

SIOBHAN DAVIES DANCE

Dance and Art Forum: Why Dance in Museums?

Thurs 9 November, 13:30 – 18:30
Siobhan Davies Studios

This afternoon of presentations and discussions aims to look critically at the recent profusion of dance in museums and international art events. Siobhan Davies Dance has recently created significant work in this area – our touring work *material / rearranged / to / be*, our three-year Dance Artist / Curator Mentorship Scheme, the Creative Europe collaborative project Dancing Museums, and the publication *Who Cares? Dance in the Gallery and Museum*. All of these have raised questions about the value of these appearances and encounters and about the opportunities and challenges visual arts contexts present for dance and choreography. What does the dancing body do for the museum? What does the museum do for the dancing body? The day aims to articulate key concerns for further investigation in relation to this rich area of practice.

13:30 – 13:45: Welcome and Intro: Siobhan Davies

13:45 – 15:00: Panel 1: What does the dancing body do for the museum?

The discussion will address the kinds of exchanges that take place around dance's presence in museums and galleries, with curators and other professionals and also with audiences. What opportunities and dilemmas does dance raise for the museum's ways of working and of communicating with audiences? Does it engage new audiences, create new kinds of audience experiences or engender new ways of looking at collections?

Marie-Anne McQuay, Head of Programme, Bluecoat; Lucy Suggate, dance artist; Catherine Wood, Senior Curator, International Art (Performance), Tate; Sara Wookey, dance artist; chaired by Lauren A Wright, Programme Director, Siobhan Davies Dance

15:00 – 15:15: Tea Break

15:15 – 16:15: Case Study Conversations

These informal smaller-group discussions will examine recent projects in more detail, with an opportunity to discuss them with individuals involved.

Dancing Museums – Gill Hart, Head of Education, National Gallery; Connor Schumacher, dance artist; Lucy Suggate, dance artist

material / rearranged / to / be – Siobhan Davies; Jeremy Millar, visual artist and writer; Efrosini Protopapa, dance artist

“Trajal Harrell: Hoochie Koochie, a performance exhibition”, Barbican Art Gallery – Leila Hasham, Associate Curator, Barbican Art Gallery; Carlos Maria Romero A.K.A. Atabey, multidisciplinary artist and curator

16:15 – 16:45: Feedback from Case Study Conversations

16:45 – 18:00: Panel 2: What does the museum do for dance?

This panel considers the relationship between the dancer / choreographer and the museum or gallery. It considers the extent to which visual arts exhibition contexts can offer new opportunities for practice. What do these settings make possible that other contexts for performance do not? What are their limitations?

Leila Hasham, Associate Curator, Barbican Art Gallery; Jamila Johnson-Small, dancer and choreographer; Sarah Spies, choreographer, performance curator and lecturer; Tamara Tomic-Vajagic, Senior Lecturer in Dance, University of Roehampton; chaired by Martin Hargreaves, dramaturg and Director of Undergraduate Programmes at London Contemporary Dance School

18:00 – 18:30: Summing up and identifying topics for further discussion

18:30 – 19:00: Drinks

19:00 – *OK Future*, Lucy Suggate and Connor Schumacher

As part of the Dance and Art Forum dance artists Lucy Suggate and Connor present *OK Future*. A new performance informed by their experiences with the Dancing Museums programme.

A public movement, a social choreography, a potential future performing space, *OK Future* attempts to simultaneously ask a series of questions. Can we create a performance space that fulfils everybody's needs? Would society be better if we danced every day? Is the next revolution a perceptual one? Through a series of invited actions and reflective questions we begin to unlock and expand our own and collective performance and societal behaviours.

