

I am working on a performance choreographed for three women. Situated firmly in my concerns surrounding the broad disparities of how (western) society values caregiving, this work is directly inspired by my ongoing experience of the co-caregiving with my sister of my mother who has terminal cancer. In the context of the current pandemic, our isolation (together) serves to magnify the physical and emotional dance in which we are engaged. Time, as an element in this work, is primary. Notions of history and memory are mined as are ideas of future and present time. For example, the slowness of some things, like the coming of spring in the rural Northeast, (where we three are encamped) inspires joyful anticipation. This sense of hope mingles with the anxiety and grief attending the shortness of time left with our mother. A linear perspective of time becomes warped and conflicted.



In this work, three women navigate a collection of objects of various sizes. Some are meant to be worn or stepped into. Some are crafted to fit around body parts such as a chin, fingers, a heel, the palm. Some objects have moving parts and require two or three people to activate. The objects bring into focus parts and the whole of the body. Once activated, the objects may convey ideas of comfort, annoyance, surprise, desire, or disgust. They also inform the movement of a part of or whole body(s). For example, a two-thumb glove, when worn, immediately compels the hands to perform in unison and tend toward symmetrical expressions.



This performance will be presented in the spring of 2021 at Vermont College of Fine Arts.

Release me
video event
fall, 2020
open call

Release me.

Imagining or experiencing the moment or process of liberation, of deliverance from what holds you, confined or isolated, gripped in uncertainty or fear, held back by powerful forces or structures, kept apart from others
mired in confusion
dwelling in the dark
an imagined moment of release or
an experience of release, to witness or feel this point in time
in slow motion
to imagine it as really possible
even sustainable

Release me.

How do we imagine a world or ourselves changed after emerging from the grip of fear, solitude, anxiety, grief?
What does the other side of this prolonged condition look like?
What occurs in the moment of release?

Kate Donnelly