Join the University of Michigan, Department of Dance for an evening of dance at The Betty Pease Studio Theatre. Four women from the class of 2012 present: Questioning Perceptions. Performances are Thursday, November 17 through Saturday, November 19 at 8:00pm. Tickets are $5 at the door (1310 N. University Ct., Ann Arbor, MI 48109). The box office will open at 7:00pm and the doors will open at 7:30pm. There will be late seating during short pauses in between pieces. For more information call (734) 763-5461.

For her choreographic debut Daniela Blechner will be creating two distinctly different scenes on the stage. The first dance will question society’s perception of beauty and what distinguishes one thing as “beautiful” and another as “ugly”. The women in this dance will challenge common viewpoints of beauty, and will attempt to embody their own individual beauty through their artistic expression and movement. The second dance, a solo performed by Blechner, will investigate the importance of a memory, how such a memory can tie individuals together, and how losing the grasp on such a memory can result in losing the grasp on ones’ identity.

Rachele Donofrio’s group work pushes the fine line between comfort and pain. Five women violently fling and dig their way through an abandoned junkyard to discover their relationship with one another as well as their surroundings. Donofrio’s solo work confronts and challenges the social understanding of ones misfortune. Exploring the hardships one may face both physically and mentally when suffering from the rare disease of Congenital Insensitivity to Pain with Anhidrosis (CIPA). This dancer will share her understanding while avoiding choking own her prop.

Antique Imaginings is a solo performed and choreographed by Andrea Davis. This solo brings the audience into the world of the dancer that inhabits a music box. Trapped for eternity to repeat the same dance to the same song, does she dream of escape and freedom or can she not imagine a life outside? What is the manipulation that keeps her going? The Women of Rue des Grand Augustins, choreographed by Davis, features a group of six women dancers. Inspired by Pablo Picasso’s relationships with his many wives and mistresses, this work explores the interplay of jealousy and empathy within a group of competitive women. These women have differing personalities, backgrounds, and movement styles, yet they discover commonalities and support systems as they fight ferociously for the same goal.

Colleen Shaughnessy’s group work features the lives of six individuals as they navigate through relationships with each other and the world. With dance as the common language that connects them all, they will experience first hand how dance touches all of our lives and keeps us moving forward together. Shaughnessy’s solo work will examine Leonardo Da Vinci’s Vitruvian man sketch and the implications it has on the human perception of the body. Is it Da Vinci himself who changed our way of looking at our body over 500 years ago? Are these the proportions that all humans should be living up to?

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DEPARTMENT OF DANCE