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The sundogs dance, the muscles melt

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While the metamorphism of rocks, which I teach in Earth Sciences, is an extremely slow process over millions of years, I observe through my research activities that permafrost is thawing at an unprecedented rate and is visible at a human time scale. The choreographic response of Louise Vanneste allows me to grasp this relationship between time, transformation, and physical consequences of these phenomena as her practice engages temporality (slowness, swiftness...), energy, and qualitative shifts (tension, lightness, heat released...). The choreography generates surprising responses that stimulate and challenge conventional geoscientific modes of perception. In permafrost regions, the soils thaw but do not melt. This raises questions about what scientific precision reveals regarding these distinctions, particularly in the Arctic, where ice melt and ground thaw produce distinct consequences. How can choreography address this seemingly subtle difference? The concept of imaginary is common to both our practices. It involves formulating and testing hypotheses in geosciences, and speculating and reimagining possibilities in choreographic practice. The use of spoken language and writing serves as a medium for dialogue between us and is an important tool in our respective practices (scientific articles in geosciences and the presence of texts in the choreographic work of Louise Vanneste). Words shape and reshape our thoughts; they reinvent their meaning through the blending of our two practices; they define our shared territory. Our practice evolves towards a hybrid form that includes dance performances and the sharing of scientific knowledge. The dance performances flow seamlessly into the scientific presentations, and the two resonate with each other. The public discussions/performances provide opportunities for collective reflection and further development of ideas. This work explores the relationship between humans and non-humans and the impact of climate change on permafrost thawing. By taking the pulse of a system through transdisciplinary lenses, we create a space for poetic and thought-provoking forms of knowledge that contribute to restoring our capacity to act in the context of environmental changes.