

SERAFINE1369

III

(something flat, something
cosmic, something endless)

An indoor adaptation of a work made in a moment when all that was there was this body, its dreams and nightmares and cycles and needs, sensations and wanting. I went mining. I haunt this work. I is a collection of already historical circumstances, remembered and un-remembered. I is a crowd. I is a trick of the light.

Inducing a state of expansiveness and detachment from the pressure to create - or be formed by - meaning through conventional narrative arcs, the duration witnesses / tracks the rhythmic cycles, the peaks and troughs of an endocrine system beyond the arc of climax. Situating a research and obsession with the unit of 'one minute' – asking whether we can transform the stuff of time or whether it transforms us. Considering the modern invention of colonial time and its agenciescy, the ways we inhabit its units of fixed endless measurement, even as this understanding of tTime slips out of relation to the celestial bodies that have long been its anchor and justification.

Working with live and recorded text written over the last year from dreams and heartache and reflection. A reading, a listening, a movement, a landscape that is a wasteland of feeling.

III (something flat, something cosmic,
something endless) was commissioned
by Liverpool Biennial, 2021.

Sound Design
Josh Anio Grigg

BIO:

SERAFINE1369 was previously working under the name Last Yearz Interesting Negro (2016-2020) and is the artist and dancer (++) Jamila Johnson-Small. SERAFINE1369 works with dancing as a philosophical undertaking, a political project with ethical psycho-spiritual ramifications for being-in-the-world; dancing as intimate technology.

Their work is informed by research into movement and dance as a tool for divination, decoding messages from an oracular body – on personal/structural/symptomatic/somatic/psychic levels – to be processed through the medium of choreography. Always thinking about the metabolic – impact and exchange through/in/as movement. Their shows are stage/dream-space/battleground, decompositions, atmospheric landscapes created through the live unfolding of the tensions between things that produce meaning.

SERAFINE1369 has a relational, cumulative and often collaborative practice, gathering and transmitting information through working in various constellations, at different scales and in different roles to build spaces for communing/attuning/communicating through dancing, performance, listening and conversation; spaces that might hold the complex, multiple and contradictory, spaces that consider movement and transformation as inevitable, working to be unsettling situations of non-dominance. Usually based in London they were Torchlight Artist at Siobhan Davies Studios from 2019 - 2021, won the Arts Foundation Futures Award for Visual Art in 2019 and are due to be in residence at Gropius Bau, Berlin for 2024. (if and when they can get there). Long term creative team includes Jackie Shemesh (Light Design), Josh Anio Grigg (Sound Design) and Katarzyna Perlak (Photography). Regular collaborators include AGF HYDRA, Phoebe Collings-James, Fernanda Muñoz-Newsome and Shelley Parker.

+ www.basictension.com