

Timber & Battery | *This*

Name and contact details

Timber & Battery

Paul Hughes and Rohanne Udall

paul@timberandbattery.com | www.timberandbattery.com

Brief summary of the work

"There is a moment where Paul is stood next to an upright table his hand hovering just above its surface. 'This' he says and he seems to mean the table or this bit of the table and then he moves slightly and says 'this' again and he is now referring to the whole complicated situation that he and Rohanne and us watching are in. And so with seemingly not much at all they take us on a kind of journey through perception and meaning, sort of like a trip. A really small one but a trip all the same." - Response to an early rehearsal sharing by Hamish MacPherson, choreographer and researcher.

Choreographing the gestures of sensation, investigation and thought, *This* presents two idiots introducing and exploring a pair of collapsible tables. Lost somewhere between the rigours of scientific exploration and a childish recklessness, they point, tap and gesture - gradually escalating towards the wild extremes of clattering, shaking and shouting. Body and furniture contort around one another; the highly restrictive script, restricted to the unstable demonstratives 'this' and 'that', shift from detail to whole, gesture to pose, position to architecture; and eventually to the emergent and fleeting relations between performer and viewer. Exploring and exhausting the possibilities of body, object, gesture and space, *This* draws together the rebellious and restless bodies of slapstick with contemporary choreographic and sculptural thought.

We would love this opportunity to present an early work-in-progress performance of *This*, as we build towards a Spring premiere of the work, and a national tour of artist-led gallery and exhibition spaces in April 2017. This scratch would be the perfect opportunity to try out material, hear how audience's experience the work and get some vital documentation; while building our links with artists and institutions across the East Midlands. We would also deeply appreciate the chance to more formally forge a relationship with Derby Theatre and our work.

Technical specifications

The piece is ultimately developed for gallery and exhibition spaces. Although we think it can work in an end-on setting in a studio space in this instance, we would be excited to hear of any other space in the Derby Theatre that might suit this - the minimum space needed would probably be 8m x 6m, and for a standing audience. A rehearsal room would be ideal, or perhaps a large empty meeting room.

We are happy to present the work with whatever lighting is already in the space. There is no additional AV or audio necessary for the piece.

The work needs very little technical set up - a bare space, the two performers bring on the collapsible tables themselves. If Derby Theatre could lend us two tables for the day with which to perform this work, that would be great - no worries though, we can source some

elsewhere if needed.

Brief summary about us & previous work

Timber & Battery's playful work considers meaning and meaninglessness through oblique gestures. The collaborative practice of Rohanne Udall (b. 1990) and Paul Hughes (b. 1991), it takes place across choreographic, performance and visual arts contexts. Trained in fine art and philosophy, our practice is a meeting point between disciplines; a persistent and fidgeting enquiry that continually questions itself and the contexts it finds itself within.

Our practice is sprawling - incorporating performance, sculpture, video, audio works and print - and is presented across diverse spaces (galleries, theatres, universities, festivals, publication) and disciplines (dance, visual art, academia). In the past year we have organised numerous curatorial projects in support of peers across disciplines - encouraging the exchange of knowledge and mutual support. We have developed our practice by playfully adapting and responding to whichever context we find ourselves within, but now we are also keen to start building towards longer-term projects. As such, *This* is a major new choreographic work, in which we are hoping to present to diverse spaces and audiences, and showcase on a national scale - in order to bring greater visibility to our practice, and to insist on the viability and vitality of our deeply interdisciplinary perspective.

Our work has been recently presented at Chisenhale Dance Space, Rich Mix, Bethnal Green Working Men's Club (all London), Forest Fringe (Edinburgh), Attenborough Arts Centre (Leicester), Summer Lodge (Nottingham), DISKURS (Gießen) and ICW (Blackpool). Rohanne graduated from the University of Edinburgh and Edinburgh College of Art in 2014 with a *Fine Art MA (Hons) History of Art and Intermedia*; Paul holds an MA Dance Studies at University of Roehampton in 2016, and an undergraduate Philosophy degree from the University of Edinburgh in 2013.