

# Garden of Earthly Delights

Choreographic show presented by  
Blanca Li

Inspired by Hieronymus Bosch's painting

Show for 9 dancers and one pianist – Duration time: 1:25

70 presentations since its creation  
(Montpellier Dance Festival, June 2009)



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## SUMMARY

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## DISTRIBUTION

### **Choreography and direction:**

Blanca Li

### **Film:**

Eve Ramboz assisted by Claudio Cavalleri

### **Music:**

Tao Gutierrez

### **Sets:**

Pierre Attrait assisted by Elisabeth Dallier

### **Lights :**

Jacques Châtelet

### **Video :**

Charles Carcopino assisted by Simon Frezel

### **Corporal Sculptures:**

Tillmann Grawe

### **Costumes:**

Laurent Mercier, Françoise Yapo

### **Wigs:**

Jean-Jacques Puchu

### **Vocal advisor:**

Jeff Cohen

### **Ballet master:**

Antonio Alvarado

### **Choreography assistant:**

Deborah Torres

### **Piano:**

Jeff Cohen (or David Saliamonas)

### **Dancers:**

Jean-Gérald Dorseuil,

Géraldine Fournier,

Yan Giralidou,

Glysein Lefever,

Blanca Li,

Rafa Linares,

Sebastien Fedj,

Margalida Riera,

Yohann Tete

(Substitutes: Gaël Rougegrez, Deborah Torres, Aurélie Cantin, Anthony Cazaux - Participated to the tour and/or the creation of the show: Amin Benassa, Stéphane Lavallée)

Production : Blanca Li's Company - Coproduction : Montpellier Dance Festival 09, Theatre of Narbonne, AltstadtHerbst Kulturfestival (Düsseldorf), DRAC Ile-de-France, CCN (National Choreographic Center) of Créteil and Val-de-Marne (Home Studio), Studio of the "Maison des Arts" (Créteil) / Film produced by "La Maison".

With the support of CulturesFrance for some tours abroad (Serbia, Spain).



## PRESENTATION

By Blanca Li



Jardin@MuseoNacionaldelPrado

### A long story

«I have a long story dealing with Hieronymus Bosch's painting *Garden of Earthly Delights*. Since I was a child and my parents took me to the Prado Museum in Madrid, the masterpiece has always had a strong influence on me. An abundance of images, beautiful and disturbing at the same time, a world of sensuality and dreams, a time full of innocence, with warm tonalities, the appearance of harmony and so forth. Yet the immediate confrontation with figures directly coming from a nightmare, seem hybrid, violent and invasive. These images depict overactive imagination, that is also fascinating and frightening at the same time. Each time I look at the triptych, I can discover new images that I haven't noticed in the swarming of the bodies.

### The painting

The garden of earthly delights, located in the central panel of the painting, is framed by paradise and hell, depicts a deliciously unlikely world where men and women live in harmony, where life is a game, a place of youth... But behind this apparent serenity, the signs of a progressing metamorphosis also appear, guilty temptations start to go ahead. Then a series of signs and temptations appear to translate the ephemeral and fragile character of an entire world and utopia. The painter describes the rigid society of his time with surrealistic details. He knows that the world (his world) is heading for a fall. He paints a liberty manifesto.

I have always been tempted to continue the movement initiated by Hieronymus Bosch on stage, to give a rise to a choreography inspired by his work where hell mixes with paradise, pleasure with vice, satiric displays with morality and that invites everyone to find their own way to a new world.

