



Lucile Saada CHOQUET

About the artist

Lucile Saada Choquet (she/adopted – FR) is a Brussels-based artist-researcher who develops her own artistic language from a feminist and decolonial perspective situated in the Global North. Trained as an actress at Arts2 (Belgium), she experiments with performance, dramaturgy and directing, questioning the porosity between the performing arts and the visual arts. Defining herself as an artist, Lucile Saada is concerned with social movements, their narratives and their various impacts on the bodies of minority groups. She creates forms that engage with political bodies and rethink collective imaginaries. Central to her work are the relationships between the intimate and the political, literature and archiving. With *Jusque dans nos lits* (Prix Maeterlinck for “best discovery” in the 2022-2023 season (Belgium)), she situates her work in the context of collective healing for colonial traumas. She is currently conducting artistic research into international adoption: *Who Adopts Whom? A (Re)search for Love and Justice* from the experience of a transracial and transnational adoptee. With the SAADA STATION, a research space created within the Future Laboratory programme, she develops documentary and scenic processes to subvert the romanticized narrative of international adoption. She will continue her investigation by shifting her gaze and her practice with a series of return visits between Ethiopia and Belgium. This research is supported by the Fonds de la Recherche en Art/PDR-FRArt (2024-2026).

About the research

Who Adopts Whom? A Quest for Love and Justice

From the perspective of a transracial and transnational adoptee

Who Adopts Whom? is an artistic research project focused on international adoption that presents itself as a quest for love and justice, based on the experience of a transracial and transnational adoptee in the Global North. Lucile Saada Choquet was born in Djibouti to Ethiopian parents, and she lives and works in Europe. In October 2022, she came out of an invisible condition, turning the shame of being black and adopted into a research subject. Lucile Saada Choquet decided to listen to her inner howl and investigate her anger at the dominant, romanticised narrative of international adoption.

During two years of research, she wrote about and documented the coloniality, illicit practices and abuses that underpin the international adoption system, in order to symbolically do justice to the experiences of adopted people. Who benefits from the international adoption system? In the service of what political project? She never stops questioning and analysing what makes it possible to reproduce capitalist violence. Lucile Saada Choquet's aim is to use the memory of the body as archive(s) to represent what international adoption does to the bodies of racialised adoptees. How can we use the performative arts to create non-hegemonic imaginaries? By writing about reality and the memory of a body that has been dispossessed, displaced and appropriated, how can we unfold a theatricality of chaos? She develops a dramaturgy that combines literary, scientific, activist, historical and personal approaches. By organising non-mixed encounters with adoptees, she contributes to the collective transmission of empirical knowledge and she feeds her questions linked to making family and to the search for a diaspora made up of adoptees.

About the presentation

The SAADA STATION, travelling art space directed by Lucile Saada Choquet, invites you to celebrate the anniversary of her arrival in France. The festivities will take place at the Grand Théâtre de la Ville de Luxembourg, 29th November 2024.

You're in luck! With this event, we are joining the global movement of the Adoptees Month/Mois des Adopté.e.s. This event has been eagerly awaited for many years by a large number of internationally adopted people. We look forward to seeing many of you there! Warmly, The SAADA STATION.

#smashinternationaladoption

Residencies during the project

- Théâtre National de Strasbourg: 30th January – 10th February 2023
- Queen's Theatre Hornchurch: 8th – 20th April 2024
- Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg: 17th – 28th June 2024