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MFA

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Image created in Moyse Hall,
McGill University, Montreal, Québec

Photographer: Jim Mneymneh

Images of Research Competition
University of Alberta

Between to Worlds

Semi-finalist (2019)

As a circus artist, I have spent years developing knowledge on how to move in the air. Coming from a background in circus and theatre, my research examines ways which virtuosic movement can tell a story and embody emotion.

This image was captured during a workshop performance of a devised creation titled "Persephone Bound". I began creating "Persephone Bound" in 2016, and its creation process continues to be fundamental to my research. The performance integrates theatre and aerial circus technique and explores the meaning of sexual consent through the lens of a contemporary retelling of the Greek myth of Persephone.

In this particular image, Persephone is caught between two worlds, the underworld and the world of the living. She is also split in two, seeking to regain her balance after her assault, and navigate her way through the justice system. The gesture suggests a melting between performance and skill and juxtaposes both strength and vulnerability.