



Tanya Lukin Linklater

Alutliq, b. 1976

Slow Scrape, 2015
Performance with Ziyian Kwan

Tanya Lukin Linklater is a multidisciplinary artist whose practice incorporates elements of choreography, dance, performance, video art, film, and writing. She explores the complexity of Indigenous life today through themes such as personal memory, historical memory, Indigenous women's experiences, and ways of passing on knowledge.

Untitled (For Sonya Kelliher-Combs) (2018), a new artwork using video and dance, will be created especially for the *Art for a New Understanding* exhibition. The work comes in direct response to *Orange Curl* (2012), a sculpture by Sonya Kelliher-Combs. Lukin Linklater is compelled by Kelliher-Combs's process and exploration of time, memory, and community, as well as the Alaskan history the two artists share. Lukin Linklater comes from two small Native villages in the Kodiak archipelago of southwestern Alaska, Native Village of Afognak and Native Village of Port Lions; Kelliher-Combs, meanwhile, was raised in the northwest Alaskan community of Nome. Lukin Linklater developed the piece through direct conversation with Kelliher-Combs but also through her own research and investigations into traditional forms of Alaska Native song, dance, language and art history, which poses questions surrounding the complexities of cultural revitalization.

Untitled (For Sonya Kelliher-Combs) uses two low platforms measuring about four by six feet each placed at different angles in relation to *Orange Curl*. A projection of Lukin Linklater's new video plays on one of the platforms—the subject is abstracted gestural motion performed by Lukin Linklater and her two daughters. The fractured bodily movements relate to the fourteen repetitive curved shapes of *Orange Curl*, which Kelliher-Combs says were influenced by the shape of shirtsleeves, among other forms. The other platform sits empty, conceptually symbolizing the absence or erasure of Native peoples, especially within the bounds of public institutions.

As a second part of the work, Lukin Linklater and two dancers, Ceinwen Gobert and Hanako Hoshimi-Caines, will be in residence at Crystal Bridges for one week, during which time they will choreograph a new dance. Open rehearsals and culminating performances will take place—in view of visitors to the exhibition—on and around the two platforms and *Orange Curl*. Collaboration and shared authorship are key elements of the piece: Lukin Linklater provides the structure for the work, but the process of creation is cooperative, with both Lukin Linklater and the two dancers contributing. The piece engages with a more expansive form of time related to the cycles of the day, month, and year, as well as to the migratory patterns of many kinds of creatures and to the interconnections among them. Focusing awareness on temporality in her performances, including the one for Crystal Bridges, Lukin Linklater asks people to be aware of their breath, to slow down and step away from the brisk pace of the Information Age. —MNB

