

## **Urban Sonic Places: Commission**

### **Name of art work**

Horsing About

### **Description of work**

Two performers carry the equipment required to play the sound of a horse walking through tarmac streets (speakers, batteries, sound desk, tape player, wires). Without clear goal, they search among the confusions of quiet back streets and major intersections - continually doubting themselves, doubling back, or hanging about indecisively. Exhausted or bored, and having accomplished nothing much at all, they return back to the art space they came from.

Somewhere between a failed panto horse (two bodies connected in the clumsy entanglement of the equipment) and the more sinister mounted police officer, the performance moves in and out of perceptibility - overwhelmed by the noise of traffic, foregrounded in a quiet alley, or incongruous in a shopping centre. The simplicity of the proposition permits 'Horsing About' playful and open while shifting through different environments, audiences and interpretations.

The work balances humour, uncertainty and threat in order to critically examine the desire for socially-engaged and site-specific art to briefly 'visit' and 'engage with' an urban area - and its complicity with urban forces of control. Formally simple and deeply poetic, 'Horsing About' furthers our enquiry into a relational aesthetics of distance and suspicion, and the possibilities of slapstick in contemporary performance.

### **Artist name**

Timber & Battery

### **Artist statement / Bio**

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 (ECA) and philosophy (University of Edinburgh), our practice is a meeting point between disciplines; a persistent and fidgeting enquiry that continually questions itself and the contexts it finds itself within.

Recent credits include a solo exhibition of performance 'Floorplan//Here or Now' at Rich Mix (London, October 2015), Attenborough Arts Centre (May 2016, Leicester), ICW (Blackpool, Jun 2017), SET me Free (Venice and London, Sep 2017), DISKURS17 (Gießen, Germany, Oct 2017), Radiophrenia (Glasgow, November 2017), and Chisenhale Dance Space (London, Dec 2017).

We have received awards from Dance on the Radio (March 2017), a choreographic commission from Third Row Dance (October 2016), and a DanceXchange DX Choreography Award (December 2017); and we have been awarded residencies by the New Wolsey Theatre (April 2015), Hospitalfield Arts (Arbroath, November 2016) and Summer Lodge (Nottingham Trent University, July 2017).

### **Contact email**

paul@timberandbattery.com

### **Technical Requirements**

We can provide all the tech - although it would be great to know if & what you could lend us for the day (rather than carting everything over). It would also be great if you could document the work (we both perform it!).

### **Format**

Outdoor mobile performance

**Proposed Location**

Wider Elephant & Castle area. Light rain - moderate – work possible (and possibly funnier) with rain ponchos and umbrellas. Heavy rain – keep performance to shopping centre.

**Duration**

2 hours.

**Supporting material: Audio / Video Please supply at least one type of supporting material: web links to sound / web links to video / images (JPG, PNG, GIF, 4MB max)**

There is no documentation yet for this performance - but some relevant previous works include:

It's Out of Our Hands (2017) - Video (1min 30) - <https://timberandbattery.com/its-out-of-our-hands/>

Radio Play (2017) - 5 hours pop-up radio station - <https://timberandbattery.com/radio-play/>

Up Their Sleeves (2017) - photo print - attached

Just One Thing On Top of Another (2017) - Installation - <https://timberandbattery.com/just-one-thing-on-top-of-another/>

Empty Gestures (2016) - Stage performance (10 mins) - <https://timberandbattery.com/empty-gestures/>