

Master koreografi
Otto Ramstad

Lineage



Lineage

Lineage looks at learning and how we learn.

It draws lines between: The learning practices of experimental dance and somatic work which began in the 1960's, specifically the work of Steve Paxton, Lisa Nelson and Bonnie Bainbridge Cohen and 'artistic genealogy': a creative interaction with my Norwegian ancestors and the ways that their lives have been recorded, to learn about my Norwegian cultural heritage, which has been previously invisible to me. Lineage strings together these seemingly separate ways of gaining knowledge to think about what it was like to live in a body in rural Norway 100 years ago and asks how this effects how we are living in our bodies now. How have our embodied relationships to the ideas of 'time', 'land' and 'nature' (both the natural environment and our own innate natures) been transformed in this period?

My great grandfather John Fredrikson Ramstad, a metal worker, was born in Skjåk, Norway in 1890 on Ramstadtrædet husmann farm. He immigrated to Minnesota in 1911. He died in 1984 when I was 9 years old. In May 2016 I came to Norway for the first time. I was the first family member to visit the farm since John visited the farm in 1948. Using my knowledge of experimental dance, I made a series of dances and videos on the farm and in the surrounding mountains as a way to build a relationship with the places to process and learn from the information that I was collecting. This research has led me to immigrate to Norway as a way to learn more about my great grandfather experience in 1911.

This is not a story of reconnection or smooth continuity. Rather, these are strange encounters that show large gaps and discontinuities that have led me to new experiences and ways of thinking. Within these gaps and discontinuities there is space for questions, imagination, movement and poetics.

Lineage is cultivating a practice for the care and preservation of intangible cultural knowledge. Family genealogies are preserved in national archives and family stories. The dance and somatic practices of Lisa Nelson's Tuning Scores, Steve Paxton's Material for the Spine, and Bonnie Bainbridge Cohen's Body-Mind Centering® are archived in, and transmitted through the bodies of dance and movement practitioners.



- Ramstadtrædet farmhouse -

Lineage is a three part work

In the morning there is a multi channel video installation that moves between different screens and through different spaces and times. The audience will choreograph their own attention, their own movements in space and time in response to the installation.

In the afternoon I propose a space of learning, practicing and experimentation; revealing the 'culture of the workshop' that is an underpinning of experimental dance.

My primary artistic approaches will be practiced:
Material for the Spine, Tuning Scores and Body-Mind Centering®.

I have invited Olive Bieringa and three dancer/choreographers from outside Oslo to participate: Margit Galanter, Kristin Van Loon and Maura Gahan. These artists accompanied me on my fieldwork project working with Steve Paxton and Lisa Nelson in Vermont.

3rd year contemporary dance students Natanya Helena Kjøllås, Vivian Pakkanen and Lin van Kaam will also participate in this learning space.

In the evening is the solo performance.

Program

Tuesday 2nd, April, Scene 5, KHiO
10.30-13:00 video installation
14:00-16:00 open studio practice

Wednesday 3rd April, Scene 5 KHiO
10.30-13:30 video installation
14:00-16:00 open studio practice

Thursday 4th April, Scene 5 KHiO
10.30-13.00 video installation
14.30-16:30 open studio practice
18:00 Lineage - solo performance

Friday 5th April, Scene 5 KHiO
10.30-1.30pm installation
14.30-16.30 open studio practice
19:00 Lineage - solo performance

Saturday 6th April, Studio 4, KHiO
10:00-17:00 workshop

Sunday 7th April, Studio 4, KHiO
10:00-17:00 workshop

(more info <https://bodycartography.org/portfolio/figure-space-3-perspectives/> to register email praxisoslo@gmail.com)

Monday 8th April, Scene 5, KHiO
10.30-13.00 video installation
14:00-16:00 open studio practice
17:00 Lineage - solo performance

Tuesday 9th April, Scene 5, KHiO
10.30-13.00 video installation
14:00-16:00 open studio practice
17:00 Lineage - solo performance

Contributors

Concept/video/scenography/text/dance: Otto Ramstad

Composer/live sound: Andrea Parkins

Lighting design: Agnethe Tellefsen

Scenography dramaturgy: Carle Lange

KHiO Advisors: Snelle Hall and Amanda Steggell

External Advisor: Chrysa Parkinson

Dance practice collaborators: Olive Bieringa, Maura Gahan, Margit Galanter, Kristin Van Loon with Lin van Kaam, Natanya Helena Kjølås, Vivian Pakkanen

Video Documentation: Olive Bieringa

Contributing researcher and dramaturgy: Sidsel Pape

Contributing genealogy researcher: Sylfest Lykre

Production assistance in Skjåk: Live Visdal

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KHiO techical staff: Kjetil Skåret, Ellen Christiansen, Olaf Stangeland, Håvard Hiller, Signe Vasshus, Marius Arne Larsen, Ragnar Berntsson and my teachers: my first dance teacher Suzanne River, Bonnie Bainbridge Cohen, Steve Paxton and Lisa Nelson.

The Choreographer

Otto Ramstad, born 1975 in Minneapolis, is a dance artist who works with movement research to create performances, video work and installations for theaters, galleries, museums and different site and context specific encounters. He began studying Body-Mind Centering® in 1981 at six years old with his first dance teacher Suzanne River and is now a Certified Teacher of Body-Mind Centering® teaching internationally and works as the Educational Director of Somatic Education Australasia. He has a BA from Goddard College, Vermont, USA. He has just returned from teaching Material for the Spine and performing at Steve Paxton: Swimming in Gravity, a celebration of the life and work of Steve Paxton in Brussels.

For twenty years he has collaborated with Olive Bieringa as BodyCartography Project. BodyCartography Project engages with the vital materiality of our bodies to create live performance that facilitates a re-enchantment of embodiment, relationship, and presence. BodyCartography has been creating performances, films, installations, and festivals internationally in urban, domestic, wild, and social landscapes. Works have toured throughout North America, Europe, Brazil, Japan, Russia and New Zealand. Most recent performances at the Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Dance Place, Washington DC and Marlo Grendhus, Skjåk, Norway.

Ramstad has created commissioned works with BodyCartography Project for Lyon Opera Ballet, Touch Compass, New Zealand, PS122, NYC, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis amongst others. He has received awards and fellowships from Foundation for Contemporary Art, MAP Fund, National Performance Network, Minnesota State Arts Board, Creative New Zealand, American Composers Forum, San Francisco Arts Commission, amongst many others. He has danced in the work of DD Dorvillier, Miguel Gutierrez, Sara Shelton Mann, and Kitt Johnson.

For more information see bodycartography.org

Times for the solo performance:

Thursday 4th April 18:00

Friday 5th April 19:00

Monday 8th April 17:00

Mandag 9th April 17:00

Duration about 1 hour

Place:

Scene 5

Photographing or other recordings during the performance is not allowed.

Ticket booking www.khio.no. Free admission.

Academy of Dance

Head of the Master's programme in Choreography: Per Roar

Dean: Suzanne Bjørneboe

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