

PRESS RELEASE: Exchanges Showcase 2017 **New dance performances inspired by contemporary sculpture**



Left: Barry Flanagan, '30ft Acrobats' © the artist and courtesy New Art Centre, Roche Court Sculpture Park
Right: Exchanges Showcase 2017 Ambassador performance © The Roche Court Educational Trust

On Sunday 30 April the 'Exchanges 2017' showcase event was hosted by The Roche Court Educational Trust's project partner, Pavilion Dance South West. The event brings university students together to celebrate and share their new performances. On the day, all the students worked together for the first time through workshops led by past University student participants who have been mentored by staff to become project ambassadors.

The Exchanges project invites students to use sculpture as a stimulus for making new dance performances. This way of working is often new to the students and requires participants to explore visual language and to be critically reflective as they translate from one creative medium to another: an exchange across disciplines.

Exchanges is in its fifth year and this year the project explored the theme of 'Gravity', considering the processes and materials used by a variety of artists exhibited at the New Art Centre Sculpture Park and Gallery, specifically Barry Flanagan, David Nash and Michael Bolus.

Dancers considered the concepts behind the sculptures as well as form, space and shape. On research days at the New Art Centre students started their research and used their interpretations as the catalyst for this new work presented at the 'Exchanges 2017' showcase.

Participating tutor:

'Students have been challenged from the beginning. The project has expanded their creative knowledge.'

For any press enquiries please contact: emma@sculpture.uk.com + 44 (0)1980 862802

Notes to the Editors

Exchanges project

Exchanges is an ongoing programme of opportunities to explore dialogue between visual art and performance. Youth led dance groups, schools, colleges and universities use the sculpture at the New Art Centre, Roche Court Sculpture Park as stimuli for new performance. Through discussion with Trust staff, students develop confidence in talking about art and using visual language as a component in new performance. The project is partnered by Pavilion Dance South West.

The project enables all participants to have a positive and rigorous introduction to modern and contemporary art through primary research. It facilitates opportunities for all involved to gain new knowledge about artists, their concepts, processes and practices and promotes a cross-disciplinary practice which encourages new processes in generating creative outcomes. Participants also have the opportunity to develop the confidence to share their individual opinions and perceptions and endorse critical thinking through dialogue and research.

For further information about Exchanges please visit the website www.rochecourteducationaltrust.co.uk or contact Emma Kerr: emma@sculpture.uk.com or 01980 862802

The Roche Court Educational Trust and the New Art Centre

The Roche Court Educational Trust is a resource based at the New Art Centre Sculpture Park and Gallery for schools, colleges, universities, adults and specialist groups from across the country. Experienced staff work closely with all visitors and provide guided and interactive tours and workshops. Planned events and artist led projects are a key aspect of the educational programme and are designed to encourage and promote the enjoyment of looking at artworks and learning through discussion, observation and expression.

The New Art Centre, Roche Court, is a sculpture park and gallery set in the spectacular Wiltshire landscape. The New Art Centre specialises in late 20th-century and contemporary art and includes works by Barbara Hepworth, Anthony Caro, Antony Gormley and Richard Long.

For further information about RCET please visit the website: rochecourteducationaltrust.co.uk or contact Emma Kerr, Head of Education: emma@sculpture.uk.com or 01980 862802

For further information about the New Art Centre please visit the website: sculpture.uk.com or contact Chris Sullivan, Gallery Manager: chris@sculpture.uk.com or 01980 862244

Pavilion Dance South West

Pavilion Dance South West is the National Dance Development Organisation for the South West of England, supporting regional dance strategy development and representing the South West Dance sector nationally. We work collaboratively with partners across the South West who share a commitment to develop and sustain opportunities for people in the region to make, present, watch and participate in dance. We collaborate on events that take place right across the region such as the Cultural Olympiad and Big Dance and are increasingly looking to co-commission work for touring. We meet regularly to discuss issues and share information. In our Bournemouth-based venue, Pavilion Dance, we present dance performances, live screenings, art house films, exhibitions and more than 40 dance classes every week.

For further information about PDSW please visit the website www.pdsw.org.uk or contact Alexandra Ringham, Young People's Producer: alex@pdsw.org.uk or 01202 203644