

Tempura Batter  
Platform for Emerging Artists, Leyden Gallery

Tempura Batter's work considers meaning and meaninglessness through oblique gestures. The collaborative practice of Rohanne Udall and Paul Hughes, it takes place across choreographic, performance and visual arts contexts. The work is born out of, and speaks to, a culture that is saturated in content and subject to endless streams of reference and possibility; we are attracted to forms of sidestepping such as fidgeting, shifting, distraction and emulation. Tempura Batter is UK based, working in London and Nottingham.

Our practice adopts simple formal structures, reminiscent of children's games or ways to pass time. Rather than a full-bodied commitment, we are interested in the performer who can lean back from the work, become distracted and potentially return the audience's gaze. Deceptively banal in the use of apparently simple activity, we flirt with processes of meaning-making while distancing the work from a responsibility or urgency to communicate.

The work documented in the attached images involves playful or idiotic tasks (constructing, assembling, positioning, listing) which produce local and temporary systems of meaning and significance. Although the performer in their anonymity and absorption might appear distant to the passing spectator, over time their negotiation of these systems might produce strange moments of empathy, communication or frustration. Moving beyond a legacy of performance situated in the gallery as a performance-of-labour, we create situations in which the 'task-like' or 'neutral' body is compromised by cliché, or task performers to undertake aesthetic choices which suggest (or partially reveal) an inner logic or sensibility.

Many thanks,  
Paul Hughes and Rohanne Udall

<http://www.tempurabatter.wordpress.com>

Work attached:

Pointing the Finger (2016) Durational performance approx. 3 hours

A House Made of Cardboard and Tape (2016) Durational Performance approx. 2 hours

Untitled Score for Two Performers (2016) Performance approx. 20 mins