

fermynwoods contemporary art

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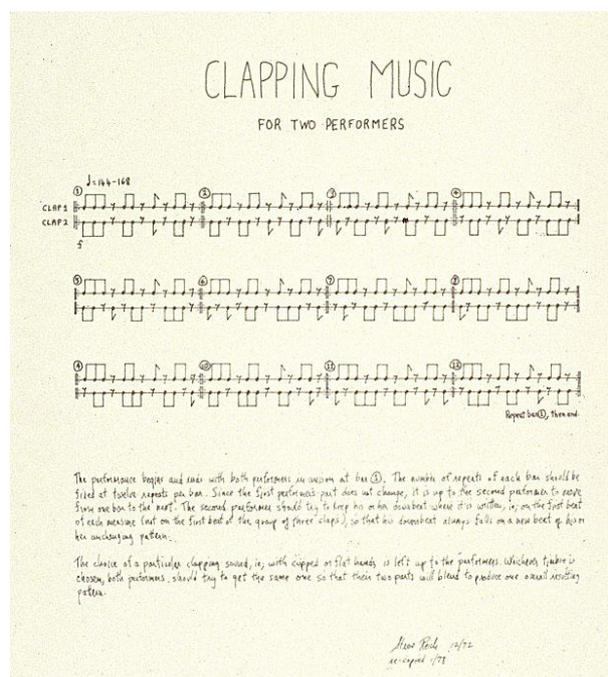
PRESS RELEASE

GESTURE

October 2012 to April 2013

The Cube
George Street
Corby
Northamptonshire
NN17 1QG

Gesture is curated by artist Caroline Wright and Fermynwoods Contemporary Art, in partnership with Corby Borough Council and The Core.



Steve Reich *Clapping Music* score 1972

Gesture is a 6 month project that explores the ways in which relationships and social interaction can be signified, controlled and communicated through the conduit of the hand; through video work, artists in residence and live art performances. The project will highlight the diverse activities taking place within The Cube, a unique physical and social environment, which houses Corby Borough Council Offices and Chamber and the Registry Office alongside the Library and The Core's theatre and performance spaces.

Rebecca Birch, the first Artist in Residence, is concerned with social encounters and the subconscious acts that occur as a result. From 15 October she will be based in The Cube for 2 days a week, observing and engaging with staff and visitors to explore their conscious and subconscious gestures through film. In November there will be a performance of Steve Reich's *Clapping Music*, which conveys the significance of process and repetition of gestures in relation to music.

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Rebecca Birch – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE I

Rebecca Birch's projects are developed through spending time with other people, in conversation and sharing stories: whilst working together, or in specially choreographed journeys, on foot or by car. Her work focuses on the relationships between people and the landscape and the rhythm of their daily lives. The gesture is a recurring motif throughout her projects; from the hand gesture made by a woman trying to describe the mountain she climbs everyday, to the repetitive and intricate movements made by a clockmaker working on the lathe. Rebecca will create a new film whose narrative will be written through the shapes, spaces and patterns created within the gestures that she encounters in Corby, a chorus of tapping feet, twitching hands, concentrated eyes. The film will then be given back to all those whose gestures wrote the plot.

15 October - 15 January, Mondays & Tuesdays, 9am-5pm.

Clapping Music - LIVE PERFORMANCE

Steve Reich's *Clapping Music* is based on a single rhythm related to a 12 beat African bell pattern, which is repeatedly clapped by 2 performers. One clapper rotates the pattern one beat at a time, disrupting the rhythm, until the performers eventually converge in time again. The rotational process, which Reich called "phasing," is simultaneously the form and the content of the work. The slight delay in the movement of the hands that causes the changing rhythm is very subtle and difficult to observe, yet can be clearly heard. In 1970, Steve Reich studied drumming at the Institute for African Studies at the University of Ghana in Accra, with drummer Gideon Alorwoyie. Reich wrote the 90 minute work *Drumming* shortly after his return, followed by *Clapping Music* in 1972. The piece will be performed as a prelude to the performance by the Wadzani African Dancers in the Core theatre.

Saturday 24 November, 2-4.30pm, tickets £5.

GESTURE ONLINE

Caroline Wright is curating a video exhibition that will be presented online as part of *Gesture*. The exhibition will include live art films and documentation of live art performances selected from the Live Art Development Agency's archive. The themes Wright is examining include the social, political, cultural and philosophical gesture, repetition and ritual.

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Editor's Notes

Gesture is being funded by Arts Council England and Northamptonshire County Council.

For further information and images please contact Yasmin Carvin on 01832 733009 or yasmin@fermynwoods.co.uk.

Gesture will continue in 2013 with a series of new live art commissions and a second artist in residence.