

Open Futures

Dance is physical philosophy.

Our attempt to express or share thoughts, feelings, sensations, concepts and experiences through the metaphorical language of the body.

When sharing with others, how much of the dance manifests visually?

Many dancers seek out technology in an attempt to find new ways of transmitting these internal worlds to their audiences, to impart a more kinaesthetic or felt experience or to push movement beyond the parameters of our physical world.

In practice, the body and the technology form a duet.

New choreographic language is generated through collaborating with the system.

The body adjusts and adapts to the parameters of the technology.

The technology can unlock new ways of seeing movement and the world around us.

How accurately can the technology reveal truth about the body?

What does it restrict, facilitate, elaborate?

There's often an expectation for technology to be fast, efficient and instantaneous.

The reality is that it can be slow, tedious, and prone to glitching.

New technologies, or new ways of exploring existing technologies particularly so.

With dance, exploration and play come second nature and are integral for the creative process.

When you play with the technology and something goes wrong, the game comes to a stop.

Often you play the game exactly as designed, and still... it comes to a stop.

It can feel like failure, it can feel endlessly stalled, but when shared, we find the experience is universal. The stop start is the process, the creativity & the improvisation is in the problem solving.

This is the bit where you look at your phone.

What do you set up for your audience, how do you guide them, what's the exchange, what's the reward?

There is an excitement in discovering new things.

The technological tools and possibilities are often so fun to explore that it's easy to believe the audience will enjoy watching the outcome as much as the artist had creating it.

How much of the technology, or our experience of the technology, manifests visually?

When does it move from the thing that it does, to revealing something.

When does it move from our tool to our craft?

What do we need to make that transition?

Much like a duet, both counterparts need time to find their artistry within the shared space and to dialogue with the other. It is equal parts chaos & meticulous precision.

Where we meet in the middle is where the magic happens.

We need time to explore, time to fail, to succeed, to troubleshoot, to critique, to create, to share.