



EMPAC SPRING 2019

"One of the country's most invigorating hubs for performance and what's fashionably called 'time-based' visual art..."

The New York Times

Last fall, we celebrated the 10-year anniversary of EMPAC's opening with the premiere of several long-term projects commissioned and developed here at the center. It's always an exciting moment to see weeks, months, and sometimes years of effort culminate on stage and screen. But an equally interesting and exciting time comes at the very beginning of a project's residential trajectory, when artists and researchers are first becoming acquainted with EMPAC's tools, team, and media infrastructure, and preliminary ideas begin to take shape.

This spring, EMPAC's artist-in-residence program will begin to incubate a fleet of new works: Venezuelan artist **Ana Navas** will begin researching a new piece in response to Alexander Calder's sculptural acoustic ceiling at the Aula Magna in Caracas; Australian artist **Justin Shoulder** will work with green-screen and body-sensor technology for a new theatrical performance; UK electronic musician **Klein** will develop a new performance to premiere this spring at MoMA PS1; and New York artist **Anna Craycroft** begins work on a sculptural installation integrating acoustic technology. As part of the yearlong moving image series **Short Shadows**, artists **Jon Wang** and **Bahar Behbahani** will perform new work on March 29. And Berlin-based artist **James Richards** will share a public conversation on April 4 with curator **Vic Brooks** at the outset of a residency focused on experimentation with theatrical lighting.

As projects work their way from inception to completion, EMPAC residencies also offer existing works the opportunity for refinement and advancement. **jumatatu m. poe** and **Jermone "Donte" Beacham** will offer a preliminary look at *This is a Formation*, a new iteration in their dance series *Let 'im Move You*, on January 24, and **Jaamil Olawale Kosoko** will bring his multimedia piece *Chameleon* closer to its premiere with a work-in-progress show on February 7. Finally, on April 18, Norwegian artists **Iver Findlay** and **Marit Sandsmark** will perform >>*returner*<< in its completion, following a residency focused on refining the performers' body-sensor technology.

EMPAC director **Johannes Goebel** will offer an informal "salon" on February 15, presenting music, works, and thoughts from his previous life as a practicing artist, material that has influenced the realization of EMPAC. This will punctuate a season of musical programming focused on further advancing EMPAC's work in the field of "spatial audio." The concert, *36 Loudspeakers for 2 Ears*, on February 22 will initialize a new Ambisonic system in Studio 1, offering a survey of contemporary and classic spatial-audio works dating back to Stockhausen and Varese's pioneering multichannel compositions of the 1950s. And on March 20 and 22, a pair of events with field-recording artist **Chris Watson**, filmmaker **Carlos Casas**, and audio expert **Tony Myatt** will use spatial audio systems to expand *The Powers of Nature* in sound and cinema.

The story of our first decade closed on a high note last fall with *The New York Times* celebrating EMPAC as "one of the country's most invigorating hubs for performance and what's fashionably called 'time-based' visual art," and the MacArthur Foundation recognizing two recent EMPAC residents, Wu Tsang and Okwui Okpokwasili, with "genius" grants. We hope you'll join us for the invigorating start of EMPAC's next chapter in Spring 2019.

SPRING CALENDAR 2019

JAN

TUESDAY JAN 22 6PM

Improvising the Interface:
Dance Technology and the New Black Dance Studies

Thomas F. DeFrantz

TALK

JAN 24 7:30PM

For tickets, directions, or to find out more about the Curtis R. Priem Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center, visit us on the web at **empac.rpi.edu** or call us at **518.276.3921**. Event ticket pricing: \$18, \$13 for seniors, non-Rensselaer students and faculty, \$6 for Rensselaer students. Free admission is available to Rensselaer students through enrollment in the EMPAC \oplus program (more info on the Student Opportunities page). Screening pricing: \$6. All talks are free.

FUNDING

TICKETS

EMPAC Spring 2019 presentations, residencies, and commissions are made possible by Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, with additional support from the New York State Council for the Arts; the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, and the Jaffe Fund for Experimental Media and Performing Arts. Additional project support by the Arts Council Norway, the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College, DTS-Performing Arts Hub Norway, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, and Stavanger Kommune (City of Stavanger).

EVELYN'S CAFÉ

Evelyn's Café offers a menu of beverages, meals, and snacks, as well as a selection of wines before performances, screenings, and talks. Servicecontinues during intermissions and after most events. Evelyn's is also open for lunch on weekdays featuring a rotating menu using locally-sourced ingredients. On each Wednesday coinciding with the beginning of the semester, the student-run Terra Café serves a weekly menu of local and organic foods, featuring a vegetarian or meat option as well as dessert.

For questions or more information, call Evelyn's Café at 518.276.2578.

THURSDAY

Let 'im Move You: This is a Formation jumatatu m. poe and Jermone "Donte" Beacham

DANCE, WORK-IN-PROGRESS

THURSDAY JAN 31 7PM

Short Shadows:
A life that is only circulations
Juliana Spahr,
The Otolith Group, and Joyce Wieland

FEB

SATURDAY FEB 2 11AM

EMPAC Building Tour

with Director Johannes Goebel

THURSDAY FEB 7 7:30PM

Chameleon Jaamil Olawale Kosoko

DANCE, WORK-IN-PROGRESS

FRIDAY FEB 15 7:30PM

EMPAC Salon with Johannes Goebel

TALK

FRIDAY FEB 22 7:30PM

36 Loudspeakers for 2 Ears

Hans Tutschku

Wieland Music / sound

THURSDAY FEB 28 7PM

Short Shadows: Leaving Traces

Colectivo Los Ingrávidos, Clarissa Tossin and Lucrecia Martel

FILM / VIDEO

MAR

SATURDAY MAR 2 11AM

EMPAC Building Tour with Lead Audio

Engineer Todd Vos

WEDNESDAY MAR 13 6PM

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Slowness and Agitation as Embodied Politics Mel Y. Chen

TALK

WEDNESDAY MAR 20 7:30PM

Okeanos

Chris Watson and Tony Myatt

FRIDAY MAR 22 7:30PM

SANCTUARY

CARLOS CASAS, CHRIS WATSON, and Tony Myatt

FILM / VIDEO

FRIDAY MAR 29 7PM

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Short Shadows: Bahar Behbahani and Jon Wang

SATURDAY MAR 30 11AM

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EMPAC Building Tour with Curator of

Time-Based Visual Arts Vic Brooks



APR

THURSDAY APR 4 6PM

James Richards

In Conversation

TALK

THURSDAY APR 18 7:30PM

>>returner<<
Iver Findlay and
Marit Sandsmark

DANCE / THEATER

THURSDAY APR 11 7PM

Short Shadows:

Second Time Around Dora Garcia, Basir Mahmood, and Deimantas Narkevičius

FILM / VIDEO

MONDAY MAR 11 6PM

A Conversation with Ileana Ramírez

Director of Programs at Fundación Cisneros in Caracas, Venezuela.







