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# Vertical. Nature. Base.

A collaborative project by Echo Echo's Steve Batts and artist Dan Shippides. Based at a Donegal coastal climbing location and a city exhibition base, V.N.B. is a residential experimental climbing / art / dance project that investigates the contrasting and comparable notions of climbing as sport and climbing as creative engagement. Interested people can join the camp in September (details tba) for various activities and camping. This blog is an insight into V.N.B.'s creative development.

Tuesday, 6 September 2011

THE PLATFORM - SEP 2011



Update Aug 2011

VNB project flyer

Background info

[Background info](#)

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TOPOPHILIA AND TOPOPHOBIA - JUNE 2009  
 DANCE NOT DANCE CLIMB NOT CLIMB - AUG 2009  
 SENSING. FEELING. DOING - OCT 2009  
 CIVILITY AND ALTITUDE - OCT 2009  
 UNPREDICTABLE SPACES - NOV 2009  
 TEXTURES IMPRINTS FRAMEWORKS - JUNE 2010  
 EMBODYING LANDSCAPE AND VERTICAL LEVELS - Sep 2010  
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 THE COVE - Mar 2011  
 NAMING SOME THINGS (1) - MAY 2011  
 NAMING SOME THINGS (2) - MAY 2011  
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 ANTEBURN and AFTERBURN - JUNE 2011  
 HAMNATARRUTTIBADGIEE - SEP 2011  
 THE PLATFORM - SEP 2011

## PLATFORM

We have completed the first 8 days of being at the cove. The first two or three days were entirely taken up with carry materials and equipment in, setting up camp and building the platform. Monday, tue wed involved a lot of carrying.

This was hard but had a sense of epic about it. Fitzcarraldo-esque. Many, many trips back and forth along the headland coast path, wood, timber, plywood, dibond, tools food, water etc etc. carry by carry it all needed to be moved.

It opened up questions about was the building of the platform worth it?? Why did I want to do it? - why were people supporting my efforts to do it? Would it be art? Or just a bloody dance “stage”.

These anxieties nagged away at me as the platform was slowly (it seemed) constructed. Always takes longer than you plan - each evening I would think I'll be finished by noon the next day. By the end of Thursday, after working 7am - 9pm days it was completed - and WOW!!! anxieties gone - it was fantastic - beautiful. Art and not art - referential (70's minimalism) and a little bit Pop but completely contextual (Landart) and functional. There's also a futurist (well at least the metallic machined sheen) and sci-fi essence to it (Dr. Who, 2001). If it had been a stage it would have

► 2009 (5)

## Further Links & Funders

Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company

Dan Shippides

Legacy Trust UK

Arts Council of Northern Ireland

## Dan's related projects

Elastic Frontiers

Radical Architecture

Rochers a Fontainebleau

Touchstone Testpiece

T5 field cinema

Shippides and Beggs Projects

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## Twitter Updates

- Lots of Sunday Session photos on our fb profile- thanks Audrey and Rory! <https://t.co/Ki83wDgM> <http://t.co/77mWNKIL> about 17 hours ago
- Lots of exciting things happening this year to keep up to date through our monthly e-newsletters. Free to sign up... <http://t.co/c13bCFbR> 4 days ago
- Would like to pass a viral 'hey!' to everyone on our social networks :) Feel free to pass it on... 6 days ago
- Thanks ML x @marielouisemuir @FriendsBalletNI @MaidenVoyageDance @dqdancetheatre 6 days ago

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failed. For me it had to have another presence, existence with complex layers of possibilities, functions and registers. For now we are calling it the Platform - but I want to find a better title for it as a piece of art.

One aspect which I love and is key for me is that the materials and form are so incongruous for this natural location. It goes against all the logical thinking of locational and environmental empathy - but at on a visual, physical and emotional level it has complete empathy with the location - it absorbs and reflects the space - it hums in the location - sings loudly at time and deeply at other - but seems to hum with the vibrations of it's surroundings. I don't feel it dominates or territorializes the space - it gives a presence and sort of focus but the frame it offers is not like that of the traditional studio or venue stage - the frame includes the horizon and beyond. For the dancers it provides a focus but I feel in absolute relationship with what is around - I must ask them about how they feel it operates for them...

Dan

Posted by Dan at 16:04 

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