

Dwelling on the Shoreline: Suze Adams and Victoria Hunter

I am rooted but I flow
Virginia Wolff, *The Waves*

This session brings together two visual/performing artists whose research practices centre around the rich and complex concept of dwelling and whose works, each in their own distinctive ways, explore relationships between land and sea, body and water. Drawing from a range of multi-disciplinary sources, the session will focus on artworks and creative processes that seek to challenge traditional boundaries in order to examine embodied experience and to question where and how we might dwell.

The session will start with a presentation from each of the artists: in her paper, *Dancing the Beach: in-between land, sea and sky*, Victoria Hunter will examine how felt experience and emotionally embodied responses to land and sea are explored by choreographers through translation into expressive movement and gesture. Informed by spatial and phenomenological theory, her paper will consider how this type of site-dance work explores interstitial territories created through bodily movement on, through and within coastal landscapes and considers emotional resonances and sensations invoked through and housed within the practice. Drawing upon the author's practice-led research and the work of practitioner-researchers engaging in site-dance work in coastal locations, using visual examples the paper seeks to question what occurs when a dancing body becomes engaged, immersed and enfolded within this type of landscape and will consider what this type of work can reveal about human processes of *being* and *dwelling* within coastal locations.

Similarly exploring the inter-relationship between body and water, in her presentation, *Drawn to Water*, Suze Adams will screen a film from her research project *Communion*. Originally performed on the Hebridean Isle of Mull, home to Suze's maternal ancestors, the film is the visual outcome of a research practice that examines the concept of dwelling and notions of home as a route to exploring and extending multi-sensory understandings of the lived environment. In order to contextualise the film, Suze will briefly discuss other exploratory projects situated in the littoral. Inspired by the harsh and enchanting landscapes of Mull and recognising the mutability of identity, time and home, *Communion* unpicks the concept of dwelling and expands on a place-called-home with reference to feminist theories of becoming. Here dwelling is translated as embodied potential (a form of situated becoming) and, carrying such understandings forward, *Communion* considers the permeability of boundaries between the elemental and the material, between the physical and psychological actualities of the lived environment.

Together Suze and Victoria open up a range of understandings of dwelling: challenging, dissolving, expanding and questioning the concept in image, movement and word. Firmly grounded in the materiality of the physical landscape, these artists explore and examine embodied experience balancing all the while between the felt and the seen, the known and the understood, the abstract and the concrete, the fluid and the solid. The presentations will be followed by an informal conversation between Suze and Victoria who will pick up on convergent (and divergent) threads. The session will then open out into Q&A/discussion in order to develop conceptual as well as practical research themes. The session will be chaired by Dr Owain Jones.

Dr Victoria Hunter is a Practitioner-Researcher and Lecturer in Dance at the University of Chichester, U.K and Dr Suze Adams is an independent research artist based in the UK.