

Qing Qing

Gesture as Potentiality: Politics of Contemporary Contact Improvisation

standard lecture

Agamben does not treat gesture as a communication of information. Instead, his gesture refers to the mediality and connects to a politics of “the being in a medium of human beings.” Thus, “it opens the ethical dimension for them” (Agamben 2000). A politics of potential beings is the core to understand his theory of gesture. Two double spheres of this conception of gesture also draw our attention: one is its material sphere. In dance this refers to the exhibition and endurance of corporeal movements; the other is the existence of potential beings in this medium. By examining these two spheres of gesture manifested in dance improvisation, this paper tries to explore how dance improvisation shows its politics by keep movements ‘taking place’ and allows living beings and kinesthetic and rhythmic beings to emerge. This discussion will then possibly enrich the dialogue between contemporary political philosophy and contemporary art practices.

Bio:

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