

**Falling About: Winlab Research Lab (14th & 15th Dec) 2013 Siobhan
Davies building
(created and performed by Hari Marini and Sarahleigh Castelyn)**

The Falling Shift: SE1 6ER, 14-12-13, 10:00-20:30

Hari Marini is a performance maker and researcher. Her research focuses on performative architecture and the relationship between contemporary performance practices and urban space. In 2006, she co-founded the performance group PartSuspended, with whom she has regularly led performance projects (www.partsuspended.com). She has extensively worked as a performer/devisor and she has been teaching performance courses at Queen Mary, University of London.

Some reflections (January 2014):

The Falling Shift acts as an hourglass device in which the falling of its material (rice in our case) signifies the passage of time; it is set by people. Sometimes traces of this falling have an effect, disrupting people's scheduled activities and journeys within a particular space, and sometimes they are un-noticed and invisible.

The emptying and filling up the containers with rice (which are placed at various locations in the building), created an hourglass that disrupted visually and spatially the daily flow of participants and visitors.

The irreversibility of falling (similar to this of time).

The action of falling is experienced in time and space. In this project, we started to explore how this experience of falling marks and maps space and time. We intended to create a playful and poetic gesture that marks space and time. We invited people to reflect on the way they experience falling, time and space.

The leftover rice acted as a trace of our journey.

We were caught in the pattern of rice falling within the building and it seemed there was no way out.

We are caught in this pattern of

Recycling

Suspension

Time

Organic

Distance

Embodied

Experience
Unique
Traces
Affect
Effect
Random

Our first 'Falling' of the day of the event in Siobhan Davies building disrupted the introductory session that had just started:

11:45. The studio on the top floor of Siobhan Davies building is rather quiet; one by one the participants introduce themselves. There is high level of concentration within the large circle of the participants sitting on the floor. The rice falling: The sound of rice falling was heard; people stopped for a moment; their attention was drawn out of the circle to the back corner where rice was poured from one container to another. The effect of falling echoed in space.

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Lunchtime: 3 Shifts during the break. We felt frustrated that we could not attend workshops or talks in their full length, as we had to leave in order to pour the rice. Emilyn suggested that we let our task go. However, we decided to continue; paradoxically, somehow, this compulsory action of falling had made us feel a pleasurable and unexpected comfort.

Empty space. No one was left to observe. Falling alone. Falling without being noticed. Falling in places without echoing/being heard. But continue falling...

Landing area. Falling next to a group's toes; they were talking about architecture. Falling within the building.

Darkness. We revisited places as we have to travel through the building from the top down and up again. The places changed; the daylight became less and less until there was no daylight; people were going and coming; shoes appearing and disappearing. And the rice continued falling...

19:30. Last falling of the day.

We collect the rice left -- What do we do with leftover rice?

Amy suggested that someone throws it at us as we leave the building – like at a wedding ceremony.

Outdoors. Grains of rice are dangerous for birds (if they eat them...)

Some written responses from people:

[1. Falling response](#)

purple time

falling rice

*Rain of gravity
descent
settle
still the breath*

2. Falling response

*Rice falling, time falling
sand sounding shifting acts
through time –marking time*

3. Falling response

Do you pick up the extra rice that falls outside the bowl? Do you put the pieces of rice back in the others? In many SE Asian cultures it is very unlucky to waste rice. I believe that influences time, experience, organic, recycling, traces...

We intend to continue *The Falling Shift* in other places/events as well. The project will be completed when there is no more rice.....we have a specific portion of rice that we are using for this project, when this finishes, *The Falling Shift* finishes.