

SIOBHAN DAVIES DANCE

THE COLLECTION

24 SEPTEMBER – 4 OCTOBER 2009

Siobhan Davies is a British choreographer known for her challenging approach to established conventions of dance practice and performance. During the last ten years she began to question the accepted formula of dance presentation in the theatre. A number of her works were subsequently conceived not for the stage but for spaces where the configuration of the audience allowed the performance to be seen from different points of view. This necessitated a different kind of approach to her choreography, as the audience's position was no longer fixed.

As part of **The Collection**, Davies pushes these ideas yet further with her latest piece, **Minutes** (2009), which is presented alongside commissioned works from visual artists. The project repositions dance fully within the context of the visual arts, not only within a gallery space but also within the time frame of an exhibition and the mode of spectatorship set up by the gallery situation. The intimacy of the gallery experience, in which a viewer can stand in close proximity to a work over a period of time, becomes possible. This grouping of collaborations explores the borders of different art forms, examining how they might intersect and inform each other, but without detracting from either form's distinctive attributes.

Davies' starting point for **Minutes** was its intended context. While a dance performance in the theatre has a finite duration, the gallery at Ikon Eastside is open for four hours. Visitors are free to arrive and depart whenever they choose and only they determine the length of their stay. Realising this, Davies, and the performers with whom she worked on the development of the piece, constructed it in individual one minute

sections. Thus whenever a viewer arrives and however long they stay, they experience a carefully focused moment, complete in itself, not dependant on a longer narrative or succession of movements. These vignette-like sequences, often featuring voice or sound and frequently humorous in their content, each have a distinct presence.

At the side of the room sits **A Solo in the Doldrums** (2009), by the artist Anri Sala. A drum that appears to play itself, the piece was actually developed from a solo performed by Davies with only Sala in the room. The sounds made by Davies' body were recorded throughout the performance and processed to arrive at an inaudible frequency. This is played from a small speaker hidden inside the drum causing the drumsticks to bounce off the skin and for the drum to 'play' its own beat. Unseen and unheard, Davies' original dance nevertheless resonates in the space. The work recalls **Box with the Sound of its Own Making** (1961), in which American artist Robert Morris recorded the sawing and hammering involved in his building a box, then placed a tape recorder playing these sounds inside the box itself. A sculptural joke, the work demanded the viewer consider process and the production of meaning as essential; Morris stated that the work was concerned with 'a kind of duration of idea'.

Another part of **The Collection** can be found at a second venue in Eastside, the dance space at The Custard Factory*. **Lying in Wait** (2009) is a three screen film installation made by Birmingham born artist Idris Khan and dance artist Sarah Warsop. Projected life-size, the film captures a performance made for camera,

set in a library. Viewers can move around the space becoming, as they do so, unavoidably aware of their own body's interaction with the screens and the projected figure. In this film Warsop continues to develop her use of coding and notation systems to create choreographic material.

Programmed concurrently with **Minutes** at Ikon Gallery in Brindleyplace is an exhibition of video work by the Russian artist Victor Alimpiev. Its careful choreography, evocative of theatre, dance and music, is a perfect counterpoint to the proposition of Siobhan Davies Dance.

The Collection was originally conceived in partnership with Victoria Miro Gallery and premiered in London in March 2009.

Minutes (2009)

Conceived and directed by Siobhan Davies
The three parts created and performed by:
Catherine Bennett & Matteo Fargion, Henry Montes & Deborah Saxon, Matthias Sperling.
www.siobhandavies.com

Note: Charlie Morrissey will replace Henry Montes on 1-4 October. **Minutes** contains strong language.

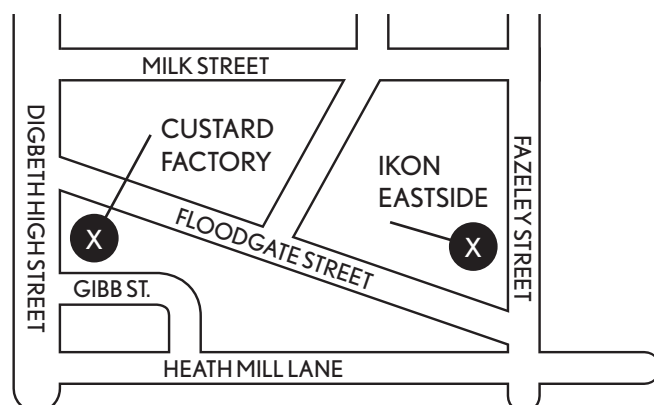
Event

**Family Saturday with The Big Draw
Inspired by The Collection,
Siobhan Davies Dance**

Saturday 3 October, 2-5pm - Free

As part of the national campaign for drawing, Ikon presents this year's Big Draw event. Inspired by Siobhan Davies Dance who are performing at Ikon Eastside, visitors will use a variety of materials to explore new ways of drawing. Join us as we make drawings from movements and movements from drawings. Open to all ages, children should be accompanied at all times. Free, no need to book, just drop in.

Ikon Eastside
183 Fazeley Street, Digbeth, Birmingham B5 5SE
0121 248 0708 / www.ikon-gallery.co.uk
Open Thursday - Sunday, 1-5pm, free entry



* The Custard Factory is approximately 5-10 minutes walk from Ikon Eastside. From Reception follow signs to the dance space.

IKON



Supported by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

