

2 BODIES II - A site-specific mixed media performance in St. John's Crypt

'2 bodies II' explores the archaeology of human gesture; it looks at the idea of body as ruin.

As the human body ages, its limitations as well as its accumulated experiences seem to erode the full gesture of a once young body, while at the same time loading it with connotation - the weight of a lifetime of events, emotions, shifts.

A 90 year old woman learns a sequence of movements (a mixture of Eastern and Western body language). She then performs it for the camera: as the aged body inhabits the learnt sequence, gesture starts to erode and be transformed. The young body then relearns this altered version of the choreography frame by frame. The installation presents the aged and the young, pre-recorded and live, performing together in complete synchronicity. As the live body is inhabited by the recorded gestures a sense of unity emerges, a resonance between two times, spaces, bodies and media.

Presentation

The piece is presented borrowing the format of the gallery installation (a looped piece), yet in a site-specific environment and as a live work. The live presence creates a shift in our usual interaction within the installation space.

The Venue

'2 Bodies' was originally conceived for Colchester Arts Centre, once a medieval church. Its second incarnation is integrated into St. John the Baptist Crypt. A building dating from the 14th and 15th C and dedicated to the Holy Cross. Although principally a place of burial for distinguished citizens, there are many indications that the crypt was used for other religious ceremonies. Today both crypt and church are under the Jurisdiction of The Churches Conservation Trust.

Credits

Conceived by Isabel Rocamora; Performed by Betty Campbell and Isabel Rocamora; Camera Mark Chandler; Sound Helena Gough; Grading and digital assistance Joshua Portway; Technician Kyra Norman; Front of House Graham Street and Hanna Saastamoinen; Produced by Infinito.

Isabel Rocamora is a director and choreographer of mixed media performance and digital art, whose work is mainly site-specific. Having graduated from Bristol University (drama & film) in 1992, she trained in physical theatre at Lecoq, Paris and film at Maine Workshops, USA. As co-founder of Momentary Fusion (1993-00) and founder of Infinito Productions (2000 -05), she has extensively directed and performed in theatre, site-specific and new media work nationally and worldwide. Examples are V&A Museum, Tate Britain, Tate Modern and venues across Europe, Asia, North and Central America. Recent works include 'Impermanence' (Mayor of London/ Greenwich & Docklands Festival), 'Residual' (Electric Pavilion - Watershed, Bristol City Council) and 'Insomnia' (Channel 4). www.infinito.org.uk

Helena Gough is a composer at the Birmingham Electro Acoustic Sound Theatre (BEAST). Gough initially trained in violin and composition at the Royal Academy of Music and graduated in a Bmus at the University of Birmingham, where she is currently completing her Phd in electroacoustic composition. Recent work includes 'Residual' and an eight channel installation for the New Art Gallery Walsall.

A Bristol based fine artist, *Betty Campbell* has in recent years retired to the South of France.

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For further information: www.dshed.net/residual or email residual@isabelrocamora.org