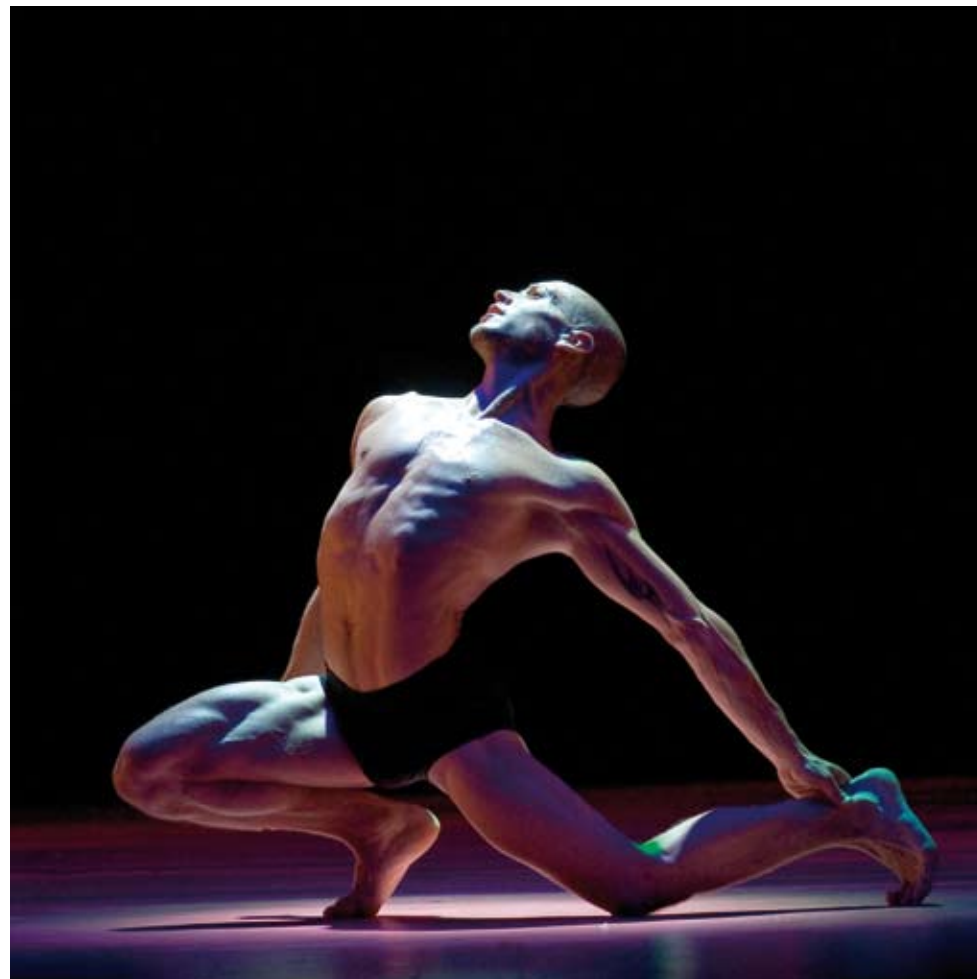
### The encounter

I never found the strength or the opportunity to dedicate myself to a choreography inspired by this painting until now. My decisive encounter with Eve Ramboz, the famous film director and specialist of visual digital effects, has given a new rise to my project. Her new cartoon project was inspired by *Garden of Earthly Delights* so our work was a way to give life to the painting through cinema, body and dance.

## Choreography

Let's imagine an unlikely place ; a representation place made up like a puzzle, a riddle. A collection of objects which refer to another but don't understand each other completely. I chose a pop aesthetics and located my show in a contemporaneous public space with fantastic souls similar to the painting images and inspired by our modern world. It's a u-turn between two different universes. The first one is the Hieronymus Bosch's one, dreamlike and tinged with poetry and supernatural details. The second one depicts my vision of the world, concrete and tritely real. Both interlace and transform.

It's a place where everything is possible, where genders jostle together and mix. A place where madness, freedom, desires, fantasies are embodied, where contradictions of our time join together and come untied...A wild run to consumerist pleasure, excesses, vanities, ordinary perversions' delights. It's a place where one can make love, eat, dance (a crazy and at the same time lucid dance) and play music. The show has been created in the image of the painting: full of surprises and fantasies, with no apparent logic, black and colourful, full of energy, irony and humour». Blanca Li.



