

Dear Chalton Gallery team,

We would like to propose a durational performance entitled *Support Structure*. Two performers occupy the gallery and attempt to build a picturesque and house-like structure within the space using only cardboard and duct tape. Although pathetic, their labour is considerable - navigating the poor structural qualities of the materials results in a performance that moves on the edge of meaningless, abstraction and poetry, producing a spectacle for an audience that is unnecessary, absorbing and frustratingly empathizable.

The two performers will move between cooperation, conflict, collaboration and separation - moments in which two pairs of hands are necessary, unhelpful, and insufficient. Inhabiting the space of the gallery over the day, this piece questions notions of support and residence - in what ways are they themselves housed within the gallery, supported, or attempting to build some temporary structure? What are the limits of support, care or stability of performance and dance in the gallery space?

This piece presents labour and construction as an activity, rather than a hidden activity taking place before an exhibition opens. It questions the value and possibilities of low-cost but available materials. At the end of the day, the structure (or whatever mess they have produced) is taken down, denying any satisfying encounter with the object produced through this vaguely manic and boring performance.

*Support Structure* continues our research into (in)collaborative situations of amateur production. After the successful performance exhibition *Floorplan//Here or Now* (Rich Mix, 2015) and participatory writing project *Imaginary Festivals Project* (Forest Fringe, 2014) we hope to continue experimenting with the possibilities of performance in the gallery situation, and performance as labour. This project at Chalton Gallery would allow us the space and visibility to develop this new project and consider the ways in which it can occupy, disrupt or gently intervene in spaces through a banal and unspectacular manner

Rohanne Udall and Paul Hughes collaboratively make work exploring suggestion, possibility and playfulness. Their current practice operates through seriality, moving through different gestures and materials to establish and exhaust systems of meaning.

Tempo Rubato is an umbrella title for a number of works around these ideas. Our work is playful and abstract, and rooted in a bodily and material space. We work with improvisation, and techniques that draw from clown, dance and task-based performance. We move in and out of meaning, nonsense, pleasure and labour, and play with the distance between internal sensations and a viewing audience.

Many thanks,

Paul Hughes and Rohanne Udall,  
Tempo Rubato

<https://temporubatoresearch.wordpress.com/>