

20 September 2018

CONTINUOUS | BALTIC

SIOBHAN
DAVIES
DANCE

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art and Siobhan Davies Dance announce selected 18/19 CONTINUOUS artists Zinzi Minott and Lucy Suggate



L - Lucy Suggate and R - Zinzi Minott

As part of an ambitious new partnership between a contemporary dance and visual arts organisation, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art and Siobhan Davies Dance have selected two dance artists for the first phase of *CONTINUOUS*; a four-year project to explore the relationship between contemporary dance and the visual arts. Zinzi Minott and Lucy Suggate were chosen following an open call for two commission opportunities to create a new work which will premiere at BALTIC in Autumn 2019.

CONTINUOUS will explore the dialogue between contemporary dance and visual arts, and marks a step-change in the commissioning, creation, presentation and critical discussion of experimental independent contemporary dance within visual arts contexts. It will be the first collaboration of its kind in the UK.

Minott and Suggate were selected following an open call from among 90 dancer choreographers interested in developing their practice within a visual arts context. The artists will spend up to seven weeks devising their work between Gateshead and London at both BALTIC and Siobhan Davies Dance Studios, and present their commissions in Autumn 2019. The partnership will allow the artists and organisations to learn from one another to advance the creation, presentation and development of audiences for experimental independent contemporary dance within visual arts contexts.

Minott's choreographic practice seeks to expand on the possibilities of what dance is, and can be in relation to visual art and other forms. In recent residencies at Rich Mix and The Serpentine Gallery, she has explored how dance is perceived through the prisms of race, queer culture, gender and class. Lucy Suggate's work has evolved to challenge the politics of dance in the 21st century and to understand how the body can interpret an age of crisis, information overload and technology.

Sarah Munro, Director of BALTIC says:

"*CONTINUOUS* has formed out of true collaboration and shared enthusiasm between BALTIC and Siobhan Davies Dance. By recognising what our organisations can learn from our shared disciplines within which we focus, dance and visual arts, we aim to support the creation of new and experimental practice. We are delighted to be commissioning Lucy and Zinzi in the first phase of our partnership, placing artists at the centre of forming new knowledge and innovative practice."

Siobhan Davies says:

"Dance artists now want to engage with and appreciate other disciplines. Our colleagues at BALTIC wanted to learn from our past experiences at SDD of bringing dance into galleries and we wanted to continue developing our work in this area to create more opportunities for artists. We built *CONTINUOUS* together through great conversations about our shared ambitions and questions, leading us to jointly commission two choreographers that excited and informed us. This is a joyous partnership for all of us, and this project will enrich both of our fields as well as introducing the public to fantastic work that will grow out of long-term collaboration."

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About Zinzi Minott

Zinzi Minott's work focuses on the relationship between dance, bodies and politics. Strongly identifying as a dancer, she seeks to complicate the boundaries of dance and the place of black female bodies within the form. Her work explores how dance is perceived through the prisms of race, queer culture, gender and class. Zinzi is interested in the space between dance and other art forms, and though her practice is driven through dance, the outcomes range from performance and live art to sound, film, dances and object-based work.

She successfully premiered her new work *What Kind of Slave Would I Be?* to a full house at Rich Mix and is planning to tour the piece this autumn alongside an R&D period into a new work based the dance in grime. In 2016/17 she was artist in residence at both Tate Modern and Tate Britain. During her time there She was commissioned by Tate to create her last piece "*Nowse Bwoy and Aunty...The saving of a life*" which premiered in February 2017 at Tate Britain as part of BP Families Festival with sound from cellist Pete Yelding. She has also been artist in residence at Rich Mix and Dance Research Space 2016/17 and is a resident artist at Somerset House and Once Dance UK Trailblazer.

Most recently Minott has been awarded funds from the Arts Council England Artist International Development Fund, Jerwood Micro Bursary and the Live Art UK/ Live Art Development Agency- Diverse Actions Leadership Bursary. She is currently Artist in Residence at the Serpentine Gallery.

About Lucy Suggate

Lucy Suggate is a dance artist and choreographer recognised for her articulate and engaging solo performances as well as group installations informed by elements of synchronicity, cooperation and believing performance to be a communal act.

Her work is rooted in a movement practice which is an ongoing inquiry into the perceptual and physical expansion that occurs when engaged in durational moving and thinking. This work is often supported by sound and music that accelerates the process of altered states encouraging the body, the performer into heightened states of awareness, availability and articulation - it's during this space that new constellations, ideas, patterns and possibilities emerge through the sifting.

A lot of her current focus is around creating spaces and conditions to support more expanded and fluid approaches to dance and choreography both in doing and spectating. Research and questions that challenge and interrogate dominant systems often frame the whole process, such as 'what do we choreograph and how do we dance in the 21st century - the age of crisis, complexity, opinion and information?'

In 2013/14 Lucy became a Modul Dance Artist, supported by Mercat, Graner, Dansehallerne, BoraBora and Arts Council England Artist international development fund, to produce a durational solo that went on to inform her recent work *pilgrim*. *pilgrim* has been presented internationally at Seoul International Dance Festival, Sonar Festival, Nottingham Contemporary for NOTTDANCE 15 and the Solo Tanz Festival. Recent collaborations

include working with Rosemary Butcher on *Secrets of the Open Sea* and *Test Pieces* and Wendy Houston's *Stupid Women*. In 2015 - 2017 Lucy participated as a lead artist in Dancing Museums, a Creative Europe Collaboration Project.

BALTIC is a major international centre for contemporary art situated on the south bank of the River Tyne in Gateshead, England and has welcomed over seven million visitors since opening to the public in July 2002. BALTIC presents a distinctive and ambitious programme of exhibitions and events, and is a world leader in the presentation and commissioning of contemporary visual art.

Housed in a landmark ex-industrial building, BALTIC consists of 2,600 square metres of art space, making it the UK's largest dedicated contemporary art institution. BALTIC has gained an international reputation for its commissioning of cutting-edge temporary exhibitions. It has presented the work of over 462 artists from 60 nationalities in 222 exhibitions to date.

Siobhan Davies Dance

Founded in 1988 by pioneering choreographer Siobhan Davies, Siobhan Davies Dance is an artist-led organisation that advances the art forms of dance and choreography. We connect artists and audiences through investigative, collaborative and interdisciplinary artistic activities at our studios and beyond. Recent works have been presented at art institutions in the UK and Europe including Lenbachhaus (Munich), Whitworth (Manchester), Turner Contemporary (Margate), Bluecoat (Liverpool), Tramway (Glasgow), Institute of Contemporary Arts and Whitechapel Gallery (London).

The RIBA award-winning Siobhan Davies Studios opened in 2006 establishing a permanent base for the organisation to create new work and support independent artists. The studios are a vibrant arts space in central London which hosts a programme of exhibitions, performances, participation projects and new commissions from leading contemporary artists.

Siobhan Davies Dance has worked at the intersection of dance and visual arts since 2009 when it collaborated with Victoria Miro Gallery to present *The Collection*. More recent work has included touring work for galleries *material / rearranged / to / be* (2017), and *Table of Contents* (2014); its three-year Dance Artist / Curator Mentorship Scheme (2014-17); the Creative Europe collaboration project Dancing Museums (2015-17); the publication *Who Cares? Dance in the Gallery and Museum* (2014); and a series of Dance and Art Forum discussion events since 2013. These have facilitated artists' experiments with dance in visual art contexts, raising questions about the opportunities and challenges museums and galleries present for dance and choreography.

www.siobhandavies.com