Jardin©LaurentPhilippe



## BIOGRAPHIES

### Blanca Li, production and choreography

“Blanca Li is never where we usually expect her to be” (Les Inrocks)



Ali Mahdavi

Since the creation of her dance company in 1993, Blanca Li has added 12 creations to her repertory (*Nana et Lila*, *Salomé*, *l'Amour Sorcier/El Andalous*, *Stress*, *Zap ! Zap ! Zap !*, *Macadam Macadam*, *Borderline*, *Alarme*, *Le Songe du Minotaure*, *Corazón Loco*, *Poeta en Nueva York*, *Garden of Earthly Delights*). From a broad spectrum of corporal forms of expressions, from flamenco to hip-hop through classical dance, Blanca Li has exhibited a very personal type of career. She mixes different disciplines

and universes together in order to tell the story of a common artistic adventure.

Among her most recent creations, *Macadam Macadam*, initiated in 1999 for the Suresnes Festival Cités Danse in France, became a reference in the hip hop genre, and has been specifically created with a new team for the Mogador Theatre in Paris and has always been a great success. *Corazon Loco* produced in January 2007 at the Odysud-Blagnac Theatre in France and at the Theatre National de Chaillot in Paris, gathers company dancers and lyrical singers from the “Sequenza 9.3 Ensemble” in a contemporary score created by Edith Canat de Chizy.

*Poeta en Nueva York*, inspired by Federico García Lorca's poems and experience in New York, was created in July 2007 in Granada (Spain), Alhambra Gardens. Accompanied by the singer Carmen Linares, the dancer Andrés Marín and a group of twenty other dancers, Blanca Li then created a musical mixing jazz and flamenco with the original music by Tao Gutierrez. *Garden of Earthly Delights* inspired by Hieronymus Bosch's famous painting is the company's new show created in June 2009 for the opening of Montpellier Danse Festival.

Blanca Li also creates operas, ballets and musicals. Invited by the National Opera of Paris, she created the ballet-opera *Les Indes Galantes* in 1999 and *Shéhérazade* in 2001. She is appointed artistic director and choreographer of the Berlin Ballet at the Komische Opera during an entire season and created *Le Songe du Minotaure* in 2002 for 24 dancers. In October 2008, she puts on stage *Enamorados Anonimos*, a musical played during seven months at the Teatro Movistar in Madrid. In January 2010, she created *What a Circus!* for the French collective “Jeu de jambes”, pioneer of Jazz Rock in France. In March 2010 she puts on stage the opera *Treemonisha* written by Scott Joplin for the Theatre du Châtelet in Paris. In June 2010, she puts on stage in Spain two operas of the composer Luis de Pablo: *Very Gentle* and *Un Parque*.

In the field of visual arts and multimedia, Blanca Li is invited by the MUSAC, Contemporary Art Museum of Castilla y Leon in Spain, for her first exhibition *Te Voy a Enseñar a Bailar* (I'll teach you how to dance). In September 2009, Blanca Li performs *Ven a Bailar Conmigo* (Come dance with me) for the event *Noche en Blanco* (White Night) in Madrid, a choreographic and interactive stroll.



The exhibition created for the Festival EXIT of the Maison des Arts of Creteil named Dancing Machine has also been presented at the exhibition Lille 3000 in France.

Blanca Li realises her first movie in 2002, *The Challenge*, a tribute to American musicals transposed to the French hip hop world. Her second movie *Step by Step* is a documentary about the wings of the show *Corazon Loco*. She also realises that year *For Her* and plays in the French movie *The Code Has Changed*.

In June 2009, Blanca was named “Associate Artist” of the National Choreographic Center of Créteil and Val de Marne, alongside the new director Mourad Merzouki.

She was named “Officier des Arts et des Lettres” by the Minister of Culture (2007) and “Chevalier de l’Ordre national du Mérite” by the Minister of European Affairs (2004). In 2009, she received the “Medalla de oro al mérito en las Bellas Artes”, a prestigious award given annually by the King of Spain, upon Spanish Minister of Culture proposal, and the “Manual de Falla Prize” in 2004 for her choreographic work.

## **Eve Ramboz, film**

Eve Ramboz is a specialist of digital visual effects and has worked with various films directors: Peter Greenaway (*Prospero’s book*), *Les Morts de la Seine* and *M for man* (court-métrage), Fina Torres (*Mécaniques célestes*, *Woman on the top*), Roland Joffe (*Good Bye lover*, *Vatel*), Brian De Palma (*Mission Impossible*), Steve Baron (*Pi-nocchio*). She also realised the special effects for Elie’s Souleiman movie (*Divine intervention*), *Riders* by Gerard Pires and *Demon lover* by Olivier Assayas. She also created cartoon movies and art movies. She is also the founder member of “La Maison” in Paris, a place dedicated to visual effects. She received many prizes and international distinctions.

