

Text written to accompany performance of 'Self-Possessed', presented at Manchester Art Gallery as part of Handle With Care, organised by Iniva with Jade Montserrat. 25th November 2021.

People come and go. Institutions are just a way that we can collaborate with the departed, and the yet-to-arrive.

The work that sustains our institutions is visible and invisible, sanctioned and unofficial. There is a complex gap between the individual, and the role of office they temporarily hold. How much can or should we be able to account for the intimacies that saturate our institutions; especially when each of us will always remain – to some degree – a mystery to ourselves?

Sometimes we should adhere to the sedimented structures and protocols of an organisation, and sometimes we need to challenge or circumvent them. But as we stretch these these frameworks to hold space for different ways of working, we become less scrutable to its existing processes of monitoring, safeguarding and evaluation. I'm curious about the kinds of possibility and risk that rush into these moments of temporary difference – and what an ethics of hosting these vital and vulnerable spaces might be.

- Paul Paschal, University of Roehampton and Sadler's Wells Theatre