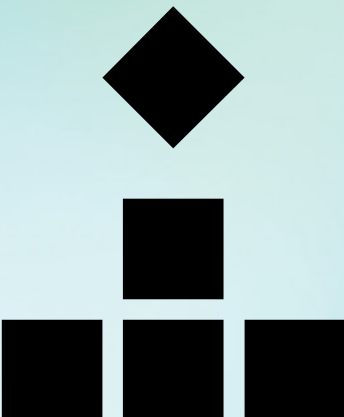
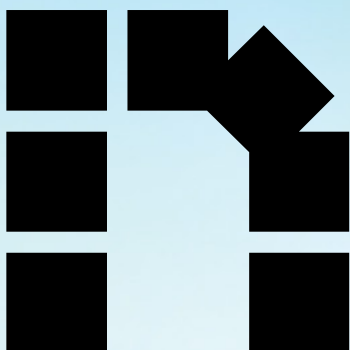
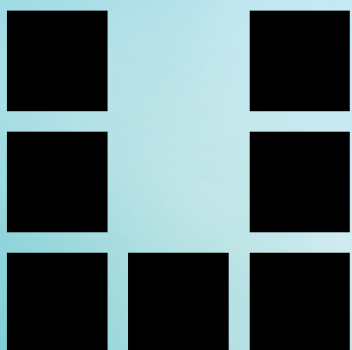
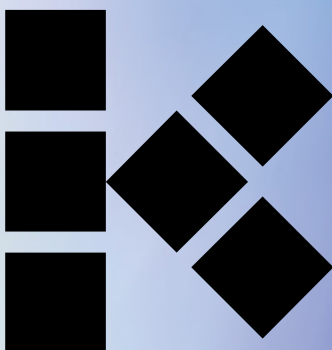




Block Universe

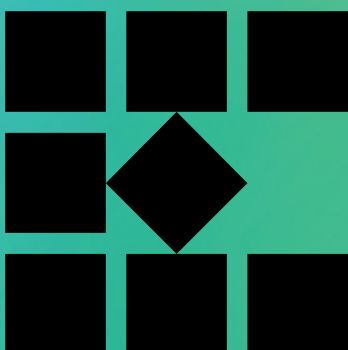
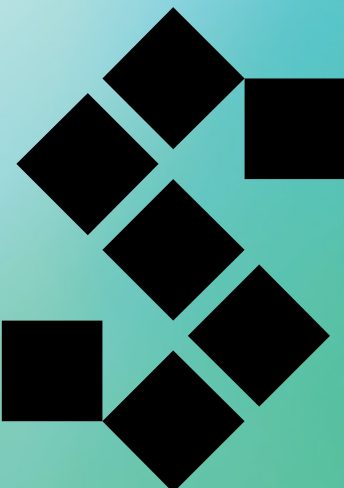
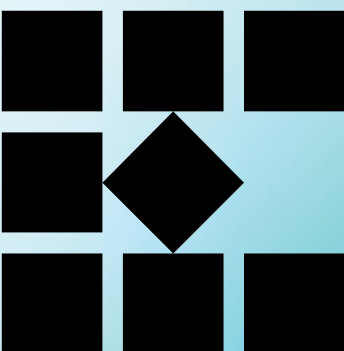
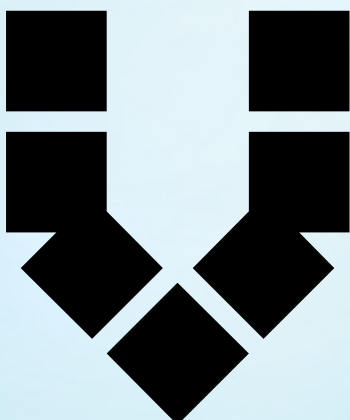
Performance  
Art Festival  
London

29 May —  
04 June  
2017



blockuniverse.co.uk

Nicole Bachmann  
Eglė Budvytė  
Kim Coleman,  
Zoë Poluch &  
Cara Tolmie  
Işıl Eğrikavuk  
Young In Hong  
Liz Magic Laser  
Stina Nyberg  
Rory Pilgrim  
Will Rawls  
Zadie Xa



## Block Universe

29 May — 04 June 2017

The week-long programme includes five newly commissioned site-specific performances, four UK premieres as well as a public programme of talks and workshops.

