



## RESEARCH PROJECT - MOVING WOMEN IN PUBLIC SPACE AT NIGHT

The possibility of a supposedly knife in his pocket made me crumble. I was expected to act vulnerable and give in without hesitation. A scream released my situation...

*Women's sense of security in public spaces is profoundly shaped by our inability to secure an undisputed right to occupy that space. The curtailing of movement is not a infrequent response to violent and threatening encounters in public. (Hamer and Saunders 1984)*

*Fear of 'the world' as the scene of a future injury works as a form of violence in the present, which shrinks bodies in a state of afraidness, a **shrinkage** which may involve a refusal to leave the enclosed spaces of home, or a refusal to inhabit what is outside in ways that anticipate injury (walking alone, walking at night and so on). Such feelings of vulnerability and fear hence shape women's bodies as well as how those bodies inhabit space. Vulnerability is not an inherent characteristic of woman's bodies rather, it is an effect that works to secure femininity as a delimitation of movement in the public, and over-inhabitation in the private. (Sara Ahmed, The Cultural Politics of Emotion)*

My curiosity lies in the gesture/ movement/ concept of **enlargement**. I don't know yet what it precisely is, how it moves and what it resembles. I have an image of a 5 headed organism moving through public space at night as one entity using Contact Improvisation principles as its vehicle. Can we by enlarging, move through space without reflexes of shrinking? How does this change present textures and surfaces?

In mythology these women might be referred to as monstrous. The giantess. Gríðr in Nordic mythology.

### MY ROLE

In this project I take the role of initiator, shaper, sifter, choreographer, researcher.

### EXCHANGE

I'm looking for 4 women CI movers, who can engage themselves for 18 hours (one weekend ending of September and 4 times 3 hours in October). There is no financial support. At the same time I want your time to be validated not just by offering an experience. As an exchange I offer my time. Every participant will receive 18 hours of my time to have me cook, clean, read, write, sing ... for you.