01: THURSDAY, JAN 31, 7PM A life that is only circulations Juliana Spahr The Otolith Group

Joyce Wieland

Lucrecia Martel

02: THURSDAY, FEB 28, 7PM **Leaving Traces** Colectivo Los Ingrávidos Clarissa Tossin

03: FRIDAY, MAR 29, 7PM **CCS Bard collaboration** Bahar Behbahani and Jon Wang

04: THURSDAY, APR 11, 7PM **Second Time Around**

Dora Garcia Basir Mahmood Deimantas Narkevičius

SHORT **SHADOWS**

Bahar Behbahani Colectivo Los Ingrávidos Dora Garcia Basir Mahmood Lucrecia Martel Deimantas Narkevičius The Otolith Group Juliana Spahr Clarissa Tossin Joyce Wieland Jon Wang

This yearlong moving image series takes its cue from German thinker Walter Benjamin's two brief texts "Short Shadows" written in 1929. Comprised of fragmentary essays, or what Benjamin called "thought-figures" or "thought-images," the texts meditate on the fundamental relation between thought and language through specific reflections on phenomenology, art, astrology, and psychology. Some eight decades later, theorist Svetlana Boym borrowed Benjamin's title for a section of her notes on "the off-modern," or the paths not taken by the more canonical variants of Modernism. For Boym, the short shadow, like an imperfection on the surface of an image, designates an artistic strategy that has the potential to reveal the "porous nature of historical time."

Like Boym and Benjamin in their respective approaches, the artists presented in this series are concerned with the political importance of unexpected historical interconnections, and they advocate for a practice capable of attending to and moving within them. Mostly produced within the last decade, their films and videos shine a light on cultural and historical events that may otherwise remain in shadow, and, whether anchored in real or fictional scenarios, each work stretches beyond a singular moment or place.

Short Shadows includes such varied films as Lucrecia Martel's restaging of a 1950s novel set in an 18th-century South American colony, Clarissa Tossin's reflection of Mayan influence on California Modernism, Deimantas Narkevičius's underground staging of

Jesus Christ Superstar in early 1970s Vilnius, Dora Garcia's fragmented reenactment of Buenos Aires happenings during the psychosis of the 1960s disappearances, and Basir Mahmood's gestures of contemporary "Lollywood" cinema. Much like these individual works, the series as a whole is elliptical in structure and form, presenting an entangled dramaturgy of cultural and political history. In so doing, it aims to articulate the inseparability of aesthetic, social, political, linguistic, territorial, and technological conditions, yet attempts to resist treating that inseparability as simply a set of straightforward themes or plot lines.

Shadows are fundamentally linked to the history of cinema, both technically (images produced literally by light and shadow) and also in terms of its basic metaphors: not least Plato's Cave (in which those held within see the shadows cast on the wall as real objects), or later with the shadow plays and phantasmagoria of early proto-cinematic experiments. Like cinema, however, what they also do is bind images to objects in a passage of time. But Short Shadows not only refers to the magic of cinema or phenomenological affect. It also suggests the disruption of cinematic illusion, a strategy fundamental to artists moving image and experimental film practices. Short Shadows alludes to the communal experience of an on-screen shadow cast by the late-arriving audience member, and revels in the deliberate disruption of a seamless phantasm by artists whose work endeavors to excavate the surface of such scenarios in order to reveal their formation.

Improvising the Interface: Dance Technology and the New Black Dance Studies

Thomas F. DeFrantz Tuesday, Jan 22, 6PM

Theater / Free

TALK

Thomas F. DeFrantz is an artist and scholar who works at the apex of dance, technology, and critical Black studies. His historiographic and aesthetic focus opens shapeshifting conversations about the curation of art, ideas, politics, and bodies. DeFrantz will be at EMPAC as an advisor and collaborator to jumatatu m. poe and Jermone "Donte" Beacham's *Let 'im Move You: This is a Formation* residency. In conjunction with that project, he will present this public talk on his research.

DeFrantz is professor in the departments of African and African-American Studies and of Dance at Duke University. He is co-editor of *Black Performance Theory: An Anthology of Critical Readings*, and *Dancing Many Drums: Excavations in African American Dance*.

CURATOR ASHLEY FERRO-MURRAY

Let 'im Move You:
This is a Formation
jumatatu m. poe and
Jermone "Donte" Beacham
Thursday, Jan 24, 7:30PM

Goodman - Studio 1 / Free

DANCE, WORK-IN-PROGRESS

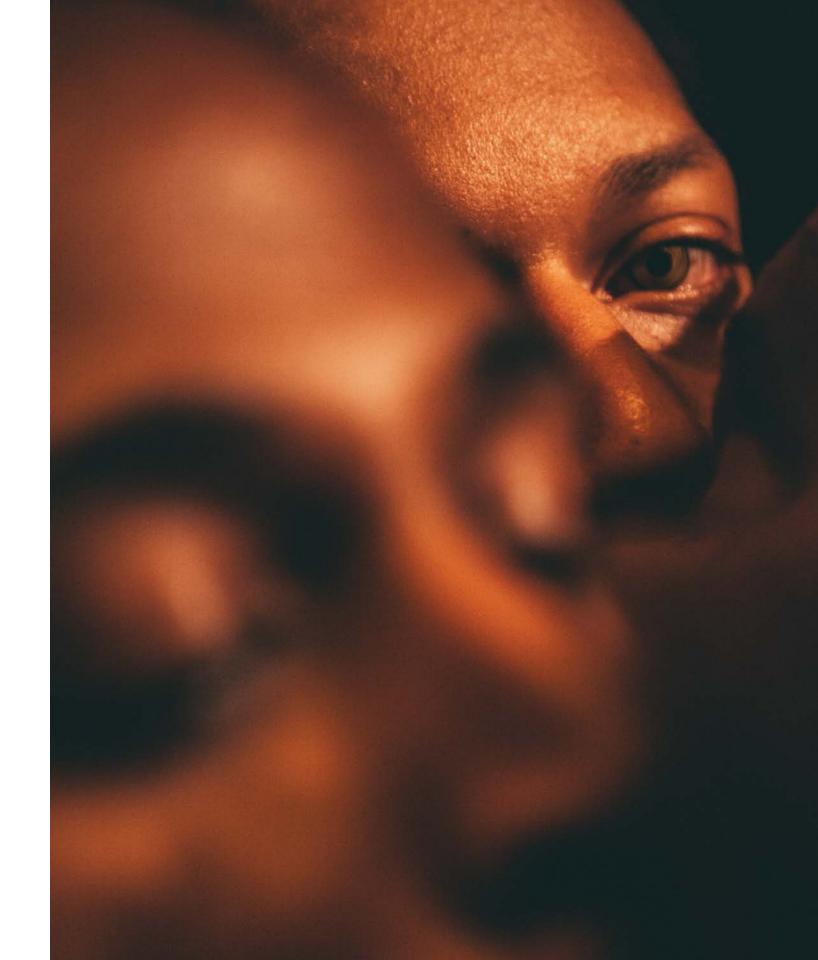
Let 'im Move You is a series of performance and visual works rooted in the J-Sette dance form. The most recent performance in the series, This Is a Formation, both agitates and plays with the energetic lead-and-follow form of dance, which originated in the Black femme communities of Jackson, Mississippi, in the 1970s and has been widely popularized by the Jackson State University Marching Band dance team, the Prancing J-Settes.

