

PROJECT 31

Xavier Le Roy

2015

Temporary Title, 2015
20–22 November 2015
Track 8, Carriageworks

Open rehearsals
5, 12, 18 & 19 November
Carriageworks

Self Unfinished
17–19 November
Bay 17, Carriageworks

BIOGRAPHY

Xavier Le Roy is a celebrated choreographer, dancer and performance artist. Over the past two decades, he has collaborated with numerous acclaimed dancers and artists around the world. In 2009, Le Roy began to create works for museums and galleries including the Tate Modern and the Hayward Gallery in London. In 2012, he produced the exhibition *Retrospective* for the Fundació Antoni Tàpies in Barcelona, and later presented an edition of that work to critical acclaim at Centre Pompidou and MoMA PS1 in New York in 2014.

FACTS

- Xavier Le Roy and collaborator Scarlet Yu engaged 18 Melbourne- and Sydney-based performers to collaborate on the development of *Temporary Title, 2015*.
- Rehearsals for the work commenced on 29 October, three weeks before the exhibition opened to the public.
- The performers worked to a choreographic ‘score’ proposed by Le Roy and Yu which looped throughout the 6 hours of the exhibition each day. Key moments of the score included animal, plant, mechanical and human inspired vocabularies of movement.
- The work was presented in an exhibition context rather than in a theatre. Visitors were able to enter or leave the space as they desired within the 6-hour exhibition time each day.
- At any point in the performance the performers could engage a visitor in conversation, beginning with one of four prescribed questions: ‘What is aging to you?’ ‘What is falling in, and falling out of love to you?’ ‘How is learning for you?’ and ‘When you are travelling from North to South, how do you know when you are finally South, or vice versa?’

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

For Project 31, Kaldor Public Art Projects in collaboration with Carriageworks presented works by French choreographer and artist Xavier Le Roy.

This three-part project saw Le Roy work with artistic collaborator Scarlet Yu and 18 Australian performers to create the groundbreaking new work *Temporary Title, 2015*. For the first time in Kaldor Public Art Projects history, the public were invited to experience the creative development of the project through a series of open rehearsals. Le Roy also performed his seminal solo work *Self Unfinished* (1998), which was presented in Australia for the first time.

TEMPORARY TITLE, 2015

Temporary Title, 2015 experimented with the process of pattern recognition, exploring forms which were not quite distinguishable as human – yet not completely anything else – and the idea of movement as a continuous process of transformation. The performers transitioned between strange and familiar forms and formations, challenging our perceptions of the human body and its capacity for physical expression and representation. The piece did not utilise props or costumes and the performers were naked throughout the exhibition. This neutrality allowed the transitory movements and conversations to remain central to the visitor's experience.

Le Roy's practice explores facets of the relationship between performers and spectators, using movement as his medium. By calling the exhibition *Temporary Title, 2015*, he was alluding to the state of constant flux which marks and defines the work. Le Roy described the exhibition as a continually transforming landscape, where the visitor shifts between observer and contributor to the collective experience.

COLLABORATORS

Natalie Abbott, Christine Babinskas, Geraldine Balcazar, Georgia Bettens, Eugene Choi, Matthew Day, Lauren Eiko, Peter Fraser, Ryuichi Fujimura, Alice Heyward, Becky Hilton, David Huggins, Marcus McKenzie, Kathryn Puie, Amaara Raheem, Darcy Wallace, Adam Warburton and Ivey Wawn.

OPEN REHEARSALS

A former molecular biologist, Le Roy brings a deep, critical curiosity to his collaborative experimental process. For Project 31, rather than instructing his performers to move using a specific technique, direction or tempo, he proposed ideas to be discussed and actualised in movement and form. For the development of *Temporary Title, 2015*, he invited the audience through a series of open rehearsals to participate in this unique process.

SELF UNFINISHED

This seminal solo work was first performed in 1998. For Project 31, it demonstrated the choreographer's early experiments with the 'performer's body' and its relationship to the spectator. Unlike *Temporary Title, 2015*, this work utilised the traditional constraints of a theatre environment – together the two works offered complementary perspectives of his renowned practice.

Kaldor Public Art
Project 31: Xavier
Le Roy, *Temporary
Title*,
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Photo Annie McKay



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