

PAGE/STAGE/PLACE

Rowland Hill, Mary Hurrell,
Zinzi Minott

21 June - 10 August 2024

PV: Thursday 20 June, 6-8pm

Image credit:

Rowland Hill, *Holy Prototype* (still), 2024, multi-channel audio-visual installation. Image courtesy of the artist.



San Mei Gallery presents *PAGE/STAGE/SPACE*, an exhibition curated by *motor dance journal* foregrounding contemporary artists working within and around the field of dance, including works by Zinzi Minott, Rowland Hill and Mary Hurrell.

Dance as an art form has permeated myriad fields – film, social media, printed matter, gallery and social spaces. These sites and stagings in turn invite new understandings of how and what dance can be. *PAGE/STAGE/SPACE* challenges the idea that dance must be 'live' and foregrounds different choreographic registers existing simultaneously. The group of artists featured in this exhibition share a commitment to an expanded understanding of dance as it mutates across media and temporalities. Brought in dialogue, their practices create an asynchronous overlapping of forms and approaches, with the gallery populated by material traces and interdisciplinary transformations of dance.

Mary Hurrell works with expanded forms of choreography to explore physical and psychological experience. Throughout live and installation-based work, she centres presence and the felt experience as a poetic and perceptual choreography. Hurrell's textual scores are choreographic explorations with both the language of movement and the movements of language, openings for multiplicities of meaning and action.

Rowland Hill presents a fictional club through her mix-media collage poster, drawing from the aesthetics of club ephemera and fairground tableaux. Across two screens Hill's video work explores the tropes of eurodance within the world of touring fairgrounds that visited her hometown of Loughborough.

Zinzi Minott has been commissioned to make a new series of ceramic sculptures, inspired by the idea of 'rent-a-tile', a patois term referring to a style of dancing where couples dance very close to one another on a single floor tile. These sculptural works think through the relationship of dance to space and place, in particular the spaces Minott has encountered in her own life, including floorplans of her family home and her first dance class. Through these works, Minott draws attention to ways in which Black people use public and private spaces to dance, and in turn cultivate intimacy and safety.

Alongside the exhibition, there will also be a corresponding live programme, activating new encounters with and between artist, work and viewer. Situated within San Mei Gallery, a space with a rich history of dance in the building's previous iterations as a dancehall, *PAGE/STAGE/SPACE* invites propositions into dance's pasts and futures.

Live programme:

Rowland Hill, 'Fluchtpunkt', 20 June 2024

Rowland Hill will present 'Fluchtpunkt' (vanishing point, place of refuge), an immersive performance-installation invoking the fantasy world of 1990s Eurotrance music and its disquieting, portentous rhetoric of utopia and disaster. The work is a suspenseful choreography of animated stagecraft including smoke machines, strobe lighting and a dramatic audio landscape of extreme weather sounds – a recurring metaphor for conflict and resolution in 1990s dance music. The site-specific work has been adapted to San Mei Gallery.

Mary Hurrell, 27 June 2024

Mary Hurrell will present a live performance blending elements from her performance scores exhibited in *PAGE/STAGE/SPACE; Movement Study 4 (Dorsal/Breast)*, *EROTIC MECHANICS* and *FORMATIONS*. Mary and her long time collaborator Kitty Fedorec will perform a new and unique hybrid iteration that incorporates live improvisations of sound, movement and spoken word.

Notes to editors

For further information and high resolution images please contact:
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San Mei Gallery

San Mei Gallery is an independent non-profit space for contemporary art in South London, committed to research-led, educational and collaborative exchanges. Operating with an artist-led approach, we support artists and curators to experiment with new ideas.

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Support

This exhibition has been supported using public funding from the National Lottery through Arts Council England and Puck Studio. Drinks at the opening reception are kindly provided by Brixton Brewery.