Artists jumatatu m. poe and Jermone "Donte" Beacham are in residence at EMPAC to develop *This is a Formation*, designed as a three-part performance that will travel across historically Black neighborhoods, queer night clubs, and institutional art spaces and theaters. The artists will be joined by a team of collaborators, including seven dancers, lighting, audio, and visual media designers, as well as two ethical and artistic consultants, to expand the theatrical and technological elements of the work. The team will also conduct a series of workshops with Rensselaer students as part of the development of the piece.

Work-in-Progress events offer a window into the research, development, and production of new works by artists in residence at EMPAC. These free events open up a dialogue between our audiences, artists, and EMPAC staff.

This residency was made possible in part by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

CURATOR ASHLEY FERRO-MURRAY



Short Shadows: A life that is only circulations

Thursday, Jan 31, 7PM

Theater / \$6

Juliana Spahr, The Otolith Group, and Joyce Wieland

FILM / VIDEO, POETRY

The title for this episode of the *Short Shadows* series "A life that is only circulations" is borrowed from Bay Area poet Juliana Spahr's Transitory, Momentary, a poem about loss shot through with reflections on the power of words, songs, and stanzas against the backdrop of the Occupy movement and the global circulation of oil commodities and capital. Alongside a reading by Spahr, the program features two films made almost five decades apart, Joyce Wieland's Sailboat (1965) and The Otolith Group's I See Infinite Distance Between Any Point and Another (2012). Both films operate at the boundary between language and image and are each framed by the sea as a visual, poetic, and structural metaphor for exile, longing, and global circulatory connection.

An intimate portrait of artist and poet Etel Adnan as she reads from her book Sea and Fog in her apartment, I See Infinite Distance Between Any Point and Another explores the experiential gap between the act of reading and that of being read to. The camera intimately captures Adnan, closely framed and at oblique angles, allowing space for the poetry and poet to comingle. In comparison, Wieland's lens focuses on a distant boat with the sea filling the foreground. The word "Sailboat" fills the sky, naming the film's dialogic structure in a Godardian intersection of image and language. Like I See Infinite Distance, the film is at once intimate and distanced, technical and poetic, intertwining the lived experience at the moment of capture with a universal nostalgia for what has passed across the water.

Svetlana Boym has succinctly described such nostalgia visible in cinema as "a double exposure or superimposition of two images" that can form a durational map of geographical displacement, an ability to "revisit time like space." Both films expand spatial displacements through words and images (each artist has experienced geographical dislocation across oceans at different moments of their lives). Thus, a sense of dislocated simultaneity is present in the structure of both films, each deliberately juxtaposing ways of communicating—image versus language or listening versus reading —to produce alternate time-scales that act together in a single image.

sailboat



Whether anchored in real or fictional scenarios, each artwork in the Short Shadows series stretches beyond a singular moment or place to foreground the political importance of unexpected historical interconnections. Mostly produced within the last decade, the artists' films, videos, poetry, and performances presented here shine a light on cultural and historical events that may otherwise remain in shadow

PROGRAM

Juliana Spahr, Transitory, Momentary (read by the poet) Joyce Wieland, Sailboat (1965) The Otolith Group, I See Infinite Distance Between Any Point and Another (2012)

Thursday, Feb 7, 7:30PM

Jaamil Olawale Kosoko

DANCE, WORK-IN-PROGRESS

Chameleon

Goodman - Studio 1 / Free



Jaamil Olawale Kosoko is a performance artist and poet who works with dance, media, and sound on stage and in museums. He is in residence at EMPAC to develop a new work, Chameleon, which will have its two-stage premiere at The Brooklyn Museum and New York Live Arts.

Chameleon explores how minoritarian communities record and affirm their existence through collaborative actions and protests that archive personal freedom narratives as a way to subvert culturally charged fields of systemic oppression, loss, and erasure. The creation of media content as a part of and in response to these actions might range from documentary film, popular music and television, cell phone footage of an event captured by a witness on the street. Kosoko explores how these and similar media subvert systemic oppression, loss, and erasure.

For his EMPAC residency, Kosoko and his sound collaborator Jeremy Toussaint-Baptiste will conceive and develop an archive of CURATOR ASHLEY FERRO-MURRAY

found and original podcast and sound clips that will become central to Chameleon. This informal event will include a conversation with the artist during an early-stage technical residency, so its structure and form will be determined by the artist's creative process.

Work-in-Progress events offer a window into the research, development and production of new works by artists in residence at EMPAC. These free events open up a dialogue between our audiences, artists, and EMPAC team

Chameleon is made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.



EMPAC Salon with

Johannes Goebel

Friday, Feb 15, 7:30PM

Theater / Free

TALK. PERFORMANCE



Johannes Goebel will present some of his work from the time before he came to Rensselaer to become EMPAC's founding director. The perspectives and positions shining through his personal music, texts, projects, and thoughts may shed some light on foundational aspects of EMPAC's building and program.