## **Pierre Attrait, scenography**

His theatre career leads him to the Centre Dramatique National des Alpes (Grenoble, France), Opera National of Paris, Theatre National of Chaillot (Paris). He put on stage and created the scenery of the operas *André Chenier* and *La Traviata*. Most recently, he turned towards cinema and television as chief decorator. Pierre Attrait also works as artistic director for international events. His latest collaborations include *Corazon Loco* and *Poeta en Nueva York* by Blanca Li, *Blood Ties* by Jean Michel Martial, *Martin Luther King Jr.* by Amou Graïa, *The Exchange* by Sarah Sanders, *Cannibals*, *Notebook of a Return to my Native Land* by Jacques Martial, *Colonial Madness* by Dominique Lurcel and *Nimba* by Circus Boabab.

### **Tao Gutierrez, music**

Born in Grenada (south of Spain), Tao Gutierrez studied musical composition and percussions in New York with Nana Vasconcelos and Ron Carter. After a musical career, he collaborated with one of the most important jazz bands and musicians (Don Cherry), African ones (Baba Olatunji) and Brazilian ones. After this, he came back to Spain in the 90's and started composing music for films (*Poniente*, *The Challenge*, *El Calentito*) and dance (Blanca Li Company). He also worked as a producer and music arranger for several bands such as Hevia and Edu. He recently developed his own musical production named Gaspanic.

### **Jeff Cohen, piano**

Jeff Cohen is a pianist and composer who belongs to those virtuoso whose talent expresses throughout a large scale of fields: movie music and theatre music composer, he also worked as orchestra director, regularly performed with famous artists such as Cecilia Bartoli, June Anderson, Ute Lemper, recorded music (Duparc, Fauré, Gounod, Mozart)... He teaches music at the Superior Conservatory of Paris and advises the National Library of France on its concert programme.

### **Jacques Châtelet, lights**

Jacques Châtelet has worked with Dominique Bagouet, Françoise Adret, Angelin Preljocaj, Catherine Diverres, Jacques Dombrowski, Blanca Li, Régis Obadia and Anne-Marie Porras. He was invited by the Nice opera (Marc Ribaud show), Avignon opera-theatre (Nadine Duffaut show). He also worked on the lighting for Sonia Petrovna, Jean-Louis Grinda, Anne-Marie Porras creations.

### **Charles Carcopino, video**

Since 2000, Charles Carcopino is at the head of the Studio of audio-visual creation at the Maison des Arts of Creteil (France). The studio is a centre of creation and image production dedicated to the stage. He works with numerous artists and directors (video installations, interactive projects...).

