

CHRISTOPHER MATTHEWS



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ARTIST

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"I'm not only seduced by this work – the boldness and intelligence of the choreography – but turned on by these dancing figures..."

Paul Hughes

ABOUT

Christopher Matthews is an American born choreographer and performance artist working from London. He holds a BFA from New York University Tisch School of the Arts and a MA in Choreography from TrinityLaban. He has choreographed and directed music videos for Erickatoure Aviance, My Pumps, and Angolan artist Coreon Du, My Heart & It's Not Ok. Christopher is a judge and contemporary choreographer on the popular Angolan dance reality series Bounce. His video and performance works have been presented at galleries in Amsterdam, London, Manchester, NYC and Barcelona. His dance works have been performed in NYC, Guatemala, Germany, Taiwan, Spain, London and Edinburgh.

Christopher is interested in what happens when he brings his experiences of performing in reality television, which feel like a performance of the self, into other spaces such as the gallery, where the body becomes an object/ image for contemplation, more than a spectacle. He is interested in the tensions of these colliding presentations, and the politics of seeing and acting in these contexts. These tensions are part of the work, and I build into my works certain feedback mechanisms through which the spectator is invited to invest their own ideas and questions. Most explicitly, this takes the form of conversation (The Interview, 2014) or instagram occupy (#lads, 2017) and more implicitly I work with this idea through an engagement of the spectator's gaze towards a kind of criticality (Untitled video works, 2017, Lads, 2017 and 20 Remix, 2013).

WORK

- Lads, 2017/18, installation work, 2 performers

Sensuous installation experimenting with the connections and influences of Graeco-Roman sculpture in early modern dance, specifically around notions of masculinity and the ideal physical form. #Lads is a hashtag usually reserved for traditional displays of masculinity and normative gender roles. As part of the installation Christopher Matthews wishes to occupy this virtual space with contrasting critical images, which in line with the installation, emasculates the commonly identified male form.

- Untitled Video Portraits, 2016-present, video series (currently 10 in total)

Whilst drawing on certain familiar values of the music video (in terms of rhythm, editing, length and addressal of audience) the artists intends to re-focus on performance within the medium. The videos are played without the sound so that the subject, the body and its gestures, becomes more present; the identity of the music is present only through its embodiment.

- SucculentsTrees&aFlower, 2018, film

Experimental film exploring the dramaturgy of a club night experience through conceptual images and decomposing the techno music structure. Opening up with voyeuristic images of plants and a sound score edited from field recordings in a small village of southern Spain, the artist questioned nomadicity and loneliness as a drive to create a tool kit of organising sounds and images to find structure within an unknown space and culture. The work plays on the tensions of time and spectatorship of perverse images of the queering body.

- Raining Men, in production, installation

- My Body's Number One (MBNo1), in production, installation work, 2 performers