

MAY 1, 2013
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PICA SYMPOSIUM: HOW DO YOU MEAN? CULTURE IN TRANSLATION

When: June 7-9, 2013
See following schedule for exact times/locations

Where: PICA, 415 SW 10th Avenue (Suite 300)
Various locations around Portland, Oregon

Online: <http://pica.org/events/type/symposium-2/?future=now>

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Press Photos: <http://pica.org/about/press/pica-symposium-2013/>

Password: picapress2013

The PICA Symposium is a weekend of interdisciplinary ideas and experiences, investigating an urgent cultural issue through contemporary art practice. This year's theme, *How Do You Mean? Culture in Translation*, takes inspiration from choreographer Emily Johnson and visual artist Anna Craycroft to explore the complexity of constructing and communicating meaning across the divides of language, culture, and artistic disciplines.

PICA

Translation is not exclusively concerned with spoken and written language. Artistic practice is in fact a continual process of translation, from intangible ideas to concrete forms and gestures, but also between media and bodies, and between artists and their audiences. What possibilities exist in the spaces between kinesthetic and verbal language, visual art and dance, traditional and contemporary expression, local and global contexts?

How Do You Mean? Culture in Translation will engage all of our senses to approach these central issues through events including an opening-night dinner, panel conversations, participatory workshops, and live performances. It's an alternative take on the more academic symposium, weighing activity equally with critical conversation.

Featuring the launch of Anna Craycroft's residency installation *C'mon Language*, a performance of Emily Johnson's *Niicugni*, a lecture on the intersections of science and art thinking with fractal expert physicist Richard Taylor, Professor Jacqueline Shea Murphy lecturing on contemporary indigenous dance, and a special co-performance during which artist Harrell Fletcher will pause Emily Johnson's dance to question the artist about her artistic choices and her life outside the theater.

Please read below for a full schedule of symposium events.

ONGOING

Anna Craycroft, *C'mon Language*
PICA, 415 SW 10th Avenue (Suite 300)
June 3–September 30, 2013

An exhibition as classroom, exploring the common query: “How do we make ourselves understood?” *C'mon Language* will host a summer-long series of workshops and lectures by artists, scholars, and educators from fields ranging from Linguistics to Painting, Storytelling to Market Research, Physics to Basket Weaving, Activism to Music. The skills and ideas cultivated during the workshops will be recorded and transcribed, building a common glossary of images, forms, metaphors, and idioms—a shared artistic vocabulary. A different event will be held each week and visitors are invited to participate in individual or multiple workshops.

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

6:00pm ***Opening Night Dinner***
PICA, 415 SW 10th Avenue (Suite 300)
Donation Suggested
Reservations required (rsvp@pica.org)

We introduce our symposium themes and participants, including Anna Craycroft and Emily Johnson, at this buffet-style dinner. The evening will feature a participatory activity led by Craycroft and inspired by Reggio Emilia teaching methods, to prompt conversation and spur the weekend's activities.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

11:00am ***Awareness, Environment & Impulse, Workshop with Emily Johnson***
Laurelhurst Park, SE Ankeny & SE Laurelhurst
\$5 General

Encouraging a heightened sense of awareness, this workshop will generate movement through listening, sensing, and shifting focus. Participants will craft short performances that investigate a relationship to space, and how shifts of vision and focus can alter environmental awareness.

2:00–3:00pm ***Richard Taylor: Defeating the Art/Science Divide***
PICA, 415 SW 10th Avenue (Suite 300)
FREE

Physicist, artist, and professor Richard Taylor will share his research into fractals as an entry point to exploring the intersections of art making and science thinking. In an engaging exploration of how a concept can move fluidly between disciplines, Taylor will discuss the prevalence of fractal patterns in nature and in the works of artists from Pollock to Da Vinci, presaging many recent scientific understandings.

3:30–5:00pm ***Dean Daderko & Carlota Ribas: Foreign Exchange: Global Markets, Local Worlds***
PICA, 415 SW 10th Avenue (Suite 300)
FREE

Dean Daderko (Curator, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston) and Carlota Ribas (translation and localization expert) discuss how the exchange of art and ideas, language and commerce play out across local and global contexts, through the lens of both corporate marketing strategy and art world ideology. Each will give a brief solo presentation followed by a moderated discussion with PICA's Visual Art Curator Kristan Kennedy.

8:00–9:30pm Emily Johnson/Catalyst, *Niicugni*
BodyVox Dance Center, 1201 NW 17th Avenue
\$15 members/\$20 general

Alaska-born and Minneapolis-based choreographer Emily Johnson returns with a layered performance of dance, live music, and stories, housed within an installation of fish-skin lanterns and original instruments. In the Yup'ik language, *niicugni* is a directive to pay attention, to listen. Can we listen to our bodies and environments for the histories—and futures—they contain?

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

11:00am Jacqueline Shea Murphy: *Transformative Moves: Indigenous Epistemologies in Indigenous Contemporary Dance*
PICA, 415 SW 10th Avenue (Suite 300)
FREE

Dance scholar Jacqueline Shea Murphy discusses Indigenous Contemporary Dance as a genre, and outlines some of what she sees currently happening in several Indigenous Contemporary Dance projects from the U.S., Canada, and Aotearoa (New Zealand).

12:30–2:00pm *Upending Meaning: Rereading and Reframing Cultural Specificity*
PICA, 415 SW 10th Avenue (Suite 300)
FREE

A dialogue with local and regional contemporary artists who contend aesthetically, conceptually, and materially with culturally specific readings of their work, moderated by Reuben Roqueni, Program Director, Native Arts and Cultures Foundation. Rather than the limiting questions of traditional vs. contemporary aesthetics or local vs. global contexts, this panel will discuss deeper themes around artists' processes and practices and of how we might reframe these conversations in the contemporary art world to be more useful, productive, and provocative?

2:30–3:30pm Harrell Fletcher & Emily Johnson
BodyVox Dance Center, 1201 NW 17th Avenue
\$7 members/\$10 general

In this special matinee performance of *Niicugni*, artist Harrell Fletcher will intermittently “press pause” on performer Emily Johnson, adding his thoughts and questions about the artist and her work into the staged show. Fletcher’s interjections will make literal the communication exchange between artist and audience by vocalizing the usually unanswered musings drifting through our minds during a performance.

4:00–5:00pm Keith Hennessy, Closing Remarks
BodyVox Dance Center, 1201 NW 17th Avenue
FREE

Bay Area choreographer and performance artist Keith Hennessy—whose project *Turbulence* (a dance about the economy) was the subject of last year’s symposium—provides closing remarks and reflections in the form of a performative presentation and discussion that tackles the weekend’s most difficult questions and compelling ideas, touching on dance, language, ritual, performance, and the politics of culture.

6:00–7:30pm Emily Johnson/Catalyst, *Niicugni*
BodyVox Dance Center, 1201 NW 17th Avenue
\$15 members/\$20 general

Alaska-born and Minneapolis-based choreographer Emily Johnson returns with a layered performance of dance, live music, and stories, housed within an installation of fish-skin lanterns and original instruments. In the Yup'ik language, *niicugni* is a directive to pay attention, to listen. Can we listen to our bodies and environments for the histories—and futures—they contain?

About Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA)

Since 1995, PICA has championed the practice of contemporary artists from around the world, driving vital conversations about the art and issues of today. PICA presents visual and performing artists and embraces those individuals who exist at the borders of mediums and ideas. Through artist residencies and exhibitions, lectures and workshops, and the annual Time-Based Art Festival, PICA constructs a broad platform for contemporary art.