

Clocked, Manchester - Launch Event

What type of submission would you like to make?

Performance/Live art

Title

Untitled Score for Two Performers

Artist name

Timber & Battery

Performance type

Performance/Live art

Performance length

15 mins

Year

2016

Link to performance/live art

<https://timberandbattery.com/untitled-score-for-two-performers/>

Description

Untitled Score for Two Performers places two performers at either side of an exhibition space as they undertake parallel performance scores. A minimal proposition, the scores uncovers and exploits subtle clichés buried within the seemingly innocuous act of naming: the secretarial female performer announcing a list of train stations within Great Britain, whilst the more casually-dressed partner shouts out a list of women's names.

The duration and repetition of the task brings to the fore bodily and material questions of concentration and boredom; meaning and sound; volume and orientation; reference and abstraction. In citing trash film culture, the everyday, and a legacy of minimalist performance practice, the work questions the possibility of a (neutral and reliable) 'task-like' body, and forces the performers into the frame of (duplicitous and inauthentic) acting. The simple proposition of reading a list requires performers to negotiate the clichés they unavoidably produce.

The formal simplicity of the work gives space for complexity and ambiguity, for drifts in attention and intention, for an audience to question their own spectating, distractions and desires. The initially loud and overt becomes background noise, while the minor becomes major and over time the work reveals a subtle and rebellious poetry of awkward and imprecise bodies.

The work is undertaken the two performers at a distance, each individual negotiating a parallel tasks by themselves. Untitled Score for Two Performers continues our enquiry into performance as the site of encounter between audience and actors; we reject claims of empathetic exchange or temporary utopia in place of an uncertain distance that must be negotiated between strangers.

Untitled Score for Two Performers was developed at Hospitalfield Interdisciplinary Residency 2016, with the support of Fionn Duffy and Jeremy Hutchison; and first presented at Object Book, Walthamstow, London in June 2017.

Relevant previous experience

Timber & Battery's playful work considers meaning and meaninglessness through oblique gestures. The collaborative practice of Rohanne Udall (London, b. 1990) and Paul Hughes (Nottingham, 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 environments it finds itself within.

Recent credits include Chisenhale Dance Space, Rich Mix, Bethnal Green Working Men's Club (all London), Attenborough Arts Centre (Leicester), DISKURS (Gießen), ICW (Blackpool) and Radiophrenia (Glasgow), with residencies at Summer Lodge (Nottingham) and Hospitalfield Arts (Arbroath). We regularly present our work at conferences and symposia (University of Roehampton, May 2016; ATW Institut Giessen, February 2016; Society for Artistic Research, The Hague April 2016; and Coventry University, June 2017), and have been awarded residencies at Summer Lodge (Nottingham Trent University, July 2017) and Hospitalfield Arts (Arbroath, November 2016).