Dear Judith,

Please find enclosed my report sharing my research in Tokyo, Japan during July 2013. The report is a reflection on my experience before and during my stay.

It has been of great value to be awarded my the LUTSF and to this day I still benefit from the trip to Japan and the research I went through. As such a research was extremely complex, a lot of the questions are still unanswered yet on going. However, I'm now aware of the profound differences between the west and east.

Thank you so much for this amazing opportunity.

If you require any further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

All the best,

Paolo Mangiola

Report LUTSF

To be awarded by the LUTSF it has had a great impact in the way I now engage with my choreographic practice. The trip to Tokyo as helped me to create links and partnership that to this day are very valuable.

In July 2013, thanks to the LUTFS, I've travelled to Tokyo Japan where I managed to continue my on-going research into the subject of nuclear energy. This trip was an incredible revelation that influenced the way I now think about the subject as well as helping me in engaging thoroughly with Japanese culture.

The research started in 2012, when I decided to create a solo work for a Japanese dancer in response to the Fukushima accident in 2011. I wanted to explore questions around the impact that the use of nuclear energy has in our societies in particular looking at Japanese culture. I wanted to frame these questions not just in a physical context but also looking at the emotional and economical impact that nuclear energy has had in our daily lives. After the creation of the solo I still had a lot to explore and I decided to apply for the LUTFS to go to Japan and engage with first hand experience.



I landed in Narita Airport on the 1th of July 2013. The weather was extremely hot and humid. Tokyo is one of the best cities I've been so far. The politeness of the people is overwhelming. I knew I was in the right place to continue an indepth research started in 2012.

Months before my trip, I managed to organise a week of classes were I would teach a contemporary technique class with an exchange of an impro-lab at the end of each session. During these labs some of the questions I've had, would had been addressed by the Japanese dancer's community. I had the fortune to engage with one of the leading institutions for contemporary dance, Architanz, which were supporting my research and offering spaces. The classes over the week were followed with enthusiasm and thanks to that I immediately start off my next phase of the research.



With the help of PhD anthropologist doctor Mary Reisel, which I met on my second day of classes, we set up a meeting everyday were we would look at how Japan has reacted on the last earthquake. We were trying to understand, from an anthropological point of view, how Japanese have reacted to the accident.

Everything started to peel off and we recognised that those questions were rooted into a very interesting and more profound question. What were the cultural differences from the west? I quickly realised that the discourse around the Fukushima accident was just the tip of the iceberg of a very different cultural frame that we in the west are not very familiar.

The research touched on themes from traditional values to pop culture. The opportunity to discuss these points, within the Japanese context, enriched my knowledge and stimulated a debate that also addressed profound themes like family, interconnectivity and discipline.

With the help of Doctor Reisel I framed an interview targeted for young Japanese people. I engaged with students that were present when the Fukushima reactor exploded and was able to capture the intense revelations that these people had to go through during and after the event. I managed to grasp, even if for a tiny moment, their emotions. The way they responded to that accident was becoming clearer for me. Ultimately all these contents collected, have helped me to create a framework that I could then use it in the studio for my next project.

The LUTSF provided a rare opportunity to take the time and resources to concentrate on a subject to me very relevant. Has allowed me the space and time for my practice to emerge within a different context. I've managed to lead a contemporary class course in Tokyo and immerge myself into a whole new perspective of what the dance scene in Tokyo is. I've been able to start a debate that was challenging which in turn enriched my own artistic



voice.

Moreover it

provided me the financial flexibility to take a risk to explore a topic that is very rich and complex offering a very valuable opportunity for my professional development.

Thanks to the scholarship I also engaged with the art scene of Tokyo and managed to establish relationships with curators and artists present at that time. I believe that the trip to Tokyo has helped me to engage not only with a very challenging topic, but has helped me as well to increase my visibility as an artist in the Asian dance industry.

