

Love in Fragments

Bringing together the art forms – and audiences- of visual arts, dance, music and theatre to explore love in all its fragmented components.

Scientists have shown it takes between ninety seconds and four minutes to decide if you are attracted to someone. The research shows that it has little to do with what is said, but rather: 55% is through body language and appearance (dance/visuals), 38% is the tone and speed of their voice (music) and 7% is through what they say (text).

The *Love in Fragments* programme investigates aspects of love - romantic (falling in and out of), societal, obsessive, narcissistic, banal - in eight fragments. Featuring the music of Bach and Jörg Widmann (including *24 Duos for Violin and Cello* by Widmann, solo cello pieces by Bach, and possibly the *Zweistimmige Inventionen arranged for violin and cello* by Bach). The cellist Alban Gerhardt and the violinist Gergana Gergova undertake this adventure with the choreographer Sommer Ulrickson and sculptor Alexander Polzin. Between chosen pieces of Bach and Jörg Widmann they will investigate various terms and concepts inspired by Roland Barthes' *A Lover's Discourse*, current neurological research and questioning societal norms.

The project developed organically after the four artists first met and became familiar with each other's work. It arrived from a desire to move away from each of their individual comfort zones - concert stage, theatre, and atelier - into an area where they can combine their talents and efforts to find a common, yet undiscovered, language. By doing so, they look to invite and challenge their audiences to engage as many of the senses as possible, in order to explore a new experience in visual arts, dance, music and theatre.

The word 'fragment' has connotations of: 'a part broken off or detached', 'isolated, unfitted or incomplete'. Further more as a verb, 'to collapse or break into fragments, disintegrate, divide, disunify'. These words provoke associations that are active, destructive, explosive and sometimes desperate. *Love in Fragments*, is an observation of love in its single components. To see love being gutted, taken apart and examined like a puzzle.

The artists shine a light on these fragments and try to understand - musically, physically and visually - how they belong, or belonged, together. One may feel unequipped to deal with such a situation; or perhaps we are missing some vital tools. We use this space as a practice area- one in which to improve, develop certain tools or fail miserably. Love is an emotion, and as such it allows us to reflect our own experiences and relate to others within our society. This leads to a shared past that enables us to project a shared future. Individuals who project ideas of love within society work towards a joint goal; a goal that necessitates freedom of mind, freedom of speech and the freedom to disagree and speak up.