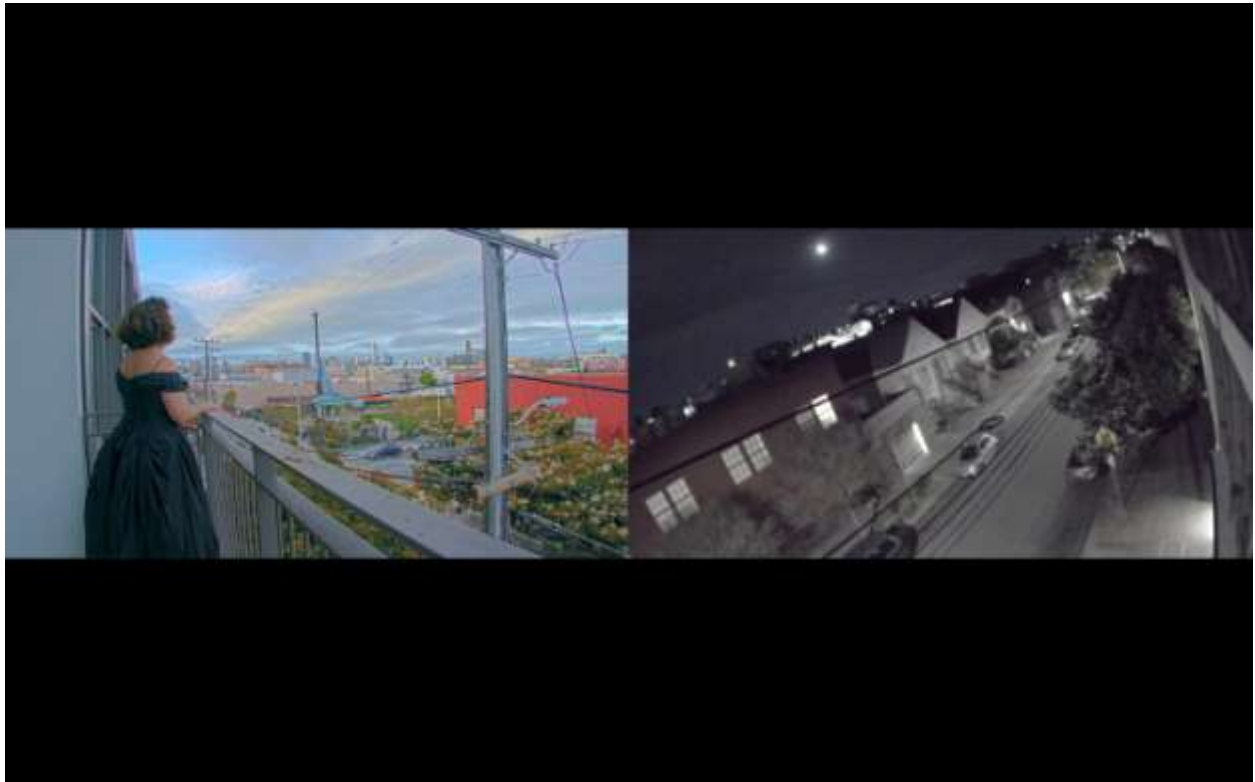


*listening creates an opening* is the newest site specific performance installation by Mary Armentrout Dance Theater. MADT is a San Francisco Bay Area-based intermedia collective that creates hybrid works that unravel simple-looking things like time, place, identity, and community. *listening creates* was commissioned by the Curtis R. Priem Experimental Media and Performance Arts Center (EMPAC) at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy NY, and premiered there in September 2018. MADT is currently engaged in re-mapping this project in and around ODC Theater in San Francisco's Mission District as part of the ODC Walking Distance Dance Festival, May 12-14. Shows will start at 6:30pm, allowing sunset to be part of the immersive experience created.



Integrating video time-lapse, innovative go-pro usage, and LED sensor mapping of the sky, the piece asks how our relationship to technology changes when we become conscious of our physical movements with and around it, and uncovers the role of embodiment as our anchor within the natural and humanly constructed worlds we live in. This wandering, moving performance meditation will take audiences on a dense walk around a city block, from a turn-of-the-century storefront, through a neighborhood park and the contemporary ODC theater, while encouraging a multi-layered embodied form of deep listening.

The piece's foundation is an extended dance theater solo for Mary Armentrout, refracted through various technologies and tech artifacts, in which she listens, questions, responds, and attempts to situate her performative personae within the layers of local histories, technologies, and constructed identities she finds herself in conversation with. Over the course of a performance, *listening creates* transforms this central dance theater solo into a group work by incorporating audience members. Audiences will lie on the grass of a park listening for performers both visible and invisible, sit on the theater stage looking up at an artificial "sky" floating above them, encounter embedded performances along a ten-minute walk around a city block, and end up sitting together in the dark at dusk. This work understands the audience to be a constitutive part of the performance equation, and actively acknowledges their role in the making of performance. Together, through the communal listening activity that is the performance experience, we will find ourselves creating a collective meditation on the historicity of place, technology, and embodiment.

This is a wandering performance with the audience standing and walking, lying down, and changing locations several times during the show. Please wear comfortable footwear, dress for the (urban) outdoors, and let the ODC box office know if you will need assistance.