



Between the Dragon and the Tiger: how to maximize your energy in public

Oct 15, 2020

Bata Library at Trent University

by Coman Poon and Naishi Wang

This piece is a new dance/ritual collaboration between two Chinese-Canadian artists that enjoy working site-specifically. We offer an artistic approach that embodies an exploratory and culturally-hybridized process that centres on feng shui principles of establishing and sustaining environmental harmony. In this time of conflict and separation, we invite all to interact and dialogue with each other, as a bridge to intercultural understanding. Literally translated as “wind-water” in English, feng shui (Traditional Chinese: 風水/Simplified Chinese: 风水) is a form of Chinese geomancy, an ancient metaphysical divination practice of working with terrestrial energy. Briefly known as a “mystery patterned study”, the contemporary practice traces the energy circulation with/in built form with the aim to bring good fortune and personal nourishment. Seeking outward and internal harmony, it is a belief system and an everyday practice embraced by the people in China for generations. At the time of early British colonial contact, feng shui was the guiding principle Chinese Emperors relied on for the location of whole communities, bridges and other infrastructure such as canals. It was an applied worldview that infuriated Westerners trying to build railroads to make opportunistic inroads into China. With the People’s Republic of China now a global economic power, it seems fitting to bring this old practice full circle as an homage to ancestral Chinese wisdom.

The Artists wish to thank: Pivot Series curatorial committee, Bill Kimball, Patricia Thorne, Eryn Lidster (Public Energy), Alison Scholl (Trent University), Ivy Wang (stills), Rob Viscardis (video), ReFrame Film Festival, Professor Nadine Changfoot and the students of POST-CUST 3571H Cultural Politics, our ancestors, the Elements and the Ten Thousand Things.



Public Energy Performing Arts has partnered with the Peterborough ReFrame Film Festival to create a short documentary about the Pivot Series for screening at the 2021 ReFrame festival.



Public Energy Performing Arts is Peterborough’s leading presenter of contemporary dance, theatre and interdisciplinary performance. We support and present work by local, national, and international artists, while building community through outreach programming and developing audiences that are knowledgeable and passionate.

For biographies of the artists and more, please visit publicenergy.ca.

The Pivot Series

As a response to the COVID-19 restrictions on gathering indoors, *The Pivot Series* invited artists to re-imagine existing work, or create new work, for an outdoor setting in Peterborough/Nogojwanong. The result is a series of ten short works presented from October 2 to 20, 2020, to physically-distanced audiences of no more than 100. Of the ten works nine are being presented, with one cancelled due to heightened precautions necessitated by the pandemic's second wave.



Love in the Time of Covid | Oct 2 at 7pm, Oct 3 at 7pm
created and performed by Kate Story & Ryan Kerr; music by Arvo Pärt, Lou Reed, Curtis Driedger. Site: Parking lot behind The Theatre On King



Le Flâneur | Oct 3 at 2pm
created and performed by Bill Coleman; music by Curtis Driedgers.
Site: Millennium Park



Essential Circus Stage Three | Oct 8 at 7pm
by Opal Elchuk, Tegan Moss, Jeremy Pastic.
Site: Peterborough Square Courtyard



Bridge Over Troubled Water | Oct 9 at 6pm
by Aria Evans; created with and performed by Irma Villafuerte and Kevin Jones, Nikki Shaffeeullah and Sasha Tate-Howarth, Belinda Corpuz and Malcolm Connor, Aria Evans; accompaniment by Eirene Cloma. Site: Inverlea Park



Inside the Sculpture | Oct 13 at 12:30pm & 5:30pm
by Irèni Stamou; performed by Dreda Blow, Irèni Stamou.
Site: Peterborough Square



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Oct 15 at 12:30pm & 5:30pm
by Coman Poon & Naishi Wang. Site: Outside Bata Library at Trent University



Point of Origin | Oct 17 at 7pm
concept/choreography by Returning River - Jen Hum, Naishi Wang, Emily Law, Pam Wong-Shoebottom, Henry Mak; performed by Jen Hum, Naishi Wang, Pam Wong-Shoebottom.
Site: The Boathouse at the Silver Bean Cafe



Meeting at Thebes | Oct 18 at 6pm
by Lee Bolton; performed by Peyton Le Barr, with Mithila Ballal and Jim Angel
Site: Confederation Square



The Pratfall Affect | Oct 20 at 12:30pm & 5:30pm
by These are Horizon Days
Site: Corner of Simcoe Street and Bethune Street