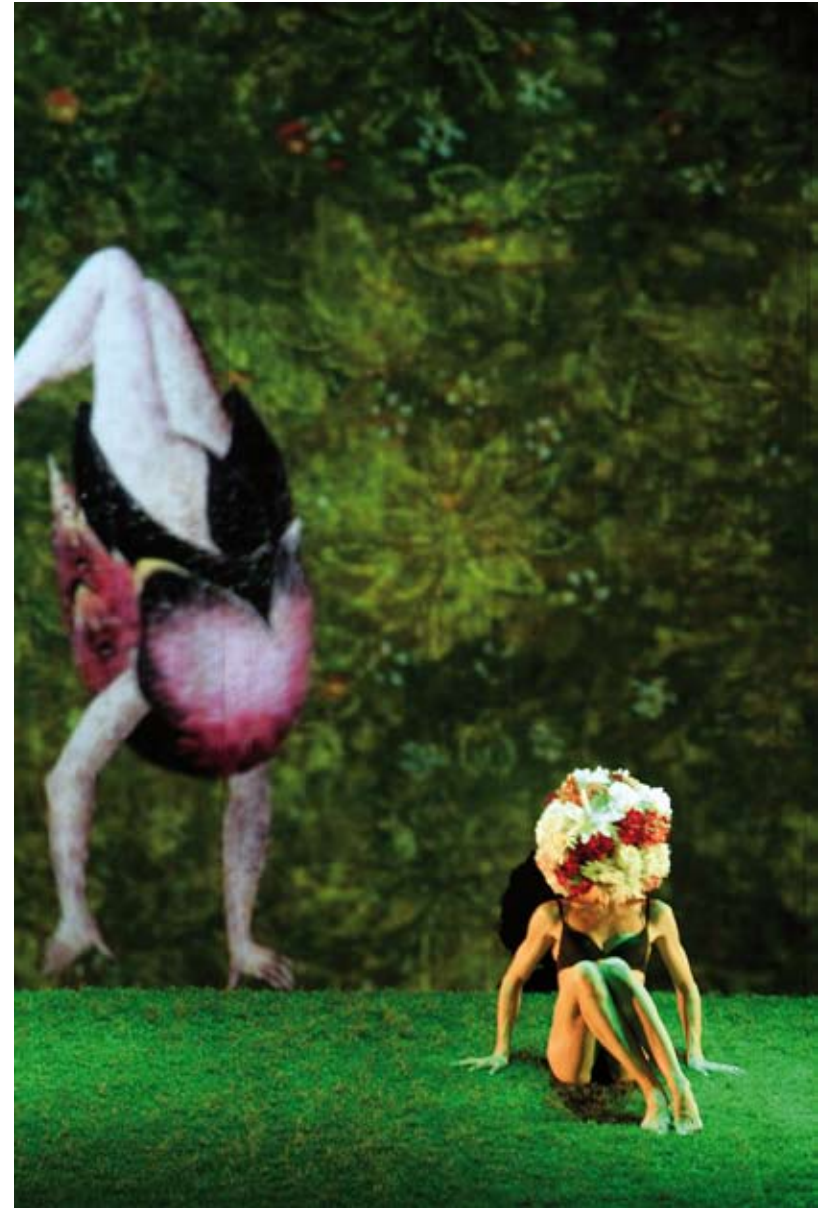
Charles Carcopino has also worked for operas, dance shows, theatre plays, and musicals. At the same time, he created diffusion means for musical events and shows like *Te Voy a Enseñar a Bailar* by Blanca Li and *Equalize me!*. In 2008 he was the exhibition commissioner of Immersion, an exhibition presented during the VIA and EXIT festivals.

## Tilmann Grawe, corporal sculptures

Tilmann Graweis was born in Frankfurt and arrived in Paris in 1987. He first started his career at Louis Féraud Haute Couture and soon became Paco Rabanne's right hand man by creating Haute Couture experimental models. From Paris to Rome, passing through Chicago, Central Asia and Latin America, this fashion designer loves testing new experiences, mixing modern and classical materials. He works with plexiglas in a lot of his creations.

## Laurent Mercier, costumes

Laurent Mercier started his career as a fashion designer at Di Marino Haute Couture in Lausanne (Switzerland). He was hired by Jean Paul Gaultier as head of the Research and Development Parisian office for Natalie Acatrini S.A. et Crisca S.A collections. He continued his professional life next to Lenny Kravitz, photographers or movie directors (Mondino, Ruven Afanador, Matthew Rolston, Mark Romanek, Anton Corbijn). Back to France he worked in show business, cinema, and advertisement areas and also for various artists (Vanessa Paradis, Nina Hagen, Blanca Li, Amanda Lear, Sylvie Vartan, Sinclair, Indochine, Blur, Les Innocents...). He also had experience as costume designer for theatre plays, ballets and the audiovisual sector (movies, advertisements, video clips...).