When he became responsible for setting up and programming large environments for artistic production, Johannes Goebel stopped his own artistic practice. The power over facilities and production means granted to him as director appeared as a conflict of interest with his own artistic work. Between 1990 and 2002, he was the founding director of the Institute for Music and Acoustics at the Center for Art and Media ZKM Karlsruhe; the Institute became the largest studio and production environment in Germany for contemporary music and technology, including intermedia and interactive works, as well as scientific and engineering research. Coming to Rensselaer, he was involved in the design, specification,

and construction of the EMPAC building, as well as establishing the curatorial and production teams, the artist-in-residence program, event programming, and research. This event may serve to consider his work and experience before he became "institutionalized" and the role it has played in his approach to creating opportunities for others to create new works.

The program of the evening will be a collage of widely varying projects ranging from computer-generated music and music for custom-built instruments to the recitation of non-scientific reflections on computers, artificial intelligence, and human-computer interaction. It will include examples from his years in the field of "free improvisation with non-traditional instruments" to projects realized with dancers, architects, and visual artists.

Drinks and snacks will be served.

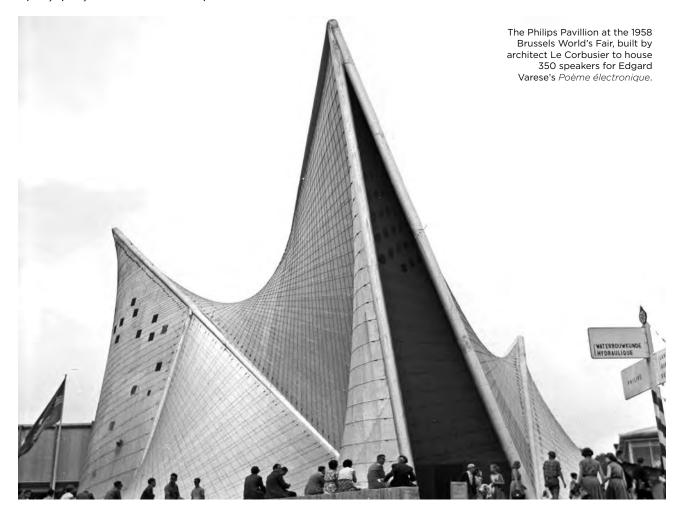
Friday, Feb 22, 7:30PM

36 Loudspeakers for 2 EarsHans Tutschku

Goodman - Studio 1

\$18, \$13, RPI Students \$6

MUSIC / SOUND



The concert this evening will inaugurate a 36-channel "Ambisonic" loudspeaker installation in EMPAC's large Studio 1. The program will feature a selection of electronic compositions written specifically to reach listeners from all spatial directions. Electronic music composed for loudspeaker systems built around and above the audience has been pursued for over 60 years; since its inception, EMPAC has been creating listening and production environments for sound to move freely through space beyond the confines of traditional stereo or surround-sound systems.

The pieces played during this concert are mostly only available to the public in reduced stereo versions, since there are not many concert halls and performance venues where they can be experienced in full multi-channel sound projection. This concert offers a rare opportunity to listen to this music as it is meant to be heard. The program will

include Karlheinz Stockhausen's *Gesang der Jünglinge* from the mid 1950s, as well as Edgard Varese's *Poème électronique*, which was famously performed in 1958 at the Brussels Worlds Fair over hundreds of loudspeakers in a pavilion designed by the architect Le Corbusier. The very first computer-music work created with "the simulation of moving sound sources," *Turenas* by John Chowning (1972), will also be presented, along with newer works from the 21st century offering a wide variety of different musical styles that use loudspeakers as "ensemble."

The pieces will be performed by Hans Tutschku (Harvard University), who is a composer, performer and teacher of music created for two ears and many loudspeakers.

CURATOR JOHANNES GOEBEL

Short Shadows: Leaving Traces

Thursday, Feb 28, 7PM

Theater / \$6

Colectivo Los Ingrávidos, Clarissa Tossin, and Lucrecia Martel

FILM / VIDEO

The second Short Shadows program brings together three movingimage works that employ the surface of architecture, celluloid, and the body to make visible material traces of temporalities erased by colonization and misogyny.

María Rivera recites her poem "Oscuro" over the red flickering texture of degraded 16mm film stock used by Colectivo Los Ingrávidos to capture the protest on March 8, 2017 against patriarchy and misogyny in Mexico. Sangre Seca (Dried Blood), is exemplary of the collective's material approach to filmmaking. By exposing political struggle onto the surface of the celluloid that, while mechanically reproduced, degrades over time, the artists mark the repetition of violence and protest across multiple timescales: "Oscuro" was written in 2012 in response to atrocities against women in Salvador de Atenco in 2006, the March 8th protest takes place every year, and we watch the film together in the present moment.

Clarissa Tossin's Ch'u Mayaa meanwhile reveals the pervasive Mayan influence on iconic proto-Modernist American architect Frank Lloyd Wright's Hollyhock House. Negating Walter Benjamin's claim that Modernist architects, "with their glass and steel... created rooms in which it is hard to leave traces," choreographer Crystal Sepúlveda moves in and out of the shadows cast by the pastiche of indigenous motifs appropriated by Wright. Choreographically based on figures ubiquitous in ancient Mayan pottery and murals, Tossin superimposes multiple versions of the dancer across the frame in an act of "re-signification" that restores the building into the Pre-Columbian Mesoamerican architectural lineage.

Argentinian filmmaker Lucrecia Martel's interpretation of the 1956 novel Zama by Antonio di Benedetto imagines an 18th-century South American colonial outpost. Focused on the spiraling despair of a subject desperate to prove his power within the hierarchy of Spanish colonial governance, Martel's camera lingers with characteristic attention to detail across the architecture and landscape that increasingly imprisons Zama in a psychedelic vision of subjugation.





Whether anchored in real or fictional scenarios, each artwork in the Short Shadows series stretches beyond a singular moment or place to foreground the political importance of unexpected historical interconnections. Mostly produced within the last decade, the artists' films, videos, poetry, and performances presented here shine a light on cultural and historical events that may otherwise remain in shadow

PROGRAM

Colectivo Los Ingrávidos, Sangre Seca (2018) Clarissa Tossin, Ch'u Mayaa (2017) Lucrecia Martel, Zama (2018)

Wednesday, Mar 13, 6PM

Theater / Free

Slowness and Agitation as Embodied Politics

Mel Y. Chen



While conversations about "posthumanism" in the '90s and early aughts circled images of cyborgs and artificial intelligence, more recent thinking around the term has brought the conversation into the field of animal studies, examining the political, social, and ecological implications of the relationships between human and non-human animals. Mel Y. Chen's book Animacies: Biopolitics, Racial Mattering, and Queer Affect explores animate and inanimate, human and inhuman life in relation to disability, race, gender, and sexuality. Chen is at EMPAC to give a talk on their current research, which follows on the concerns of Animacies. This work explores the concepts of slowness and agitation in relation to what Chen calls "intoxication," a term that invokes various forms of toxicity in our contemporary world.

