



Press Release

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The Contemporary Art Gallery and Ballet BC present new performance by John Wood and Paul Harrison



John Wood and Paul Harrison, *Clear instruction drawing 7*, 2017. Courtesy the artists

Artist: John Wood and Paul Harrison
Title: *Very Clear Instructions*
Dates: April 20, 2018, 7pm and 8pm
Location: Off-site at The Polygon Gallery, North Vancouver

The Contemporary Art Gallery and Ballet BC present the world premiere performance of *Very Clear Instructions* in partnership with The Polygon Gallery.

Following the exhibition *I DIDN'T KNOW I DIDN'T KNOW IT* presented at CAG at the beginning of 2016, John Wood and Paul Harrison embarked on an intensive sequence of improvisatory workshops with the dancers of Ballet BC. What emerged is an ambitious commission developed between two of Vancouver's most important cultural organizations, a new dance work that brings together the ongoing concerns present in the artist's practice, combined with new, adventurous choreography.

As seen in their complex video works, Wood and Harrison have long been concerned with the body, characteristically employing a vocabulary that connects into the spatial and material world of contemporary dance. They engage with attributes such as trust, cause and effect, action and reaction, and the physical arena and dimensions in which movement and gesture occurs with distinctive observations surrounding the human condition.

This new performance is structured as ten episodes such as “Falling”, “Right angles” or “Lean”, and combines much of their ongoing preoccupations with a keen delight, humour and reflection on human endeavor. Rooted in a distillation of everyday gestures and routine, a true conversation between the visual art world of John Wood and Paul Harrison and that of the dance corps of Ballet BC emerges. The familiar is made charmingly and compellingly strange, altering our perceptions of those moments encountered as we move through the world.

Commissioned by the Contemporary Art Gallery with Ballet BC and produced in partnership with The Polygon Gallery. Support for the research and development phase was provided by the Kickstarter community in partnership with Art Basel Crowdfunding Initiative. We are grateful to the many individual donors and supporters who have made this ambitious commission possible at both the development stage and for this premiere.

–ENDS–

Notes to editors

For further press information and images, please contact:

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About the Contemporary Art Gallery

Established in 1971 the Contemporary Art Gallery is the longest standing free public art gallery in Vancouver dedicated exclusively to presenting contemporary art. By the early 1990s the program expanded providing some of the first institutional exhibitions for many important Vancouver artists, including Brian Jungen, Geoffrey Farmer, Germaine Koh and Steven Shearer. The Contemporary Art Gallery is a publicly funded institution, generously supported by the Canada Council for the Arts, the City of Vancouver and the Province of BC through the BC Arts Council and the BC Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch.

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Opening hours

Tuesday - Sunday, 12-6pm
Free admission

Facebook: Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver

Twitter: @CAGVancouver

Instagram: @CAGVancouver

Vimeo: CAGVancouver

Soundcloud: Contemporary Art Gallery

About Ballet BC

Combining classical integrity with a contemporary sensibility, Ballet BC is a creation-based company of 20 talented dancers from Canada and around the world that is committed to exploration and collaboration in contemporary dance. Solidly grounded in the rigour and artistry of classical ballet, with an emphasis on innovation and the immediacy of the 21st century, the Company presents a distinct and diverse repertoire of the most sought-after Canadian and international contemporary ballet choreography. Ballet BC continues its commitment to perform highly acclaimed productions on regional, national and international tours in addition to its regular performance season at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre in Vancouver.

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