**Sara Giddens Artist's Statement**

***Still Small Acts: Dwelling and Still-ing***

*Still Small Acts,* is a practice-led research project that explores the employment of dwelling and still-ing through a range of site-specific choreographic practices and written outputs. Combining insights from dance, performance, somatics, phenomenology and ethnography, the project’s research questions fall into two strands; one concerned with challenging the western insistence upon movement in dance-based work; and the other with creating shared spaces where makers and audience-participants can experience still-ing through dwelling together.

Foregrounding the theoretical and creative, this portfolio brings together;

* a co-authored chapter.
* an article with on-line links to eight pieces of my sited choreography through the *Dream-Walks* (UK and Singapore).
* a site-specific performance-installation *Still Moving: Moving Still*.
* an installation sharing three parts of the practice.
* an example of an accompanying workshop.

Throughout this practice, I developed space-times in which the makers and participants could dwell together in order to experience and consider ‘still-ing.’ Dwelling, suggesting a staying with, not moving on or away from material in both a temporal and spatial sense, provided a useful vehicle into the delicate territory of stillness. Drawing in particular on Heidegger’s essay ‘Building Dwelling Thinking’ (1978/1951), its employment became a methodology. Still-ing is a term I coined to point to a stillness that is active, becoming and alive with potential.

This research asks

* What can the employment of dwelling offer to makers and audiences?
* How might dwelling invite a still-ing in audiences and performers?
* How might ‘still-ing’ operate as a choreographic device?
* How might still-ing create and foreground space-times that invite performers *and* audiences to place themselves in the work, emotionally, physically and intellectually, so that they might become attentive to themselves and the world around them as active participants, rather than passive receivers?

The practice and accompanying writing, make a case for creating spaces and times for choreographing still-ing within performance through dwelling; inviting makers, audiences and commissioners to experience still-ing in choreographically-led work, creating openings for participants and spectators to step/move in to. This research re-frames stillness and seeks to develop the discipline of choreography through the development of dwelling as a methodology with still-ing as its focus.

**Bibliography**

Heidegger, M. ([1951] 1978), ‘Building dwelling thinking’, in D. F. Krell (ed.), *Basic Writings*, London: Routledge, pp.343-364.

**Funding**

This work has been financially supported by Arts Council England, Arts and Humanities Research Council, Artistic Doctorates in Europe, Dance4, DanceXchange, Erasmus+, Know Your Bristol, Mayfest, Productive Margins, Singapore Arts Festival, SO Festival, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Wirksworth Arts.

**The Portfolio comprises of;**

**A Chapter**

Giddens, Sara and Jones, Simon (2015) From Work to Play: making Bodies in Flight's performance walk Dream-work. In: Nancy Duxbury, WF Garrett-Petts, David MacLennan (eds) *Cultural Mapping as Cultural Enquiry*. Routledge, London, pp. 303-318.

[http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9781138821866/](https://mail.uclan.ac.uk/owa/redir.aspx?C=89-qr5IbX0ChuJeNRpMHhVePPQgvrdIIvVJD-oCicV8EWZ0HgaTWg07RD7ezGu3XyNDTFSzH7Jk.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.routledge.com%2fbooks%2fdetails%2f9781138821866%2f)

ISBN 1138821866 16 pages

Co-authored chapter with writing clearly separated between the authors.

The introduction and conclusion were jointly written.

<https://clok.uclan.ac.uk/33070/3/14348_GiddensJones%20final%2026jun14%20%281%29.pdf>

**A Journal article**

Giddens, Sara (2020) ‘Dwelling-in-between’, *Choreographic Practices Journal,* 10(2), pp. 213-237.

The on-line version gives 16 links to the practice, drawn from 8 site-specific works collectively titled the *Dream-Walks*. These were sited in the UK and Singapore (2009-16) and can also be found at

<https://www.bodiesinflight.co.uk/events/dwelling-in-between-choreographic-practices-102/>

<https://clok.uclan.ac.uk/33070/2/32804%20Giddens%20Judge%20Law%20%28002%29.pdf>

**Performances/Installations/workshops**

*Still Moving: Moving Still* [Installation/performance] (2018).

Presented at Birmingham Conservatoire as part of Birmingham International Dance Festival. Conceived, directed and choreographed by Sara Giddens.

Performance installation captured on video with supporting text.

<http://clok.uclan.ac.uk/33070/16/SMMS%20BHX%202019.mov>

*Still-ing* [Installation] (2017). *Talking, Thinking, Dancing* Presented at The international Centre for Choreography, Nottingham. A seven screen video installation bringing together three pieces of the practice creating dwelling spaces for still-ing in one space.

<http://clok.uclan.ac.uk/33070/14/13%20sara%20giddens-MP4%20720pHD%20v3.mp4>

*Still Small Acts* (workshop) *Slowing and Still-ing Symposium* (2018) Birmingham University. Conceived by Sara Giddens and co-led with Ruth Spencer, Justine Urbanczyk and Kerstin Wellhoffer. A practical investigation employing dwelling as a methodology to invite still-ing.

<https://clok.uclan.ac.uk/33070/15/Still%20Small%20Acts%20workshop%20Birmingham%202018.m4v>