

DENYS BLACKER & LEE HASSALL

Oui Performance

Sunday 26 July 2015

The Guildhall, St Helens Square, York

3pm - 6pm

Free



[Oui Performance](#) are pleased to present two solo works by artists, Denys Blacker and Lee Hassall. Situated in York's historic 15th Century Guildhall, Blacker and Hassall will present sculptural performances over extended durations.

Whilst each artist employs distinct methodological and aesthetic approaches to performance, the co-existence of the artists' works in the shared time-space of the event, affords an attunement to moments of collective consciousness and synchronicity; mental, emotional, material and spiritual. This approach to performance asserts that the "dualistic way of looking at the world is crumbling, and, that there are mysteries and anomalies that can only be expressed in artistic ways" (Blacker, 2015).

Like archaeologists, the artists mine the live body, sculptural materials and site for "immaterial histories," bringing the "unconscious" to the foreground of the senses. By "evoking a 'presence of absence'" the artists engage with what is "simultaneously – but impossibly - there and not there..." (Hassall, 2015).

Denys Blacker

London born, [DENYS BLACKER](#) has lived and worked in Spain since 1987, and has been making live art works for over 30 years internationally.

Blacker founded Gresol, a non-profit cultural association in 2002, and has curated and produced over 20 international performance art festivals in Girona and Barcelona, including FEM, an annual festival showing the work of women artists (now in its 13th edition). Blacker is also a member of the international performance group [THE WOLF IN THE WINTER](#), co-author of the project [ELAA](#) (European Live Art Archive), and, founder and coordinator of [CORPOLOGIA](#), a performance group and magazine of the same name. Currently, Blacker is a PhD candidate at the University of Northumbria (Newcastle upon Tyne).

Blacker's performance work and research investigates the thin line between thought and feeling, intention and action. Specifically, Blacker is interested in events of synchronicity and consciousness in performance art, analysed through the lens of Chinese philosophical texts. Through improvisational processes, Blacker's work seeks to uncover new understandings about the nature of reality, at the outer limits of scientific discovery. Through performance, Blacker poses that our dualistic way of looking at the world is crumbling, and, that there are mysteries and anomalies that can only be expressed in artistic ways.

Lee Hassall

Lee Hassall is a sculptor of international repute, who makes performances, films, sculptures, drawings, and installations. His work explores manual labour, parody, and self-satire, questioning the rhetoric around heritage and the historic site as presented for public consumption.

Since 2010, Hassall has been researching a PhD in performance in the Department of Theatre, Film and Television at Aberystwyth University, Wales. This practice-based research explores the work of the painter Thomas Rowlandson, and considers emptiness in relation to the sublime, through notions of 'landscape'; 'the picturesque site'; and 'post-colonial absences.'

Hassall has made performance's for: The National Review of Live Art, Glasgow; The Hay Festival, Wales; Interface Switch Room, Belfast; Trace Gallery, Cardiff; and sites in Beijing. He has presented installation work at: Artspace, Sydney; Fordham Gallery, London; Annely Juda Fine Art, London; and Franklin Furnace, New York. His film works have been screened at: Tate Britain; Arnolfini, Bristol; the Toronto Biennial; the National Museum Krakow; and the Reading Experimental Film Festival.

Since 2013, Hassall has been working with Professor Carl Lavery on a number of performances and texts focused on [HASHIMA ISLAND](#). Together, they have given a series of keynote papers in London, San Diego, Prague, Exeter and Los Angeles. Hassall is currently Senior Lecturer in Fine Art at the University of Lincoln.