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## TOUR CALENDAR

2009/2010

### JUNE

19 and 20: Montpellier Dance Festival (World première), **France**  
 26, 27, 28, 29, 30: Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Paris, **France**

### JULY

3: Sens Festival, **France**  
 11: Festival des 2 Cités, Carcassonne, **France**  
 13: Les Estivales de Perpignan, **France**

### SEPTEMBER

23: Cadences Festival, Arcachon, **France**  
 30: Alstadtherbst Kulturfestival, Dusseldorf, **Germany**

### OCTOBER

1er, 2, 3: Alstadtherbst Kulturfestival, Dusseldorf, **Germany**  
 6: Burghof, Lörrach, **Germany**  
 10: Staatstheater festival N.O.W. Dance Saar, Sarrebruck, **Germany**  
 16: Corbeil-Essonnes Theatre, **France**  
 20, 21: Bonlieu National Scene, Annecy, **France**  
 30: Gare du Midi, Biarritz, **France**

### NOVEMBER

24, 25, 26, 27, 28: Maison des Arts (MAC), Scène nationale de Créteil, **France**

### DECEMBER

2: Le Théâtre, Scène nationale de Narbonne, **France**  
 4: Théâtre Molière, Scène nationale de Sète, **France**  
 11: Carré-Belle Feuille, Boulogne-Billancourt, **France**

## TOUR CALENDAR

2010/2011 (in progress)

2010

### JANUARY

- 12: Odyssée Théâtre, Périgueux, **France**
- 14: Théâtre du Vellein, Villefontaine, **France**
- 15: Le Toboggan, Décines, **France**

### FEBRUARY

- 2: Le Pin Galant, Mérignac, **France**
- 4: Le Manège, Scène nationale de Maubeuge, **France**
- 6: Festival du Pays de Danse (Centre culturel de Huy), **Belgium**

### MARCH

- 11: L'Avant-Seine, Colombes, **France**
- 16, 17: Théâtre 71, Scène nationale de Malakoff, **France**
- 20: Le Parvis, Scène nationale de Tarbes, **France**
- 23, 24, 25: Odyssud, Blagnac, **France**
- 31: Théâtre national de Nice, **France**

### APRIL

- 1er, 2: Théâtre national de Nice, **France**
- 3: Théâtre en Dracénie, Draguignan, **France**

### MAY

- 2: Opera Madlenianum, Belgrade, **Serbia**
- 7, 8, 9: Teatro Principal, Saragosse, **Spain**
- 21: Festival Kultur Pur, Siegen, **Germany**
- 27: Festival Chemins de Traverse (Espace Michel-Simon), Noisy-le-Grand, **France**
- 29: Teatro Jovellanos, Gijon, **Spain**

### JUNE

- 1st: Teatro Gayarre, Pampelune, **Spain**
- 3 : Teatro Principal, Vitoria, **Spain**

### JULY

- 17: Festival Teatro a Corte, Turin, **Italy**

### SEPTEMBER

- 24: Théâtre municipal de Grenoble, **France**
- 28, 29: L'Espace 1789 à Saint-Ouen, **France**

### OCTOBER

- 19, 20: Le Moulin du Roc, Scène nationale de Niort, **France**
- 23: Centre culturel de Taverny, **France**

### NOVEMBER

- 9: La Coursive, Scène nationale de La Rochelle, **France**
- 20: Théâtre municipal de Béthune, **France**

### 2011 (in progress)

#### FEBRUARY

- 4: Théâtre Olympe de Gouges (Salle Eurythmie), Montauban, **France**
- 16: Théâtre municipal de Béziers, **France**

#### MAY

- 15: Espace Château Blanc, Montargis, **France**

## PRESS

**Le Figaro:** « An extraordinary Montpellier Danse Festival ovation (...). Blanca Li is possessed by Bosch's exultant madness. The beauty is all around, as fantasy, fascination and real funniness. But it's the humanity portrait that transforms the show in a really moving one » Ariane Bachelier (june 2009)

**Le Monde:** «Blanca Li has telescoped two styles, two tendencies: the show (close to a French contemporaneous café theatre) and pure dance. Blanca Li draws characters very easily et knows exactly how to transform the most daily situations. She also observes her fellows' habits and customs in order to create theatrical sketches». Rosita Boisseau (july 2009)

**AFP:** «The choreographer opened the Montpellier Dance festival with an eccentric, poetical interpretation of the garden of earthly delights. In the document that presented her creation, Blanca Li was describing that she was in an euphorically moment. At the end, the public appropriates this euphoria and jubilation». (june 2009)



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