Chen comes to EMPAC while visiting Williams College as the Robert Sterling Clark Professor during the 2018-2019 academic year, and is Associate Professor of Gender & Women's Studies at U.C. Berkeley where they are affiliate of the Center for Race and Gender and the Institute for Cognitive and Behavioral Sciences. Animacies won the Alan Bray Award from Modern Language Association's GL/Q Caucus.

CURATOR ASHLEY FERRO-MURRAY

CURATOR VIC BROOKS

The Powers of Nature: Songs and Signals

Two events, *Okeanos* and *Sanctuary*, bring sound and cinema into the EMPAC Concert Hall creating a unique experience of projected sounds and images. Using EMPAC's spatial audio systems, *Okeanos* is a concert that takes the audience into a world of underwater sounds recorded around the globe that move above and around the listener; *Sanctuary* is a live cinema performance using hundreds of loudspeakers to sonically expand the story of an elephant and his mahout on a mystical journey.

CURATOR JOHANNES GOEBEL

OkeanosChris Watson and Tony Myatt

MUSIC / SOUND

Wednesday, Mar 20, 7:30PM

Chris Watson (UK) is regarded as one of the world's leading recorders

and performers of wildlife and natural phenomena. The films,

installations, and projects of the Catalan filmmaker Carlos Casas

take form at the crossroads of documentary, fiction, visual, and

sound arts. Tony Myatt (University of Surrey) is a specialist in spatial

sound recording and reproduction. He developed an underwater

microphone system and subsonic speaker used to spatially reproduce elephant communication and low underwater sounds. The trio of

artists has collaborated on performances, live cinema, and installations.

Concert Hall

\$18, \$13, RPI Students \$6



Our oceans are the most sound-rich environments on the planet. *Okeanos* takes the audience on an auditory underwater journey around the globe. Years of recordings from pole to pole will be performed with three audio systems in the Concert Hall: a dome of 64 loudspeakers used to project sounds around the audience in an Ambisonic environment, a Wave Field Synthesis array, consisting of hundreds of small speakers placed above the audience, and a custom-built infrasound speaker used to create the lowest frequencies, which can be more felt than heard.

The composition will include songs, signals, and vibrations from the smallest crustaceans to the loudest and largest animals ever to have existed.

Chris Watson and Tony Myatt will perform a version of the work specifically developed for EMPAC's Concert Hall and its audio systems. This new version will guide the audience along the ocean floor, from the songs of Weddell seals singing under Antarctic sea ice in the Ross sea to the echolocating clicks and signature whistles of a pod of orca in Arctic waters.

Friday Mar 22, 7:30PM

Concert Hall

\$18, \$13, RPI Students \$6

Sanctuary

Carlos Casas, Chris Watson, Tony Myatt

FILM / VIDEO, MUSIC / SOUND



After a devastating earthquake, Nga, an old elephant and probably the last of his kind, and Sanra, his mahout, embark on a journey to find the mythical elephant's graveyard. A story of discovery and mourning in which the spectator becomes the protagonist, the film follows the duo as they are stalked closely by a group of poachers, who begin to die one after another under mysterious circumstances.

Carlos Casas' *Sanctuary* offers a mesmerizing sonic and visual cinematic environment that immerses the audience in the sounds, textures, and hues of the jungle. Projected on the mega-screen in EMPAC's Concert Hall, and featuring live Ambisonics, Wavefield Synthesis, and infrasound to induce a deep sense of physical closeness

with the elephant, *Sanctuary* presents a unique sensorial experience that collapses the boundaries between art, nature documentary, and adventure film.

The project is a collaboration with bioacoustician and elephant communication expert Joyce Poole. Chris Watson and Tony Myatt recorded the acoustic sphere of elephants at Amboseli, a sanctuary in Africa. Myatt developed the infrasound speaker and implemented the spatial audio. Both will perform live on the speaker systems installed throughout the hall. This is the US premiere of the project, which was previously presented at the Fondation Cartier, Paris; the Tate Modern, London; and the Kunstenfestivaldesarts, Brussels.

Short Shadows:

Bahar Behbahani and Jon Wang

PERFORMANCE, FILM / VIDEO

Friday, Mar 29, 7PM

Goodman - Studio 1 / \$6

Theater / Free



James Richards In Conversation

TALK, FILM / VIDEO



Bringing together the work of New York-based artists and filmmakers Bahar Behbahani and Jon Wang, this event expands the format of the *Short Shadows* moving image series to include elements of performance, painting, and architecture. The evening will engage themes and processes of displacement and longing, as well as narratives of transformation that run through Behbahani's and Wang's work.

New York-based Iranian artist Bahar Behbahani's work addresses her long-term conceptual dialogues with memory and loss. Through painting, video, and participatory performance, she revisits Iran's psychogeographic landscapes. The Persian garden, a contested space marked by colonialism and seductive beauty, is a reoccurring site for reflection and recovery.

Jon Wang generates films, sculptures, and performances that question notions of representation and desire. Wang's treatments of pace—at times drawing on techniques of voice-over narration, tenants of feng shui, and the day-to-day activities of silk worms—

gesture towards the ways in which beings and their surroundings are in states of perpetual transition. In this sense, pace, as a technosensual material, both grounds and disrupts Wang's atmospheric videos and installations.

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The evening is co-organized by second-year students from the Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College, including Giorgia von Albertini, Drew Broderick, Susannah Faber, Srinivas Aditya Mopidevi, Serubiri Moses, Suzie Smith, and Thea Spittle, working in collaboration with **EMPAC** curator Vic Brooks



Artist in residence James Richards will be in conversation with EMPAC curator Vic Brooks to discuss his approach to the production of artworks and collaborations within different curatorial frameworks. The event will include excerpts of his previous videos, sound installations and past exhibitions, as well as insight into the early stages of Richards' new project, which will be developed during a series of production residencies at EMPAC in 2019 and premiered here in Spring 2020.

Richards' new commission takes as its starting point an essay that accompanied his exhibition Music for the Gift for the Welsh Pavilion at the 2017 Venice Biennale. Produced in collaboration with Chris McCormack, the text moves back and forth between the first and third person and the experiential and the scientific, shifting registers to evoke the male experience of the voice breaking during adolescence. Richards' approaches the development of his artworks

with a period of research and experimentation in order to grapple with material languages of image and sound production. At EMPAC, he will start by working with theatrical lighting in order to explore its affective, environmental, and performative potential in practice.

