

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, 20 September 2011

TRANSITION – SEP 2011

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

THE DAY SNOW CAME - Dec 2010

MEANING AND LOCATION - Jan 2011

THE LOCATION IS WHERE IT SHOULD BE - Jan 2011

IDEA BASE CAMP - Jan 2011

THE COVE - Mar 2011

NAMING SOME THINGS (1) - MAY 2011

NAMING SOME THINGS (2) - MAY 2011

SOPHORIFIC RAIN - JUNE 2011

ANTEBURN and AFTERBURN - JUNE 2011

HAMNATARRUTTIBADGIEE - SEP 2011

THE PLATFORM - SEP 2011

SURFACE PRESENCE - SEP 2011

SURFACE PRESENCE 2 - SEP 2011

TOPOPHILE / TOPOPHOBE - SEP 2011

TOPOPHOBE REFLECTIONS - SEP 2011

TRANSITION – SEP 2011

Update Aug 2011

VNB project flyer

Background info

Background info

Blog Archive

▼ 2011 (26)

▼ September (13)

New Ground

VNB exhibition Walk thru video

TRANSITION – SEP 2011

re-re-re-flections

TOPOPHOBE REFLECTIONS - SEP 2011

TOPOPHILE / TOPOPHOBE - SEP 2011

SURFACE PRESENCE 2 - SEP 2011

SURFACE PRESENCE - SEP 2011

THE PLATFORM - SEP 2011

SURFACE RESPONSE – SEP 2011

AN ACCOMMODATION – SEP 2011

HAMNATARRUTTIBADGIEE - SEP 2011

NOT THE FIRST DANCE HERE - SEP 2011

► August (1)

► June (3)

► May (3)

► April (2)

► March (1)

► January (3)

► 2010 (3)



Update:

After two beautiful and eventful weeks at the cove we broke camp and carried everything out.

It meant dismantling the platform and packing it so it would be good to reinstall in the studio gallery.

Gary and I worked late into the dark taking off the sheets – after the dibond came off it was interesting to see the stains and marks on the plywood – straight dark lines where the dibond joined – stained with water, dirt and salt – then damp stains and some mould. This was in the dark so the head torches really illuminated these colorfully – the plywood looked bright orange.

On the Monday we awoke from a night of near force 11 gales. By mid morning the main tent had collapsed - the poles splintered. It had lasted just long enough.

Steve had real life to deal with and went off to Derry with Tonya for a baby scan – we all had various segments of important other life filtering into cove over the last few weeks – it is useful to think how significant other things effect the experience in the cove. I spoke to Maggie, Leo and Anna most days and that connection to our kitchen (where they were on the phone) had a surrealness.

We first packed everything up – tents, kitchen, equipment etc. Then Gary and I finished dismantling the platform. Ailbe, John and Jay arrived – our helpers to help carry out the material.

Carrying was difficult in the wind – we were unsure if we could do it over the headland parts of the path. Safety was an issue. Gary and I tested a few single sheet carries and managed ok – you had to dodge the gusts and be prepared to set the sheet down and also take several rests. But we did it in the end – the wind dropped slightly – it was ok – you had to be careful and take time – but it was ok. My arm was ok actually – the carrying technique avoided any painful movements. I was happy I could do it. But it was grueling work for 3 or 4 hours.

The saviour no.1! Steve arrived back – with good news from the scan *and* with a bag of sandwiches and drinks.

Then saviour no 2!! – the local farmer arrived with his tractor and trailer to lift the materials from the bottom of the long steep muddy hill up to the road and the van. This saved us another days worth of hard carrying.

► 2009 (5)

Further Links & Funders

Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company

Dan Shippies

Legacy Trust UK

Arts Council of Northern Ireland

Dan's related projects

Elastic Frontiers

Radical Architecture

Rochers a Fontainebleau

Touchstone Testpiece

T5 field cinema

Shippies and Beggs Projects

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Twitter Updates

- Lovely to work with [@ryan_vail](#) yesterday. Can't wait to see the finished product :) [less than a minute ago](#)
- 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](#) [@dqdanceatre](#) [6 days ago](#)

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All loaded into the van and drove to Derry where we unloaded around early evening. The amount of equipment and materials looked pretty crazy when strewn around the studio space in Bishops st. The boards tho looked beautiful.

Then a few days off back home – to return at the weekend – when Gary and I rebuilt the Platform in the studio over sat to sun midday – it was bit of a marathon effort. Gary slept on the floor – I slept in the van to protect it from drunken louts. I really respect Gary’s effort and resilience.

We added a new angle to it – so it slopes down to the left – so it’s not an obvious dance floor – or disco stage. It works well – it reinforces the object quality of it – the sculptural artwork. Gary also pointed something out which to me is really cool – it counter points the slope of Bishop street so when you look out f the door you see the intersecting slope of the street. The surface of the dibond remains fascinating to me – the stains, smears, scratches and dents – without this – new dibond sheets in the gallery space would have not had the resonance I feel with it. It will be a challenge to bring its history into the foreground.



Now we’re developing other material ready for the final install this week – for the opening on Saturday. Steve has been working with Ester and Brigit with some movement pieces – for performance. It’s a quick transition – but in a way that’s important to keep it fresh to the phase one experience.

Posted by Dan at 10:58 

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