

QUOTES:

Anonymous transcriptions of conversations with members of the public, dancers and gallery wardens. 6th – 12th May 2016.

Person a:

It is something new. It brings something new into the space; different to what is here normally. It is difficult to put it into words how I find it. It seems easy to look at images, it is not so easy to look at a body. It is a new territory for me. Some visitors don't know how to engage with the dance.

person i:

I was captured by her movement interpretation and by the text. After her movement offering I had the impulse to study the portrait again in detail and through her dance, other aspects and layers of the painting became alive. The dance helped me to feel the painting in more depth & complexity. I was able to develop a different focus, one that differs from the more static and distanced onlooker stance of perception.

Person h:

If I would be a painting, I would find it very valuable to be related to in a different way.

Person l:

The paintings have in themselves a very subtle movement, people in the painting are always one second away from a step or a smile or an eye blink.

Person c:

The space was enlivened. There was a certain three dimensionality introduced and evoked by the dancer, by the centred and focussed movement. Watching the dance changed my way of looking. It altered my gaze, my vision. Being asked to be danced to: 'May I dance for you' incorporated me into the sphere that existed between dancer, painting and space. I was included and taken into the unfolding dialogue with the painting. Being confronted with an intimate offer – 'May I dance for you' felt momentarily challenging.

person l:

I see people and space. I see the relation between space and people explored. I see visual spaces, representations and interpretations and the movement in and out of these spaces of interrelation. I experience that there are things that I don't know. What is normal? What is ordinary here? I am used to experience dance from a distance. In this three dimensional space I experience multiple things: feelings, proximity and distance in interplay. There is a tension in this empty space. The dance breaks the movement habits we all follow when in a museum space. The dance shifts the space. I walk into a space that I know – with a new and unknown eye.

Person c:

Witnessing the dance enlivened the museum space as well as my own imagination & creative thought. I was stimulated into thinking of creative possibilities myself: what else can happen with the space? Something is activated, my own imagination.

Connor Schumacher, dancer

What we do, together, during performance is not magic, but the power of people coming together to change the way they look and think about ideas.

Person g:

The different performances were unified through the travelling sound. The offering of her felt very intimate and erotic. She created a strong relatedness to the portraits of Maria. I did not analyse the performance, I decided to experience and let it happen. Without the dance in this space I wouldn't be here.

Connor Schumacher, dancer

It is important that you know that I bring my life, just as it is, into this space.

person f:

Being confronted with an intimate offer ,May I dance for you' felt momentarily challenging. It is important to distribute the necessary keys for understanding which essentially frame the artworks. Otherwise my own subjective perception and knowing remains rudimentary and confuses rather than make sense. Without any briefing, without setting the frame for this dance, I found my senses and my interpretation overwhelmed. I want to know what the dancer has thought when developing the dance.

Person h:

What stays for me from dancing museums is the physical memory that I will have when I enter this space the next time. I will see lots of movement in the different spaces because I will carry the movement from today in my memory. I know that without the movement I will experience these rooms as very empty.

person b:

The space is more filled with the dance in comparison when there is no dance. It is a great change for the visitors to be able to encounter something unexpected in the space. The dancers are trying to create an empathy. They try to feel what the portraits feel.