James Richards' artworks reveal connections between people, practices, and private, hidden, or suppressed histories through archival and online research. Working with a vast array of media materials, often generated during long-term exchanges with other artists, such as American media artist Steve Reinke and filmmaker Leslie Thornton, Richards produces sound and video installations that invite the audience into an intimate encounter with private worlds and queer communities.

CURATOR VIC BROOKS

Short Shadows: Second Time Around

Thursday, Apr 11, 7PM

Theater / \$6

Dora Garcia, Basir Mahmood, and Deimantas Narkevičius

FILM / VIDEO

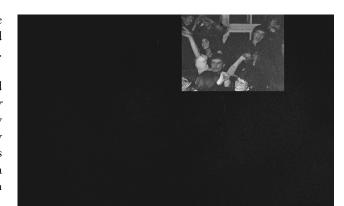
The final Short Shadows program of the season presents three moving-image works with narrative structures that orbit around performances from the past in order to make hidden histories visible.

Deimantas Narkevičius' Stains and Scratches focuses on found footage of an underground performance of Jesus Christ Superstar in Vilnius, Lithuania, during the 1970s. The show was performed by students at the Vilnius Academy of Art from a score re-written by ear from an unsanctioned double LP. Narkevičius further dislocates the documentation by layering and doubling the film onto a scratched black celluloid background, the soft-montage composition highlighted and rendered sculptural in Stereoscopic 3D.

One of a series of films produced during Basir Mahmood's research into "Lollywood" (Pakistan's center for cinema production in Lahore) history, the script for all voices are mine was derived from recollections of actors, filmmakers, and writers. The film is structured around reenactments of their scenes from previous films and is performed without dialogue, a dramaturgical approach that produces a film that is at once unfamiliar and recognizable. This collage technique produces an uncanny sense of a film that we have all seen, albeit one that is rehearsed only in memory.

Spanish artist Dora Garcia's first feature, Segunda Vez (Second Time Around), pivots around avant-garde theorist Oscar Masotta's ideas concerning psychoanalysis, politics, and art in 1960s Buenos Aires. Structured by a series of interconnected re-enactments, re-stagings, and social experiments, the film shifts between documentary-style interpretations of past "happenings" and the fictional psychodrama of novelist Julio Cortázar. Segunda Vez weaves a complex narrative within the climate of surveillance and disappearances in Argentina, producing a paranoia for what will happen the second time around.

Whether anchored in real or fictional scenarios, each artwork presented in the Short Shadows series stretches beyond a singular moment or place to foreground the political importance of unexpected historical interconnections. Mostly produced within the last decade, the artists' films, videos, poetry, and performances presented here shine a light on cultural and historical events that may otherwise remain in shadow.







Deimantas Narkevičius, Stains and Scratches (2018) Basir Mahmood, all voices are mine (2018) Dora Garcia, Segunda Vez (2018)

Thursday, Apr 18, 7:30PM

>>returner<< Findlay//Sandsmark

Theater

\$18, \$13, RPI Students \$6

DANCE / THEATER



that illustrates different relationships between nature, people, and technology. Conceived by the Norwegian performance company Findlay//Sandsmark, led by Iver Findlay and Marit Sandsmark, the performance features motion-capture and animation technology, which interacts live with video and sound content. In addition to these digital media, the performers inhabit a world of natural stage elements including wooden sticks, a narrow wooden hallway, and a large cube that transforms over the course of the performance. What results is a performance environment in which audience expectations are both met and defied as the two performers play with perception and sensation.

CURATOR ASHLEY FERRO-MURRAY

>>returner<< is a performance work spanning theater and dance Findlay and Sandsmark are in residence at EMPAC with their company to further develop the project's body-sensor and animation content. In its use of this technology, >>returner << demonstrates a wariness of the inflexible binaries that one-to-one body-technology interactions engender: including presence/absence, real/virtual, and natural/manufactured. The performance weaves between and around these binaries to question them without dismantling them entirely a nod to their unavoidable if not regrettable ubiquity in our daily lives. Attempting to avoid the trap of technophillic engagement, >>returner << creates an at-times chilling piece of performance.

> Support for this residency and presentation is provided by the Arts Council Norway, DTS-Performing Arts Hub Norway, and Stavanger Kommune (City of Stavanger).

BUILDING TOURS

This spring, we'll continue our monthly series of EMPAC building tours led by different members of the EMPAC team to highlight the diverse and specialized functions of the space. Each tour will run on the first Saturday of the month at 11AM, unless otherwise specified. Admission is free and open to the public. Visitors should meet for their tour at the EMPAC box office on the 7th floor.

EMPAC BUILDING TOUR WITH DIRECTOR JOHANNES GOEBEL FEBRUARY 2, 11AM

Join EMPAC's founding director Johannes Goebel for a tour of the building (and overview of the program) that he helped realize and has led through EMPAC's first 10 years. Goebel will take visitors through the EMPAC building with an eye and an ear to the "human-scale" functions he strove to achieve in taking the project from a lofty vision to one of the world's most advanced media centers.

EMPAC BUILDING TOUR WITH LEAD AUDIO ENGINEER TODD VOS

From the specialized sound-diffusive panels in Studio 1, to the frequency-calibrated Nomex ceiling fabric in the Concert Hall, and into the miles of fiber optic cable that connect each of EMPAC's performance spaces to its recording studios, lead audio engineer Todd Vos will take audiophiles on a deep dive into EMPAC's acoustic design and capabilities.

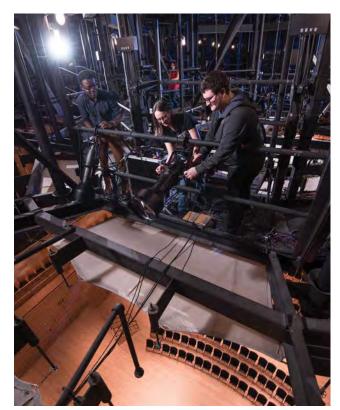
EMPAC BUILDING TOUR WITH CURATOR OF TIME-BASED VISUAL ART VIC BROOKS

MARCH 30, 11AM

Bridging the traditional disciplines of performance, installation, and cinema, Vic Brooks' curatorial approach has forged new visual creations within the wider context of time-based visual art. This tour will focus on EMPAC's unique visual production capabilities, ranging from 3D video, green-screen animation, flying cameras, and performances consisting solely of light.



STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES AT EMPAC



EMPAC[⊕]

EMPAC \oplus is a program open to all Rensselaer students that offers deeper ways of exploring the EMPAC program. Upon enrollment, members will receive free admission to all EMPAC-curated events. Every week the EMPAC \oplus community will receive news about upcoming shows, have the chance to meet our curators and artists in residence, and enjoy inside access to EMPAC productions as they are being created.

From student work to research and performance opportunities, extracurricular clubs to special events, EMPAC offers a range of ways for Rensselaer students to be involved.

All EMPAC-curated events are open to Rensselaer students at the price of \$6 and free admission is available to classes that integrate the programming into their curricula, and to members of the EMPAC ⁽⁺⁾ program. Tickets for non-Rensselaer students are available at the discounted rate of \$13.

Every year, the Rensselaer department of the arts programs seven events utilizing the infrastructure and support of the production teams at EMPAC. These productions often include final graduate projects that are developed in the venues themselves. As a part of the Rensselaer initiative to integrate art across the institute's curriculum, EMPAC hosts interdisciplinary Art_X classes taught by faculty who use the EMPAC-curated program as an artistic and experiential part of the class's specific topic of inquiry. Students are also often involved with research projects conducted by Rensselaer faculty using EMPAC infrastructure.

A large number of student workers support EMPAC's operation in the box office, as ushers, and with the various production (video, audio, IT, stage, lighting, etc.) and administrative (artist services, design/marketing, etc.) teams. For employment opportunities, please visit the student page on EMPAC's website.

Outside of events, productions, and classes, EMPAC is a meeting place for student groups. The People Using Live Software and Electronics (PULSE) group is a forum for students interested in experimenting with live audio and video technology. The group performs every fall at the freshman mixer MashUp!, as well as for their spring dance party PULSE Live! To get involved, please contact Eric Ameres at ameree@rpi.edu. The Physical Computing for Art and Design (PCAD) group also meets with Eric Ameres on a weekly basis.

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

Artist residencies are the heart of the curatorial program at EMPAC and figure into the overarching programming vision of the attending curator. Residencies often provide space, resources, and expertise unavailable elsewhere.

A Two Dogs Company Maryanne Amacher Laurie Anderson Ellen Arkbro Mary Armentrout

Wally Cardona Marites Carino Garcia Caroline Yanira Castro Chameckilerner

EPHRAIM ASILI (JUN 3-14)

Ephraim Asili is in residence with an ensemble cast to shoot scenes for his feature film *Inheritance*. Based on real events, the film's protagonist inherits a house in West Philadelphia that becomes home to an urban collective for activists of color. The increasingly claustrophobic drama unfolds as the group attempts to live together and find consensus through Black political discourse and social philosophy—a commitment that will climax in explosive action.

Charles Atlas Tarek Atoui Sam Auinger Miguel Azguime BalletLab Rosa Barba Sophie Barret-Kahn Tarik Barri Math Bass Seline Baumgartner Patrick Belaga Michael Bell-Smith Orit Ben-Shitrit Manuella Blackburn Per Bloland Yvon Bonefant Celeste Boursier-Mougenot boychild

Patricia L Boyd

A.K. Burns

Mark Changizi Phyllis Chen Luciano Chessa Nora Chipaumire Vicky Chow Deville Cohen Pig Iron Theater Company Petra Cortright Keiko Courdy Crew

Michael Gordon and The Crossing Steve Cuiffo Random Dance Ella Fiskum Danz Olivia De Prato Elena Demyanenko Rob Dietz Temporary Distortion Johanna Domke Annie Dorsen DD Dorvillier Toni Dove Lucky Dragons Laure Prouvost, Sam

Belinfante, and Pierre Droulers E-TEAM Shannon Ebner Ecce Peter Edwards Talea Ensemble International Contemporary Ensemble Mark Fell Joshua Fineberg

eo and audio engineers to document the work during a public performance on April 18. Lauren Davis Fisher Peter Flaherty Barbara Foulkes Nuria Fragoso Alain Franco David Brynjar Franzson Sabisha Friedberg Ben Frost Ellie Ga Mariah Garnett Stavros Gasparatos

IVER FINDLAY AND

MARIT SANDSMARK

Theater and dance artists Iver

Findlay and Marit Sandsmark

are in residence to develop

motion-tracking and animation

content for their performance

>>returner <<. The artists will

also work with EMPAC's vid-

(APR 9-19)

Colin Gee

ANNA CRAYCROFT (VARIOUS DATES)

Anna Craycroft is in residence throughout Spring 2019 to research and produce a new series of sculptures and a theatrical installation. Craycroft is experimenting with how acoustic technology can be built into architecture to mimic, extend, or deny one's body. Her sculptures will play with the identification and manipulation of the source of a speaker's voice.

MARIAM GHANI (JAN 2-11)

Dana Gingras

Brent Green

Sam Green

Sean Griffin

Mish Grigor

Gordon

Mariam Ghani is in residence to finish the post-production for her new film What We Left Unfinished, based on the history of the Afghan Film Archive—the state film institute based in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Miguel Angel Melgares Martian Messier Erika Mijlin Marlene Millar

Jean-Francois Peyret Pharmakon Robert Gerard Pietrusko Adam Putnam

JUMATATU M. POE AND

JERMONE "DONTE"

BEACHAM (JAN 16-28)

Choreographers jumatatu m. poe

and Jermone "Donte" Beacham

are in residence for a late-stage

technical residency in EMPAC's Studio 1. With their collaborators,

the artists will finalize light-

ing, video, sound, and choreog-

raphy for the third installation

of the Let 'im Move You series,

This is a Formation, a work-inprogress version of which will be

presented on January 24.

JAAMIL OLAWALE KOSOKO (FEB 5-10) Jacqueline Kiyomi

Jaamil Olawale Kosoko is in residence with a team of collaborators to develop an archive of found and original podcasts and sound clips that will become central to the Chameleon project. Kosoko will present on the work in a conversation/work-in-progress showing on February 7.

