

MICHAEL KLIEN WITH JEFFREY GORMLY  
**THE PONDEROUS**  
A CHOREOGRAPHIC INSTALLATION FOR GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS

DURATION OF EXHIBITION: 1 DAY – 12 WEEKS

CONCEPT AND CHOREOGRAPHY: MICHAEL KLIËN  
PERFORMER: JEFFREY GORMLY & OTHERS  
ELECTRONIC MUSIC: VOLKMAR KLIËN

*'The Ponderous' suspends relentless and purposeful world building in favour of building nothing. 'The Ponderous' thinks like grass.* MICHAEL KLIEN

**BACKGROUND**

'Choreography for Blackboards' is one of Kliën's seminal choreographic works originally premiered in 2006 and performed in locations across Europe. The work outlines the premise of choreography as a new, autonomous aesthetics concerned with notions of order, relations and dynamics. In 2011 Siamsa Tire commissioned Kliën to develop a smaller, suitable work for their gallery space in 2011. For THE PONDEROUS he joined forces with writer and long-time collaborator Jeffrey Gormly to develop a new choreographic situation specifically for and within a gallery/museum context.

**SCENARIO**

One or more walls of a gallery are turned into a large blackboard. Throughout the day one individual (who is not a visual artist) follows a detailed, rehearsed choreography of thought, at times drawing on the blackboard. He/She unfolds a carefully considered process, that manifests not only in the creation and deletion of artefacts, but reveals in its making structures beyond the rationality of a civilised animal, leaving raw marks of mental processes behind. Throughout the duration of the exhibition, the ever-changing work offers the audience a sanctuary, a 'third space' to absorb and reflect, taking part in the extended choreography of THE PONDEROUS.

In an alternative scenario the live choreography, and thereby creation of a new artefact/drawing, is only repeated on a bi-weekly basis or as otherwise agreed, leaving large drawings for the audience to reflect upon and, through the nature of chalk, at times unwillingly alter.

**THE WORK**

A silent choreographic process imprints a landscape of chalk marks onto a wall. Rising thoughts, raw visual thinking and sensual perception form a choreography of a moving mind: dialogue, exchange, sedimentation, learning, disintegration, erosion and demise; a mind in full flight. The audience members bear witness to the unfolding events unbound by narrow modes of logic. Diverting fingers long enough to release their hold on the situation, the 'dancer' in THE PONDEROUS sculpts the flow of a moving universe in thought and chalk.

THE PONDEROUS has originally been commissioned by Siamsa Tire, 2011

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