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Artist biographies

Zinzi Minott explores the relationship between bodies and politics, moving between film, sound, sculpture, prints, performance and object-based work. She is specifically interested in telling Caribbean stories, highlighting the histories of those enslaved during the Atlantic Slave Trade, the resulting migration of the Windrush Generation to the UK and its links to contemporary life. She explores cultures around film, sound, sculpture and movement, with a specific interest in Black Sonic production, bass, mixing, remixing, vibration and dark space. She is interested in the temporary building and dismantling of communities which occur in rave spaces, performances, and theatres and what this can teach us about contemporary communities and life. Minott is a Laban alumnus, the first artist trained in dance to be Artist in residence at both Serpentine Gallery (London, UK, 2018) and Tate (London, UK, 2017). She was artist in residence at La Becque 2023, and shortlisted for the 9th edition of the Max Mara Art Prize for Women (2023). She was recently nominated for the Live Art award – Shortlist LIVE! 2022 (Finland), received the Continuous commission for 2020-2022 (UK), the Jerwood Live Work Award in 2020 (UK), and won the Adrian Howells Award for 2019/2020 (UK). Her work has been shown at Tate, Baltic, Spike Island, Somerset House, V&A and Wellcome Collection.

Mary Hurrell (South Africa/UK) is a Bristol-based artist and musician working across experimental music, sound and performance art. Mary works with her voice and body as both instruments and live materials centering the felt experience as a poetic and perceptual choreography. She tests the boundaries of movement, spatial and sensory experience, as a composition in time that is unique and common to us all. Mary has presented projects with Cafe OTO, St Marks Drone Society, Jupiter Rising Festival, IKLECTIK, RTM Radio, Flat Time House, fluent, The Roberts Institute of Art, South London Gallery, Whitechapel Gallery and Bold Tendencies x Sadlers Wells. Recent artist residencies include PRAXIS organised by fluent (Spain) 2023; BrittenPears Arts (Aldeburgh) 2023; Gilfélagið / Deiglan (Iceland) 2022 and Yamakiwa Gallery (Japan) 2018. Mary is currently working on her debut album supported by Help Musicians in 2024 and is a Studio Artist at Spike Island.

Rowland Hill is an artist based in Manchester working across live performance, video, installation, sound, collage and experimental event formats. She creates site-specific experiences that play with the artifice and heightened emotional states associated with live performance and its stagecraft. Much of her work deals with ideas of absence and presence, and borrows from the vocabulary of theatre, cinema, clubbing, dance, music videos and other forms of popular entertainment. Hill received an MA in Fine Art from the Slade School of Fine Art (2018) and had her debut institutional solo show *Logical Song* at Castlefield Gallery in Manchester in February 2024. Other recent and current work includes *Fluchtpunkt*, a light and sound installation commissioned by artist Mark Leckey and the Turner Contemporary and the four-hour performance-installation *Opera* made with composer Jack Sheen, commissioned by the Holden Gallery in Manchester. She is currently the recipient of a Manchester Open Award, selected from over 400 artists whose work was exhibited at Manchester Open 2024. She has also been awarded a Jerwood Bursary and shortlisted for the prestigious Jerwood & MAYK grant for artists working in radical live performance.

motor dance journal is a print publication, dedicated to dance and writing about dance, founded in 2021 by Isabelle Bucklow and Hannah Woods. *motor* explores the choreographic potentiality of writing about dance and gives dance a space of critical endurance. Issues 1 and 2 were published in 2022 and 2023 respectively, and feature the likes of Yvonne Rainer, Rose English, Joan Jonas, Gillian Wearing, Siobhan Davies, Laurie Anderson, Lynne Tillman and Paul Maheke. Issue 3 will be published in 2025. Alongside their publishing, *motor* also hosts a live programme which has so far included a reading group, performance and discussion. Seeing dance as an undervalued and under-accessed art form, *motor* opens dance up to wider audiences through experimental and interdisciplinary engagements. *motor* were previously artists in residence at Sigrids Stue and Rum46, Aarhus (May 2024) and will be researchers in residence at the Women's Art Library, London (forthcoming).