

Lindsey Drury

Dance Choreographer, Master of Arts Student
Liberal Studies, City University of New York, Graduate Center (USA)

You Nakai

PhD Student
Department of Musicology, New York University (USA)

House Music: A Performance (Practical demonstration)

Performers: PhD Student Itha K. (Humboldt University, Berlin) and Johanna Gilje (Germany)

Lindsey Drury (Dreary Somebody), in collaboration with No Collective [You Nakai, Kay Festa, Earl Lipski, Jay Barnacle, et al], will present a performance of music and dance involving multiple inhuman dancer/musicians and human performers [Itha K. and Johanna Gilje]. Within the work, the inhuman dancers move in seemingly random trajectories through a performance space without programmed pathways or the manipulation of a controller. Through their collaboration with the human dancers, the work reframes “improvisation with objects,” as one cannot predict the pathways the objects will make through space, or the ways that they will respond to contact with human bodies and other objects. Regardless as to the internal mechanism that drives the objects, the experience on the outside is that they are “making choices.” The focus of this work is to create a situation which challenges the performer’s ability to enact her will over the objects with which she performs, and the tendency of audiences to identify human performers as enactors and objects as receptors of action. The resulting work explores how the ability to move unpredictably can provide an object its own will. The question traditionally oriented toward the bodies of human dancers, (“Why does she move like that?”) is thus expanded. Despite the necessity in this description to differentiate between the inhuman and human performers, the point of the piece is to explore and problematize common notions of what constitutes a body. The work was developed through the concept that the delineation of body is based in the perception of a certain agency that controls a given movement. All the moving objects in the piece, whether inhuman performers, human performers, or human (and inhuman) audience, appear to have agency because the source of their movements is instilled within themselves. The most important thing accomplished in the piece is not that the inhuman performers “become human,” but instead that the humans present in the room face that they are also objects. Therefore, the work does not reinforce the articular difference between human and inhuman, but instead dissolves that very distinction through an expanded definition of body and its basis in movement. The work will be presented as a performance-demonstration and short lecture. The session will finish with an invitation to participants to interact with the inhuman performers.

Lindsey Drury is a dance artist, body studies scholar, and curator. She lives in New York City and presents her work internationally. Her recent major artistic projects (2012-2014) include the large-scale sculptural dance *Vesna’s Fall*, the opera *Any Size Mirror is a Dictator*, and the solo performance *Aftermath*. She has performed in the works of Ellen C. Covito and Yvonne Meier, amongst others.

Drury also founded the feminist organization No Wave Performance Task Force (2012), and burgeoned a performance genre called Post-Dance (2013). She is currently writing the book Post-Dance to be published by Already Not Yet Press.

You Nakai (No Collective) makes music, dancers, and books, among other things. No Collective was featured in Leonardo Music Journal as a group doing interesting things with technology. Recent works include Concertos No.4 (2012, National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo), where professional blind athletes played soccer with ball-shaped loudspeakers in a completely darkened 16,000 square foot performance space filled with 300 audience, and Vesna's Fall (2014, Judson Church/Black Mountain College), made with Lindsey Drury, in which each dancer, enwrapped in a 13-foot movable curtained stage, danced to the audible counts from other dancers while herself counting for others she couldn't see. No Collective runs the publisher 'Already Not Yet,' which has released Ellen C. Covito: Works After Weather (2014).

Itha K. studied philosophy at the Universities of Valencia, Mainz and Frankfurt. Currently she is finishing her PHD thesis on aesthetics and its relation to the review and interpretation in the work of Theodor W. Adorno and Walter Benjamin before National Socialism. Itha K. works through performance as a further means to investigate philosophical aesthetics. Her works can be defined as artistic experiments in the field of self-alienated poetry, performance and Butoh. In these works, Itha K pushes concept, word, body, and movement fragmentation to the extreme. Her performative lectures have been presented in several places, such as Berlin, the Bardinale (Dresden) and Ferrol (Spain).

Johanna Gilje is an artist and theorist bridging video, installation and performance with text and interview based research. Her bachelor's degree, "Body in Context: Interdisciplinary Art and Critical Theory" from the Evergreen State College has explored both practical and theoretical approaches to artistic research and the body as a site of social inquiry.