

EMPAC

RECURSIVE FRAME ANALYSIS

MARK FELL

THU OCT 08 / 8:00 PM

FRI OCT 09 / 8:00 PM

a new work
for light,
sound,
and
human movement

choreographed in collaboration
with the performers
Brittany Bailey and Burr Johnson

Recursive Frame Analysis

SOUNDS + LIGHTS: Mark Fell

CHOREOGRAPHY: Mark Fell with Brittany Bailey and Burr Johnson

DANCERS: Brittany Bailey and Burr Johnson

Recursive Frame Analysis is a work for light, sound, and human movement by British artist Mark Fell. The piece takes its name from a therapeutic technique (RFA) developed in the 1980s, the origins of which are found in the work of the British social scientist Gregory Bateson and the Canadian Erving Goffman.

In the context of RFA, the term “frame” refers to the cognitive patterns around which behavioral relationships and interactions develop; typically these are thought of as “stuck” and therefore also somehow problematic. Fell’s work extends this hypothesis, taking the form of a series of unfolding motifs—configurations and reconfigurations of relationships between diegetic and non-diegetic elements that simultaneously orbit and repel one another.

The piece has developed from Fell’s seminal album *Multistability*, establishing parallel and often incompatible emotional trajectories. It can be thought of as a psycho-social analogue of the famous “Necker cube” optical illusion, in which two different versions of the same drawing may be perceived, but never at the same time. This process recursively deconstructs the singular into the plural.

As with Fell’s previous works there is an emphasis on highly formalized aesthetic strategies: arrangements of intensely saturated light, raw synthetic sound, disrupted rhythmic structures, and kinetic systems that place the audience at their perceptual and cognitive boundaries.

The work engages with and responds to vocabularies of shape developed by New York-based choreographer and dancer Brittany Bailey.

Mark Fell is a multidisciplinary artist based in Sheffield, UK. He is widely known for combining popular music styles such as electronica and techno with more academic approaches to computer-based composition, with a particular emphasis on algorithmic and mathematical systems. As well as recorded works, he produces installation pieces, often using multiple speaker systems. He started his career in the ’90s house and techno scene as one half of electronic duo SND and released *The Neurobiology of Moral Decision Making* earlier this year on label The Death of Rave.

Brittany Bailey has worked as a dancer/choreographer in NYC since 2008. She graduated from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in 2008 and went on to train with Merce Cunningham. Bailey has performed with Marina Abramovic, Michael Clark Company, and Robert Wilson. Along with creating performance works for her dance company, Bailey is currently the choreographer on performances with Christopher Knowles, Mark Fell, and a solo dance with visuals by Louise Bourgeois and text by Gary Indiana.

Burr Johnson is a dancer/choreographer based in Brooklyn. He holds a BFA in Dance and Choreography from Virginia Commonwealth University and works with choreographers John Jasperse, Helen Simoneau, Christopher Williams, Kimberly Bartosik, and Shen Wei. He has also worked for Walter Dundervill, Ryan McNamara, Benny Nemerofsky Ramsay, and Yozmit. Burr’s choreographic work has been presented through Movement Research at Judson Church, Underexposed at Dixon Place, One-ArmRed, Elizabeth Dee Gallery, “Emergency Glitter” at Abrons Art Center, Josée Bi-vennu Gallery, Danspace Project, and New York Live Arts. He has taught dance at Henrico Center for the Arts, Philadelphia University of the Arts’ pre-college program, the University of Utah, Salem College, and UNC Greensboro.

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