

DEPARTURE LOUNGE CHECK-IN FESTIVAL 2017

Work: A House Made of Cardboard and Tape

Company: Tempura Batter

Description of the work

A House Made of Cardboard and Tape is a durational performance in which two performers construct a house using only packaging tape and waste cardboard. Undertaken in silence, this potentially utopian gesture is undermined by the inadequacy of the available materials; walls wobble and fold in and architectural aspirations are rewritten. The simple task-like structure produces an engaging and complex spectacle for a viewer as discrepancies arise between choices desired by an audience and those taken by the performers. Unpredictable materials subvert imagined possibilities of progression.

Alongside a viewer's wavering comprehension of the performers' intentions, the uncertain relation between the performers themselves questions possibilities of collaboration. Often working independently, they must negotiate each other's projects, offering (un)helpful hands on a precarious structure, or obliviously compromising stability with additions elsewhere. At times this mutual aid is successful, but their competing ideas can also refuse to consolidate.

Beyond the clear references to the precarity of survival and shelter, this work's position within an artistic context questions how artists can find support within institutions. How are limited materials negotiated and shared? What can any temporary support guarantee? What are the inevitable compromises? An apparent pessimism is undermined by the poetic simplicity of the gesture - a playful repurposing of one's context to new ends.

Images and video at: <https://tempurabatter.wordpress.com/a-house-made-of-cardboard-and-tape/>

This piece is applied alongside *RP*, with its distinct application. We would happy to present both or just one of these works, depending on your availability and interest.

Artist CV/Biog

Tempura Batter's work considers meaning and meaninglessness through oblique gestures. The collaborative practice of Rohanne Udall and Paul Hughes, it takes place across choreographic, performance and visual arts contexts. The work is born out of, and speaks to, a culture that is saturated in content and subject to endless streams of reference and possibility; we are attracted to fidgeting, shifting, distraction and emulation.

We work with what is close to hand, and across diverse media. Our writing projects host collisions and confusions between participants, and unfold out towards the reader through instruction and suggestion. These uncertain encounters take place on the stage through a spectator/performer relationship that moves between the empathizable and the distant.

Exploring cliché gestures of sensation and thought, we manipulate the space between internal sensation and a viewing audience. In questioning the performance of the 'neutral' body, our work unsettles and engrosses both the fleeting spectator and a more sustained encounter.

Recent work includes Empty Gestures (Rich Mix; Attenborough Arts Centre; 2016) and Partner Dances For One (Camden People's Theatre; Battersea Arts Centre; I'Klectik Art Lab; 2015-16); an exhibition of performance Floorplan//Here Or Now (Rich Mix; 2015); and collaborative writing projects Imaginary Festivals Project (Forest Fringe; 2014) and Digital Writing Group (International Conference on Artistic Research; 2016). We have recently undertaken an Interdisciplinary Residency at Hospitalfield, Arbroath. In January 2017 they will be performing in Vlatka Horvat's premiere of Minor Planets at HAU, Berlin.

Website: <https://tempurabatter.wordpress.com/>

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/user22040742>

Space Required

Car Park unless raining - otherwise rehearsal room or gallery.

Duration and stage of creation on date of performance (finished, work-in-progress etc)

Duration variable, ideally 2 to 3 hours. Finished work. Developed at Hospitalfield Interdisciplinary Residency 2016, this would be the work's first public showing.

Audience capacity (if limited/ideal)

No capacity. For an audience to come and go throughout.

Contact details (Including location)

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