Proposal: Bodies Pressured

By
Demetra Kallitsi
Gabrielle Anderson
Robert James Maclese
Bodies Pressured is of course based around the seminal performance piece, *Body Pressure*, by Bruce Nauman.

*Body Pressure*

(1974)

Body Pressure
Press as much of the front surface of your body (palms in or out, left or right cheek) against the wall as possible. Press very hard and concentrate.
Form an image of yourself (suppose you had just stepped forward) on the opposite side of the wall pressing back against the wall very hard. Press very hard and concentrate on the image pressing very hard.
Press your front surface and back surface toward each other and begin to ignore or block the thickness of the wall. (remove the wall)
Think how various parts of your body press against the wall; which parts touch and which do not.
Consider the parts of your back which press against the wall; press hard and feel how the front and back of your body press together.
Concentrate on the tension in the muscles, pain where bones meet, fleshy deformations that occur under pressure; consider body hair, perspiration, odors (smells).
This may become a very erotic exercise.

Bruce Nauman, *Body Pressure*, 1974, (c) 2002 Bruce Nauman / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

Created as a piece enacted within his studio, Nauman was working on the principle that anything created within his art studio was therefore “Art”. This work has come to be regarded as a turning point within modern art, especially within the field of performance art. Held up in high esteem by artists and critics alike. (Recently revisiting this theme Nauman created *Mapping the Studio I*) Marina Abramović within her Seven Easy Pieces, performed at the Guggenheim (2005), a version of her own, created as though “interpreting a musical score”.
Gabrielle Anderson & Robert James Maclese will create a wall, six foot high, three foot wide & one foot deep. Which will contain them, for performance times, whilst at other times the interior space of the wall will be left empty.

Demetra Kallitsi will read out the *Body Pressure* instructions during the performances. A recording of her voice would be left during times of non-performance to enable people to still engage with the piece.
All other variables depend on location and timing of events. The size and construct of wall can be changed to suit environment, however it does at present need to fix to a “back” wall. (At present we are working on a wall where front and back faces will be seen, Health & Safety being our largest stumbling block at the moment). Performance times to be negotiated with venue, we are considering multiple time slots to suit other variables.

Gabrielle Anderson & Robert James Maclese are conceptual, installation and of course performance artists; studying Visual Art within Salford University. Their performance work has been developed both within and outside of the University. Leading membership of the ur:performance group has led to multiple works within Islington Mill, plus they are soon to be working within Sounds From The Other City amongst other projects.

The Institute of Neurological Deviance is a collaborative piece between Gabrielle Anderson & Robert James Maclese, part of their Anecdote series of works which include Clown One & Clown Two, and Religion.

Bodies Pressured has at this moment been accepted for two degree show initiatives. The first being Media City for the Creative Hive Live event, (http://www.creativehive.org/live/), on the 29th May. The second being a student led event at Islington Mill, (http://www.islingtonmill.com), 17th May.

For more information please contact: 07977 000 545 or maclese@me.com

Links to us and examples of our previous works:

http://urperformance.wordpress.com/

http://robertjamesmaclese.wordpress.com/

http://www.instituteofneurologicaldeviance.org/