

## Megan Pitcher / Artist Statement

I believe that physicality is our most potent resource and I include it as an essential ingredient in all my work. I crave sensation, gain insight from interaction and understand that effort makes me stronger. These virtues inform my deeply personal, highly sensitized movement pieces.

Physicality has a power beyond the purely visual realm. It comes with implications of consent or resistance. When physically consenting, without thought, to the structures and systems around us, we lose agency; our actions can lose potency. My work highlights the moments of choice in everyday actions, common habits or social practices. I recognize walking, sitting, waiting and greeting as trained communicative actions. I appreciate the living codes embedded in even the smallest actions and share that reverence through an interdisciplinary art practice. I rupture physical norms, dedicate time and space for movement re-education and highlight subtlety as a mighty tool.

My work is situated firmly within contemporary social contexts. It includes devised performances of movement and contextual writings, experimental films, and installations of mediated bodies. The essential fulcrum of the work is grounded in the minds and bodies of the viewers.

I develop original movements for each new piece and resist codified forms. The raw physical material is culled from ongoing research of human behavior, including outside empirical studies of social and experimental psychology combined with nonlinear personal explorations. Physical material is shaped through structured improvisation, writing exercises, movement analysis, and play. Collaborators are enlisted to refine and expand initial discoveries.

The physical foundation is amplified through a careful crafting of additional materials, which may include: sculpture, costume, video projection, original scoring or sound manipulation, real time data processing and interactive technology, or personal data devices. Sound, light and space are layered with kinesthetic triggers to magnify the power and vulnerability of individual actions. The resulting works maintain tangible boundaries between impulse and restraint. One cannot help but feel the implications of physicality.

Viewers are encouraged to experience my offerings through the interface of their bodies. I give them deep access to the work through proximity and by enlisting them as co-conspirators. The agreements and negotiations of our bodies in space are key. They reflect and respond to current issues in society and affirm the power of individual action to effect social change.