The Wooster Group Poor Dog Group Germaine Kruip OpenEnded Group Thom Kubli Gordon Hall Mabel Kwan Rebecca Halls Jennifer Lacev Laurel Halo Architeuthis Walks on Rob Hamilton Land Ant Hampton Aaron Landsman David Lang

Trajal Harrell Maria Hassabi Tim Hecker Robert Henke Kurt Hentschläger Fluid hug hug Wet Ink Lars Jan Japanther France Jobin Sophie Kahn

Jaroslaw Kapuscinski Maria Kefirova Mary Reid Kelley Gerard & Kelly Amirtha Kidambi Marianne M. Kim

KLEIN (APR 8-13)

Volkmar Klein

Garth Knox

Jörg Laue Simon Lee Ralph Lemon Phantom Limb Longleash Francisco Lopez Boudry / Lorenz Robert AA Lowe Laura Luna Trey Lyford Mads Lynnerup Guy Maddin Sara Magenheimer Anthony Marcellini Colin Marston

Kay Matschullat

UK-based producer, performer, and playwright Klein is in residence

developing a new performance to be presented at MoMA PS1's VW

dome. Her recordings incorporate pitched vocals with manipulated

audio samples and experimental electronics to create a col-

lage-like assembly of sounds. This residency is in partnership

with MoMA PS1 in Queens, New York.

Oneohtrix Point Never Marilyn Nonken NTUSA Restless NYC Bruce Odland Argento Chamber Ensemble Rachel

Arianne Ogle Freya Olafson Elixabeth Orr Ed Osborn Silke Otto-Knapp Karthik Pandian Dimitris Papaioannou

Rodrigo Pardo Graham Parker

Jennifer + Kevin McCoy Miguel Melgares

Rashaun Mitchell Ali Moini Melvin Moti MPA

ANA NAVAS (VARIOUS DATES)

Venezuelan artist Ana Navas will be in residence for the initial research stage of a project responding to Alexander Calder's series of sculptural acoustic panels, Clouds, that were produced in the 1950s in collaboration with architect Carlos Raúl Villenueva and MIT acoustic engineers Bolt, Beranek & Newman, and are housed at the Aula Magna (the Central University of Venezuela's auditorium) in Caracas.

Boru O'Brien O'Connell Ryan + Trevor Oakes

Lisa Parra Isabelle Pauwels Flux Quartet Jack Quartet Mivos Quartet Peter Evans Quintet Radiohole Judy Radul

Sabrina Ratte Lucy Raven Will Rawls

Movement Research Hannah Rickards

JAMES RICHARDS (FEB 25-MAR 1; APR 1-5)

Berlin-based artist James Richards is in residence for the development stage of a new project, and will be working with theatrical lighting in order to explore its affective, environmental, and performative potential in practice.

Silas Riener Cally Spooner Mariel Roberts Jan St Werner Ben Rubin Peter Stammer

Andrew Schneider Francis Farewell Starlite Michael Schumacher The Light Surgeons Susan Sgorbati Eve Sussman

Duncan Sheik Martine Syms Yegor Shevtsov Philip Szporer Shantala Shivalingappa Daniel Teige Jill Sigman Per Tengstrand

JUSTIN SHOULDER (APR 29-MAY 18)

Justin Shoulder is in residence with support from the Australia Council for the Arts. Shoulder will collaborate with Sam Rolfes to develop green-screen video content that the artist will manipulate live with a sensor system.

Ensemble Signal Miro Dance Theater

Mark So Konic Thtr Geoff Sobelle Jennifer Tipton Frederic Sofiyana Wu Tsang

Kate Soper

JON WANG AND BAHAR BEHBAHANI (MAR 19-25)

New York-based artists and filmmakers Jon Wang and Bahar Behbahani will be in residence in Studio 1 to develop concurrent performances that share the same production space. The performances will be presented as part of the Short Shadows film series on March 29. This residency is produced in collaboration with CCS Bard.

Hans Tutschku Workspace Unlimited Suzanne Vega Ben Vida Anti VJ Erika Vogt Flora Weigmann Cathy Weis

Jennifer West

Kyle Wilamowski Nate Wooley Eric Wubbels Jeremy Xido Kota Yamazaki Yarn/Wire Wojtek Ziemilski Andros Zins-Browne

IMAGE CREDITS (FROM FRONT TO BACK)

EPHRAIM ASILI, INHERITANCE WORK-IN-PROGRESS, PHOTO: MICK BELLO / EMPAC

CHRIS WATSON, COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

JUSTIN SHOULDER, CARRION, PHOTO: ALEX DAVIES

JUMATATU M. POE, LET 'IM MOVE YOU, PHOTO: TAYARISHA POE

DEIMANTAS NARKEVIČIUS, STAINS AND SCRATCHES, FILM STILL COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

AND LUX, LONDON

JUMATATU M. POE, LET 'IM MOVE YOU, PHOTO: TAYARISHA POE

JOYCE WIFLAND, SAII BOAT, COURTESY OF CANADIAN FILMMAKERS DISTRIBUTION CENTER

THE OTOLITH GROUP, I SEE INFINITE DISTANCE BETWEEN ANY POINT AND ANOTHER,

FILM STILL COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND LUX, LONDON

JAAMIL OLAWALE KOSOKO, CHAMELEON, PHOTO: ERIK CARTER

EMPAC SALON, COURTESY OF JOHANNES GOEBEL

HANS TUTSCHKU, 36 I OUDSPEAKERS FOR 2 FARS, PHOTO: WOUTER HAGNES LUCRECIA MARTEL, ZAMA, FILM STILL COURTESY OF STRAND RELEASING CLARISSA TOSSIN, CH'U MAYAA, VIDEO STILL COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

MEL Y. CHEN, SLOWNESS AND AGITATION AS EMBODIED POLITICS, COURTESY OF THE SCHOLAR CHRIS WATSON, OKEANOS, COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

CARLOS CASAS, CHRIS WATSON, TONY MYATT, SANCTUARY, COURTESY OF THE ARTISTS JON WANG, FROM ITS MOUTH CAME A RIVER OF HIGH-FND RESIDENTIAL APPLIANCES.

VIDEO STILL COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

JAMES RICHARDS, INSTALLATION VIEW OF PHRASING, COURTESY OF THE ARTIST DEIMANTAS NARKEVIČIUS, STAINS AND SCRATCHES, FILM STILL COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

AND LUX. LONDON

BASIR MAHMOOD, ALL VOICES ARE MINE, VIDEO STILL COURTESY OF THE ARTIST DORA GARCIA, SEGUNDA VEZ, FILM STILL COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND AUGUSTE ORTS IVER FINDLAY AND MARIT SANDSMARK, >>RETURNER<<, PHOTO: P. BUSSMAN

EMPAC BUILDING, PHOTO: KRIS QUA

STUDENT WORKERS, PHOTO: MICK BELLO / EMPAC

INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY ENSEMBLE, LOST HIGHWAY SUITE, PHOTO: PAULA COURT

MOVED BY THE MOTION, SUDDEN RISE, PHOTO: MICK BELLO / EMPAC



EMPAC

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