimat Films. Focused on producing innovative projects, she has been involved in numerous productions and co-productions. In 2015, she co-produced the Indigenous collective *The Embargo Project*. In 2017, she produced the feature documentary *Rue de la Victoire*, with a world premiere at Hot Docs and an international premiere at El Gouna Film Festival in Egypt. Chagnon is an alumnus of the TIFF Talent Lab 2011, Rotterdam Lab 2012, OMDC International Financing Forum 2015, CineMart 2016, Berlinale Co-Production Market 2016, and BoostNL 2016.

Founded in 2010 by producer Catherine Chagnon, MICROCLIMAT FILMS is a Montreal-based company that develops, produces and distributes films by auteur-directors. The company's primary mission is to produce work using a hands-on approach, acting in collaboration with artists to create engaging and accessible films. In 2018, Microclimat Films received the support of SODEC for its interactive production activities. The company was chosen for the innovative nature of its proposal as well as the strength of its partnerships.

Team

Immersive Animation Film

35 minutes
French & English
2019

Screenplay, Directed and Choreographed by	Dana Gingras		The project was supported by the Society for Arts and Technology (SAT) as part of its residency Art Creation Program
Original Text and Narration	Marie Brassard		
Interpretation	Olivier Lemieux Sovann Rochon-Prom Tep Esther Rousseau-Morin	Financing	Société de développement des entreprises culturelles (SODEC), The Canada Council for the Arts, Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, Society for Arts and Technology (SAT)
Art Direction and 3D Animation	Josh Sherrett		
Sound and Music Composition	Roger Tellier Craig	Market	Atelier Grand Nord RV 2019
Drums	Sam Bobony	Produced by	Catherine Chagnon
Motion Capture	CDRIN		
Recording and Mastering	Hotel2Tango		
Sound Mix	Difuze		
VFX	The Workshop	Production	Microclimat Films Catherine Chagnon, producer catherine@microclimatfilms.com 7059, avenue de l'Épée Montreal (Québec) H3N 2C9 + 1 514 998-4157
		Press Relations (Canada)	IXION Communications Judith Dubeau, Publicist judith.dubeau@ixionscommunications.com + 1 514 495-8176

microclimatfilms/en/films/freefall
facebook.com/chutelibrefreefall/