

Crystal Pite – NDT 1 & Kidd Pivot
[title tbd]**1 – 4 October, 2026**
Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia

A site specific project for Collezione Maramotti
Commissioned and coproduced by Festival Aperto/Fondazione I Teatri - Reggio Emilia
in collaboration with Collezione Maramotti and Max Mara



Crystal Pite, © Michael Slobodian

Canadian choreographer **Crystal Pite** has been a defining voice in contemporary dance for over 35 years. She is renowned for creating works that courageously address themes such as trauma, addiction, conflict, consciousness and mortality. Her bold and original vision has earned her widespread international acclaim and inspired an entire generation of dance artists.

Her new project – part of the Festival Aperto 2026 programme – is a collaboration between Fondazione I Teatri / Festival Aperto, Collezione Maramotti, Pite's dance company, Kidd Pivot, and leading contemporary dance company Nederlands Dans Theater (NDT), of which she has been Associate Choreographer since 2008. This project intersects paths that have helped shape contemporary dance over the last twenty years: the creation will take shape in dialogue with the architecture, history and works of the Collezione Maramotti and its collection and will be performed by dancers from NDT 1 and Kidd Pivot, continuing the collaboration begun in 2009 between Fondazione I Teatri, Collezione Maramotti and Max Mara aimed at creating a dialogue between choreography and visual arts.

Dance as a force that wears a human body

For Crystal Pite, craft is a vessel through which she moves towards coreographic art. Approaching creation from the identity of the craftsperson, choreography becomes expression of manual labour: to build, assemble, trim, tinker, revise and polish a work is to expose its shiniest insights. This attention to craft is the starting point for Pite's new creation, which reflects on the Collezione Maramotti's original function as the Max Mara factory, and on the artisans who once worked there for decades.

"The tailors and seamstresses who made their living there, whose hands produced the garments that made the brand famous: theirs was the craft of making clothing for the moving, breathing human body. My own craft is not dissimilar: I like to think of dance as a force that wears a human body," she shares. This perspective also connects to her ongoing interest in animation, puppeteering, and the craft of deception. In these uncanny illusions of aliveness, we confront the question of consciousness itself.

"We have followed Crystal Pite for years, with deep admiration, drawn to the extraordinary language with which she gives new shape and new bodies to the profound undercurrents of human experience. Her choreographic works – at once utterly original and deeply archetypal, rigorous and overwhelming – are intimately bound to the imaginaries of contemporary art. We are therefore profoundly honoured to present at Collezione Maramotti her first choreography conceived for a non-theatrical space. From the very first site visit, a sensitivity to manual work – its gestures, the quiet emergence of a kindness rooted in the things of the world – guided Pite's gaze towards the place and the memories that live within it: an industrial building, a fashion house, a container of ideas – now transformed into a space for art. Pite's visionary dance will weave freely through the porous, layered history of a building where for over fifty years seamstresses and designers worked side by side, spinning a thread between past, present and original creation." *Sara Piccinini, director of Collezione Maramotti*

"Our relationship with Collezione Maramotti is a partnership that belongs to us deeply – one that began in 2009 and has grown over time through extraordinary encounters: from Trisha Brown to Shen Wei, from Wayne McGregor to Hofesh Shechter, from Dimitris Papaioannou to Peeping Tom and Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker. Each of these has changed something in the way we look at the relationship between the dancing body and the space of art.

With Crystal Pite, this dialogue takes a new direction: her attention to the act of making, to gesture, and to the care that settles into every movement, meets naturally with the history of that place – a former factory where, for years, the hands of seamstresses and workers shaped forms for bodies in motion. There is something profoundly right about the fact that she, in her first experience in a non-theatrical space, should encounter precisely this place – one with which her work seems to enter into a natural dialogue, built on echoes and correspondences.

And then there is the extraordinary nature of the encounter itself: Crystal Pite, the dancers of Kidd Pivot and NDT 1, three absolute protagonists of the contemporary scene. It is hard not to expect something truly special." *Paolo Cantù, director of Fondazione I Teatri*

Crystal Pite – NDT 1 & Kidd Pivot

1 and 2 October 2026, h 7.00pm – h 9.00 pm

3 October 2026, h 6.30pm – h 8.30pm

4 October 2026, h 4.00pm – 6.00pm

Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia

Free visiting hours of the permanent collection on the dates of the performances – only for ticket holders of the respective performances: to be defined.

