

Ria Probst - CI and Performance

CI and what makes the world go round

I chose contact and performance as my main focus for this upcoming week because I find myself circling around this question (it's mainly a question for me right now) again and again.

First of all it's about performance in general. What is performance? Where to find this small line inbetween being just with myself, wanting to impress, wanting to be perfect...(there are many of those confusions you can have in a performance situation) and the true and honest sharing of the moment.

So during this last year I went through an intense research with mainly two different groups. In the first group consisting of my partner and me we would work around and with the holocaust. A very concrete starting point. We would work with different tools of improvisation, with CI and most of all with our intuition. How to work with CI in this special context? How to use the conscious and subconscious mind? How can they work together? We found several solutions but still there is a kind of unsatisfaction and a lot of questions remaining.

So this is one place I want to explore with people. Is there a (or many) satisfying way to work with CI approaching a so called emotional/historical theme (in oppose to a body theme) or is the real depth of CI taking place on a mainly subconscious level and every try to put it in a concrete context would be a restriction of it's complexity and simpleness at the same time. Still talking about CI and performance.

The second performance group consisting of three women would work mainly with improvisation skills. At the beginning CI would have a fixed place during our research but after a while exploring we would find ourselves having difficulties combining open improvisation and CI. It seems to be such a specific type of work and a world on it's one. So we've been working a lot with coming in and out of CI. For sure many of my questions are answered by gaining more and more confidence, skills and awareness in performance work. Nevertheless there is a special kind of magic that emerges sometimes with CI that it seems to be a very fragile plant often destroyed by wanting to show athletics or just by being soaked up by the physical conversation with my partner so there is no space left for an outside being to be part of the dance.