

Marie-Gabrielle Rotie

Lecture for

Performing Scores/Scoring Performance,

Lecture/presentation: 12th July,

The Performance Research Group at Manchester School of Art Research Centre host a conference and sharing event 'Performing Scores / Scoring Performance', at HOME in Manchester on 11-12 July 2023.

<https://www.art.mmu.ac.uk/events/2023/performing-scores-scoring-performance/>

TITLE:

Becoming Nothing: Butoh and the use of Poetic Textual Scores or Eating the darkness, in the mud of the self.

Abstract:

Butoh founder Tatsumi Hijikata created a revolutionary system for both improvisation and choreography working with impossible or surreal image 'poems' to provoke physical and unconscious movement that could then be summoned and remembered for performance purposes. As a European movement artist and visual artist who has specialised in Butoh since 1994 I will analysis examples of the process of generating and performing Butoh-fu scoring and how I have used this across solo, ensemble and commercial applications including for Hollywood actors in the recent blockbuster film *The Northman* directed by Robert Eggers (2022). The Butoh-fu deliberately presents impossibility as a starting point for physical investigations, to detour habitual movement. The methodology seeks to work counter to the conditioned or dance technique body and to search for something hidden, buried or forgotten. The task of becoming the image, is quietly revolutionary in the disregard for aesthetic coherence or notions of beauty and returns us to the body on the hairlines between appearing and disappearing. (159)