Crystal Pite

In a choreographic career spanning 35 years, Pite has created more than sixty works for companies such as The Royal Ballet, Nederlands Dans Theater, The Paris Opera Ballet, and The National Ballet of Canada. She is an Associate Artist at three institutions: Nederlands Dans Theater, Sadler's Wells (London) and Canada's National Arts Centre. She has an honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from Simon Fraser University, is a Member of the Order of Canada and holds the honour of Officier de l'Ordre of Arts et des Lettres from France.

In 2002, she formed Kidd Pivot in Vancouver, a company that strives to distill and translate universal questions into artworks that connect us to essential parts of humanity. Pite's many awards include the 2022 Governor General of Canada's Performing Arts Award, the 2011 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award and the Canada Council's 2012 Jacqueline Lemieux Prize. In 2017, she received the Benois de la Danse for her creation *The Seasons' Canon* at the Paris Opera Ballet. In 2018, she received the Grand Prix de la danse de Montréal. She is the recipient of five Sir Laurence Olivier awards for creations with Kidd Pivot and The Royal Ballet. A remarkable project in Pite's career: over a period of four years, Pite and Complicité's artistic director Simon McBurney created three works for NDT 1, each developed in response to the previous, reflecting on the climate crisis and the fragility of humankind. *Figures in Extinction [1.0] – the list* (2022) was awarded the Zwaan for Most Impressive Dance Production. Both subsequent works – *Figures in Extinction [2.0] – but then you come to the humans* (2024) and *Figures in Extinction [3.0] – requiem* (2025) – were also widely acclaimed by audiences nationally and internationally. The complete trilogy was honoured with a Sky Arts Award in the Dance category in 2025.

Nederlands Dans Theater

Nederlands Dans Theater (NDT), based in The Hague, is one of the world's leading houses of creation, defining contemporary dance for over 65 years. With research, innovation, and talent development at our core, they amplify diverse voices and use dance as a universal language to build bridges and inspire. Furthermore, the company believes that everyone deserves to experience how dance can move everyone.

With its two companies, NDT 1 and NDT 2 (for emerging dancers), they continuously push artistic boundaries through collaborations with both emerging and established choreographers and artists. Since 2020 the company is under Artistic Direction of Emily Molnar, who has launched the company into a new era of creativity. She initiated groundbreaking creations and collaborations such as *Figures in Extinction* with Crystal Pite and Simon McBurney/Complicité and the expanded version of *Into the Hairy* with S-E-D, and invited new Associate Choreographers Marcos Morau, Jermaine Spivey and Marne and Imre van Opstal. Honouring the company's legacy while shaping the future of contemporary dance, NDT captivates audiences across the Netherlands and all over the world. Both live and online.

collezione **m̄aramotti**

Collezione Maramotti is a private contemporary art collection which opened to visitors in 2007 at the historic former headquarters of the Max Mara company in Reggio Emilia. In addition to a permanent collection of more than 200 works from 1950 to 2019, it regularly presents new projects and commissioned pieces by international mid-career and emerging artists.

www.collezionemaramotti.org

MaxMara

Founded in 1951 by the visionary Achille Maramotti, Max Mara embodies the quintessence of Italian style and luxury. It is a contemporary collection of prêt-à-porter and accessories made for extraordinary women. Renowned for their timeless designs and fine fabrics, Max Mara's consummately sophisticated outerwear, impeccable suits and contemporary accessories have made it a symbol of elegance. The Max Mara Fashion Group has more than 2,500 shops in over one hundred countries around the world, and nine brands in its portfolio, yet remains a private company owned and managed by the Maramotti family.

www.maxmara.com

collezione **m**aramotti

MaxMara

APERTO
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APERTO
festival

Festival Aperto intersects dance, music and performing arts related to contemporaneity and includes concerts, performances, choreographies, workshops, meetings, shows, proposed by Fondazione I Teatri with Reggio Parma Festival. This 18th edition of 2026 features a wide-ranging programme of events across multiple disciplines, bringing together leading artists from Italy and abroad.

www.iteatri.re.it

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