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## Portrait of... collection Latvia

An insight into a dance research collecting movement signatures



By Sara Koluchova

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Dance Research NRW



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## **Movement Signature**

A movement a person feels identifies them.

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## **Portrait title**

A title of ones portrait not including theirs name.

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## **Music preference**

A song that moves ones feelings or body.

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## **Interview**

A personal conversation based on 10 main questions.

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## **Latvia**

A country in Europe. Neighboring Lithuania, Estonia, Belarus and Russia. At the Baltic Sea. Capital city is Riga. 1884000 citizens. Official language is Latvian.

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## **Ģertrūdes ielas teātris**

Local partner in Riga.

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## **PAiR**

Local partner in Pāvilosta.

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## **Vecate library**

Local partner in Vecate.

## Portrait of... collection Latvia

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13th April – 7th May

10 interviews

10 movement signatures

12 music preferences

10 life stories

10 people in the age 25–89

10 people with or without disability

10 people Latvian/Russian/Ukrainian

10 voice recordings

10 videos

10 translations

1 movement laboratory

4 cries

10 laughs

8 dances

3 texts

10 association chains

25 days of exploration

25 days of dancing

25 days of encounters

23 days of kinesthetic empathy

20 days of questioning

1 day with Labanotation

5 days of frustration



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## Portrait of Kitesurfer

**Movement signature**

Change of personality

From ballet to ice hockey

Active

Let go



**Music preference**

Sinepes – Par Raimi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mAj0kqK30ak>



## Portrait of Typical Latvian



### Movement signature

Peace with right hand

Strong

Terminal accent

Tension in fingers

### Music preference

Queen – Bohemian Rhapsody

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJ9rUzIMcZQ>

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# Portrait of Labsirdīgā

Kindhearted



**Movement signature**

Plastic ballet hands

Third

Allongé

Into space

**Music preference**

Edgars Liepiņš – Tāpēc Jau, Ka Nevar Zināt  
Kāpēc

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FyxtjRx54JI>

# Portrait of POZITĪVS RATINĒNIEKS

Positive wheelchairer



## Movement signature

Wheelchairing

Relaxed

Smooth

Turning

## Music preference

Sudden lights – Aijā

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXvq8efso5U>



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# Portrait of VARONĪGS

Heroic



**Movement signature**

Washing dishes

Soft

Independent

Specific finger detail



**Music preference**

Enrique Iglesias – Hero

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=koJlIGDImiU>



## Portrait summary collection Latvia

Portrait title	Movement signature	Music preference
Portrait of Labsirdīgā	Plastic ballet arms	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FyxtjRx54JI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FyxtjRx54JI</a>
Portrait of Artistic Mess	Ballet position in hands	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfA2oATSf9Q">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfA2oATSf9Q</a>
Portrait of Multitasker	Hand gesture – expressive	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVFTl9IjkwQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVFTl9IjkwQ</a>
Portrait of Hardship guy and delicate lady	Running around!	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07xTvC5a9YQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07xTvC5a9YQ</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uuY0QJYeYjs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uuY0QJYeYjs</a>
Portrait of Kitesurfer	Change of personality	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mAjQkqK30ak">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mAjQkqK30ak</a>
Portrait of VARONĪGS/Heroic	Washing dishes – soft	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=koJlIGDImiU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=koJlIGDImiU</a>
Portrait of POZITĪVS RATIŅNIEKS / positive wheelchairer	Wheelchairing – being relaxed	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXvq8efso5U">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXvq8efso5U</a>
Portrait of CERĪBA	Love with left arm	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6PzwN6diTk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6PzwN6diTk</a>
Portrait of Typical Latvian	Peace with right arm	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJ9rUzIMcZQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJ9rUzIMcZQ</a>

## A poem by Annija Broniča

A. Broniča is a Riga based artist/writer. She observed the research process and transformed the collection into written form. This poem was created inspired by the collected movement signatures. Capturing one portrait.

### Portrait of Labsirdīgā

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Pār mūsu upi naktī mežapīles klie dz,  
un mēs vien zinām, kā tas ir.  
Naktī.  
Laivā.  
Uz upes.  
Tev līdzās.  
Tava bezgalīgā pacietība un mana atnākšana.  
Tagad  
bezmiega naktīs  
pie mūsu upes  
kukažiņa sēž.  
Un tikai mežapīles zina,  
kas palika nepateikts.  
Tikmēr  
Kazbeka kalnā  
putenī aizsnieg aizas,  
un mūžīgajos sniegos  
iesalis dzejolis par spītu un sievietes  
klusēšanu...

\*\*\*

At night over our river mallards cry  
and only we know how it feels.  
At night.  
In a boat.  
On a river.  
Next to you.  
Your boundless perseverance and my eventual  
arrival.  
Now  
on sleepless nights  
by our river  
sits a crooked old lady.  
And only mallards know  
what was left unsaid.  
Meanwhile  
on Mount Kazbek  
chasms are snowed in by a blizzard  
and in the perpetual snow  
lies a frozen poem about tenacity and  
silence of a woman...

# Movement laboratory tasks

## Task 1.

1. Choose a movement signature from the collection
2. Choose a direction where you will lead your body parts
3. Transform the movement signature with the decided directions

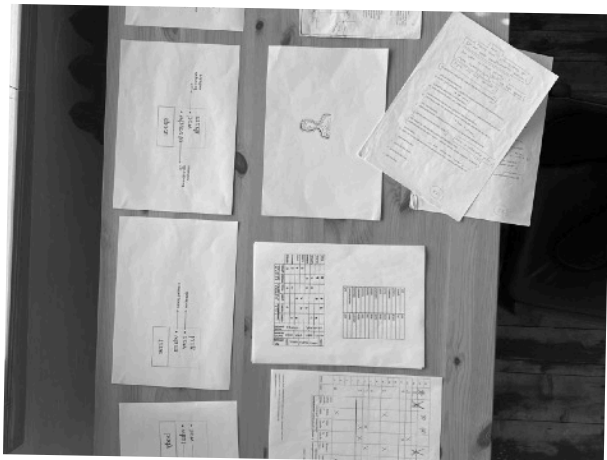
## Task 2.

1. Choose a movement signature from the collection
2. Inspired by the movement signature create a short dance composition
3. Dance it with music preference of the movement signature

## Task 3.

1. Decide your own notation system
2. Notate the above created transformations in your notation system
3. Archive it and one day return to it and recall your creations

Photo gallery





## Links

<https://www.nrw-kultur.de/en/programmes/dance-research-nrw/projects/dance-research-nrw-49>

<https://git.lv/en/theater>

<https://pair.lv/>

<https://dance.lv/>

<https://www.apeirons.lv/>

<https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/distributed/K/bo12323986.html>

<http://theatre.lv/arhivets/nelugtais-pakalpojums-annija-bronica-pretinde-rugtumam/>

<https://modrisopelts.wordpress.com/>

<https://sara-koluch-ova.webnode.cz/>

## Research team collection Latvia

Modris Opelts (LV/DE)

Dramaturg and translator (ENG–LV)

Who are you in this project?

*“I am a wooden wheel on a Tesla.”*

Sara Koluchova (CZ/DE)

Initiator and dance researcher

Who are you in this project?

*“I am the dog in a restaurant with too many dishes on the menu”*

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