This year's festival theme will address notions of nationhood, inclusivity and identity politics set against a changing socio-political landscape. Looking at networked communities and the power of collective voices, Block Universe will champion work that questions the status quo in divisive times.



Bachmann's new commission *I don't want your whispers* examines the relationship between language, voice and power. This work is informed by ideas surrounding activism and dominant discourse, how to find one's own voice in order to be heard and listened to. Performed by actor Anna Tierney and dancer Patricia Langa, this piece deals with negotiations of speech and the materiality of the voice and gestures.



In Eglė Budvytytė's mobile performance *Choreography for the Running Male*, a group of men jog a route through the city. As they trace a path in unison, they carry out choreographed gestures relating to emotions ranging from shame to seduction, along with sequences referencing militaristic action. Coming from a country with a history of Soviet occupation, Budvytytė's piece, with its uniform choreography and sound of marching feet, inevitably speaks to mechanisms of social control.



Artists Kim Coleman, Cara Tolmie and dancer and choreographer Zoë Poluch will collaborate together for the first time in this new commission for Block Universe exploring the use of light, voice and movement within a theatrical setting.



Block Universe and Open Space Contemporary present the performative dinner *Pluto's Kitchen* by Işıl Eğrikavuk. Drawing parallels between Pluto's demotion as a planet from our solar system and the UK's strategy to exit the European Union, this event will bring cultures together through the sharing of a conceptual menu. For this piece, Eğrikavuk will examine the alternative by envisioning what form the kitchen and cuisine of an isolated planet, and thus an isolated nation, could take.



The choreographed movements for *5100: Pentagon*, a UK Premiere, were inspired by collected archival images relating to the Gwangju uprising of 18 May 1980. Each performance is constructed based on a web-tutorial available to be accessed by anonymous groups of participants. This project brings to light an unexplored period in history as an intensive moment, performed repetitively yet differently by voluntary participants in every new iteration. *5100: Pentagon* is a project by Young In Hong in collaboration with choreographers Ann So-Hee Mannik Kristiansen and Sarah Louise Kristiansen.



In the London Premiere of Liz Magic Laser's *Political Therapy* workshop, Primal Therapy and meditation techniques will be used to elicit connections and conflate personal experiences with political beliefs. Laser has enlisted drama therapist and actress, Louise Platt, to guide participants through activities that facilitate the expression of frustrations related to Brexit and other current events.



This UK premiere, *Shapes of States*, traces the historical and political writing of the body by connecting Swedish public health ideologies from the 1920s with contemporary training ideals. The performance is in part visually described by the dancers and suggests interpretations of what is happening on stage, what is happening in the world and what is happening in our fantasy. Performance and visual interpretation: Sandra Lolax, Sindri Runudde, Andrea Svensson and Stina Nyberg. Set design: Tove Edlund Dreiman. Light design: Josefin Hinders. Costume: Tove Edlund Dreiman and Sandra Leandersson.



Rory Pilgrim will present *Software Garden*, a new performance commissioned by Block Universe, that explores connections between technology, disability and care as way of looking at larger political frameworks. Unfolding somewhere between Kabuki Theatre, a pop concert and a political social space of action, this performance will attempt to bring together a variety of people from different ages, backgrounds, human and robotic. In collaboration with poet Carol Kalled, singer Robyn Haddon and dancer Casper-Malte Jørgensen.



Working with choreography as an open source method, the UK Premiere of *Q&A* is a game in which the audience participates by asking questions while Rawls responds. Through this interaction, an event unfolds that weaves together thoughts, desires, prompts and opinions from those present. Through this practice, Rawls employs choreography as a way to question the roots of authorship, embodied labour and the indeterminate interpretation of art.



Creating an immersive environment for this performance at Somerset House, Zadie Xa's commission for Block Universe interrogates ideas of authentic vs. inherited positions and placement within the Asian diaspora. *Crash, Boom, Hisssssss. Legend of the Liquid Sword* will transport the audience into a supernatural narrative inhabited by shamanistic beings.