Drawn into [a] Performance: a psychophysical process?

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- This is a short introduction style piece to a chapter in John Court’s book An Idea of Performance A Idea of Art.

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Drawn into [a] Performance: A psychophysical process?
Phil Sawdon

'Someone would have to give' John 'a towel.'
Laban Movement Analysis (LMA)

Body
Structural and physical … moving and connected … influenced and organised … traced
John Court … ‘Sitting on knees’ … ‘hand up on top of forehead’ … ‘move the table with head
and body moving’ … ‘feet pull up and feet pushed down’ … ‘rise the hand up’ … ‘the other
arm moves’ … ‘chair in the ear’

Effort
Movement … intention … attention … control and timing … action … dynamics
John Court … ‘Bang lid down’ … ‘crush up and throw’ … ‘spit out’ … ‘rip the pages’

Shape
Body changes … integrating meaningful movement … forms … shape change … directed …
shaping … volumes … qualities … flow … bridging
John Court … ‘Shaking’ … ‘kicking’ … ‘circling’ … ‘over the head’ … ‘the side of the neck’ …
‘craw(e)l’ … ‘writing’ … ‘washing my face’

Space
Motion … patterns … pathways … linear relationships … points … geometry …
John Court … ‘Move from one table to another’ … ‘push along the floor with nose’ … ‘body
on the side’ … ‘walk into the wall’ … ‘jump down step up’ … ‘around’ … ‘front’

Phil Sawdon: Bio
Phil Sawdon is an artist, writer, editor and erstwhile academic and the keeper and founder of
The Fictional Museum of Drawing

Phil was a Senior Lecturer at Loughborough University School of the Arts, UK until 2011 and
currently he is an Honorary Fellow

He is the co-editor of the academic book series Drawing In (I.B. Tauris) and the online
literary magazine stimulus → respond.

He publishes in various formats including fictions, academic/scholarly books, and artworks
including sound-works and moving image.

His most recent drawing fictions have been for fukt contemporary drawing magazine (#13),
Versal (#11), Gone Lawn (#17 and #20), Danse Macabre (#55, #60, #63, #65, #68, #70),
Nyx, a nocturnal (#4, #6, #8, #9) and Hand Picked (Pavement Books, 2014), together with
sound-works in textsound (#14) and The Conversant.

His most recent books on drawing are Hyperdrawing: Beyond the Lines of Contemporary Art
(I.B. Tauris, 2012), Drawing Ambiguity: Between the Lines of Contemporary Art (I.B. Tauris,
2015) and Drawing Difference: Connections Between Gender and Drawing (I.B. Tauris,
2016).

Phil also works with Deborah Harty as the creative drawing collaboration humhyphenhum.

Phil’s personal blog: http://philsawdon.tumblr.com/