

# PROJECT 31

## Xavier Le Roy

### 2015

*Temporary Title, 2015*

20–22 November 2015

*Open rehearsals*

5, 12, 18 and 19 November

*Self Unfinished*

17–19 November

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.

## COLLABORATING ARTISTS

Scarlet Yu with 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.

## 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

Two years after his work *Untitled, 2012* transfixed audiences in the 2013 Kaldor project *13 Rooms*, distinguished French artist and choreographer Xavier Le Roy presented a series of works for his solo project, realised in partnership with Carriageworks in Sydney. Le Roy worked with artistic collaborator Scarlet Yu and eighteen Australian performers to create the groundbreaking new work *Temporary Title, 2015*. The public were invited to experience the project's creative development through a series of open rehearsals. Le Roy also performed his seminal solo piece *Self Unfinished, 1998*, presented in Australia for the first time.

Le Roy holds a doctorate in molecular biology. Developing his art practice since 1991, he has collaborated with some of the world's leading artists. In *Retrospective, 2012*, at Barcelona's Fundació Antoni Tàpies, he first presented his work as an exhibition in a gallery, rather than a performance in a theatre, and became established as a key figure at the forefront of contemporary choreographic and dance practice.

Le Roy's practice explores the liminal space between performers and spectators. He describes *Temporary Title, 2015* as a continually transforming landscape, where the visitor shifts between observer and contributor to the collective experience. Like an experiment in pattern recognition, *Temporary Title, 2015* explores forms not quite distinguishable as human, yet not completely anything else. Performers transition between strange and familiar forms and formations, challenging the viewer's perception of the human body, revealing its capacity for physical expression and representation. With no props or costumes, it is the transitory movements and intimate conversations of *Temporary Title, 2015* which define the visitor's experience.

Rather than instructing his performers to move according to specific techniques or directions, Le Roy proposes ideas to be discussed and realised in movement and form. To participate in this unique collaborative process, the public was invited to a series of open rehearsals. Audiences, along with Le Roy, Yu and the performers, engaged in a dialogue that helped to shape the new work through collective experiences and perspectives.

*Self Unfinished, 1998* reveals the artist's early experiments with the "performer's body" and its relationship to the spectator. Unlike *Temporary Title, 2015*, the solo piece *Self Unfinished, 1998* utilises the traditional constraints of a theatre environment. Together, the two works offer complementary perspectives of Le Roy's philosophy and practice.

Following the success of the project, Le Roy and Yu presented *Temporary Title, 2015*, at the Centre Pompidou, Paris, in 2016, in Essen, Germany, 2018, and the Centre National de la Danse, Paris, in 2019.

Kaldor Public Art  
Project 31: Xavier  
Le Roy, *Temporary  
Title*,  
Carriageworks, 20 –  
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Photo Annie McKay



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Photo Emma Pike

