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Urban Touch

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The lecture-demonstration URBAN TOUCH understands the prolific practices of screening dance as a way of touching. “Touching” holds a double character as (1) getting into contact and (2) affecting or being affected. To touch, we have to move and the action of projecting helps the dance work move and relate in time and space.[1] While any surface can potentially transform into a screen,[2] the moment of screening creates an ephemeral social entanglement of movement, memory, relation, and affect.

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PERFORMANCE-LECTURE

URBAN TOUCH

EDDA SICKINGER

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Within the scope of her artistic PhD research, Edda examines dynamics of touch in public spaces by intervening in the urban environments of Cape Town and Hamburg through dance. She intends to find a language that describes the realities, encounters, relations, affects, and movements of touch in urban everyday life. In doing so, she includes video as a tool for documentation, thematic reflection, and artistic means during the performative presentations of the research.

She further reflects upon her approach of touching through screening, by taking the video documentation of her choreographic interventions and performances in Hamburg and Cape Town as examples, and challenges dichotomies between visceral and digital dance, the live and the (pre)recorded, by revealing their complexified relations. URBAN TOUCH thus creates an entanglement of video screenings, a reflective lecture, and the co-presence of the participants at the conference, examining the spaces where technologically determined practices become sensory and affective, and thus create an affective spatial experience.











Edda is a choreographer and performer, currently pursuing her artistic PhD at the University of Cape Town; edda.sickinger@gmail.com; www.eddasickinger.com

Notes

1 Manning, *Politics of Touch Sense, Movement, Sovereignty*.

2 Simone, 'The Politics of Urban Intersection'.

References

Manning, Erin. *Politics of Touch Sense, Movement, Sovereignty*. Minneapolis, MN; London: University of Minnesota Press, 2006.

Simone, Abdoumaliq. 'The Politics of Urban Intersection: Materials, Affect, Bodies'. In *The New Blackwell Companion to the City*, 357–66. Boston, MA; John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, 2012.