

# OTTO RAMSTAD

Damlihaugen 2a, 0275 Oslo, Norway, tel. 466 422 67  
otto@bodycartography.org  
www.bodycartography.org

Otto Ramstad (USA), has an MA in Choreography from KHiO, Oslo, a BA in *Dance, Improvisation, and the Moving Image*, from Goddard College, Vermont and is a Certified Teacher of Body-Mind Centering®. He has been featured in the work of DD Dorvillier, Miguel Gutierrez, Shelton Mann, Karen Nelson, Lisa Schmitt, Scott Wells, and Kitt Johnson. Ramstad's solo work has been performed in Norway, Denmark, Finland, England, Paris, New Zealand, Italy, NYC, around the USA. He is a recipient of an Archibald Bush Fellowship Artist 2006.

Ramstad collaborates with Olive Bieringa as the BodyCartography Project. 2018 marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of BodyCartography Project, whose work began in public spaces across the Bay Area, California, Minneapolis, Minnesota and Wellington, New Zealand. In 2018 they celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the first intangible commission for the permanent collection of Te Papa Tongarewa National Museum of New Zealand and performances at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Weisman Museum, Minneapolis and the Performance Arcade festival in Wellington.

BodyCartography's mission is to engage with the vital materiality of our bodies to create live performance that facilitates a re-enchantment of embodiment, relationship, and presence. We create dance in urban, domestic, wild, and social landscapes. Our work is rooted in experimental dance, somatic and socially engaged practice, and public art.

They have created performances, installations, films, workshops, talks, festivals and curatorial projects around the world presented by institutions such as the Walker Art Center, Performance Space 122, American Realness, Movement Research, TBA/Portland Institute of Contemporary Arts, Lyon Opera Ballet, Lyon, Cinedans, Amsterdam, South East Dance, UK, Polish Public Television amongst others.

## Qualifications

**2019** MA Choreography, KHiO

**2012** Certified Teacher of Body-Mind Centering®, Soma, Paris, 20+ days

**2011** Minnesota Regional Dance Development Initiative, a program of New England Foundation for the Arts, 3 days

**2004** BA in Dance, Improvisation, and the Moving Image, Goddard College, Plainfield, Vermont USA

**2002** Certified Practitioner of Body-Mind Centering®, Amherst, Massachusetts 1000+ hours

## Direction, Production, Performance recent highlights

**2019 *TOGETHERING***, SAMMENomGATA commission for Oslo Kommune, Schous Plass & Diechman Grünerløkka, Oslo; ***Lineage***, KHiO; ***Follow*** at Te Papa Tongarewa National Museum of New Zealand, Govett Brewster Gallery, New Plymouth, Auckland Art Gallery **2018 *Lineage*** at Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art **2017 *Lineage*** at Art Shanty Projects, Minnesota; ***closer***, Dance Place, Washington DC; **2016 *closer*** Performance Arcade, Wellington, New Zealand, City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs; ***Lineage***, Vital Matters Festival, Minneapolis; ***Conjuring Space, Conjuring Love***, a commission for Carlton College, ***Vital Matters***, a commission for Wayne State University **2015 *closer***, Northern Spark, Minnesota Museum of American Art, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis City Hall, Red Eye Theater; ***Super Nature***, Kelly Strayhorn Theater, Pittsburgh, Dance Place, DC **2014 *Softening the Curves of the City***, a commission for Bedlam, St Paul; ***Low***, a commission for Footnote Dance, Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, New Zealand; ***Undertide***, a commission for Touch Compass, Auckland, New Zealand **2013 *Untitled (working title)***, Choreographers Evening, Walker Art Center; ***Symptom***, CounterPulse, San Francisco, ***Super Nature***, American Realness/COIL Festival, Abrons Art Center, Performance Space 122, NYC, Storefront Theater, City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs **2012 *Super Nature***, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis **2011 *Symptom***, COIL Festival, Performance Space 122, NYC **2010 *Symptom***, Intermedia Arts and Performance Space 122, ***Mammal***, Lyon Opera Ballet commission, Les Subsistances, Lyon; ***Symptom*** preview, Philadelphia Dance Project, Judson/ Movement Research, Southern Theater ***1/2 Life***, Southern Theater, Minneapolis, Performance Space 122, NYC **2009 *Performance tour for Dan Graham: Beyond exhibit***, Walker Art Center, ***GO***, Stomereien Festival, Zurich, Anti-Festival, Dance in the City, Finland, ***Holiday House***, Coil Festival, PS 122, NYC

## **Installations**

**2019** *Lineage*, KHIO Artistic Research week and MA Final Presentation, Oslo  
**2018** *Lineage*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Weisman Art Museum  
**2017** *Lineage*, Carlton College, Minnesota **2012-2014** *Super Nature*  
performance installation, TBA:Portland Institute of Contemporary Art, City of  
Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis,  
Karas Gallery, Kiev **2009** *1/2 Life*, Art of This Gallery, Minneapolis in  
collaboration with visual artist Emmett Ramstad

## **Video Works**

**2017** *Lineage*, 90' Commission by Carlton College, Minnesota **2014**  
*Undertide*, 10', commission for Touch Compass, New Zealand **2012**  
*Something for Myself*, 5', commission for Young Dance, Minneapolis **2008**  
*Entreterritorios* 20' film, commission for Marila Veloso, Brazil/Argentina  
**2007** *plant*, 10' *Holiday House*, 14', *Nicollet Avenue*, 15' **2006** *Dry Wash*,  
20', commission for Lower Left Performance Collective and CSUSM Winona  
**2004** *Seawall*, 9', 2004, 20' **2003** *Wharepapa*, 30', NZ, *ROOM*, 2002, 5'

## **Commissions**

**2019** SAMMENomGATA commission for Kulturetaten, Oslo Kommune **2018**  
Te Papa Tongarewa National Museum of New Zealand **2016** Carleton College,  
Footnote Dance, New Zealand, Young Dance, Minneapolis, Wayne State  
University, Carlton College **2014** Footnote Dance, Touch Compass, New  
Zealand, Underpass for City of Minneapolis **2012** Young Dance, Minneapolis  
**2010** Lyon Opera Ballet **2008** Cal State San Marcos at the Museum of Man,  
San Diego, Cheshire Dance **2006** Momentum, Walker Art Center,  
Minneapolis 2005 Lower Left Performance Collective, CA **2004** Winona State  
University, Minnesota Dancescape series **2003** Aha! Dance Theater and City  
in Motion Dance Theater, Missouri, Lambton Harbour Management,  
Wellington, NZ **2002** Crimson Coast Dance, Nainamo, Canada

## **Curating + producing**

**2015-2016** Future Interstates performance series and Twin Cities Contact  
Improvisation series, Cowles Center for Dance & the Performing Arts,  
Minneapolis **2009** Choreographers Evening, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis  
**2003-2007** Kinesthetic Kino: International dance film screening,  
Minneapolis, Counterpulse, San Francisco, Wellington New Zealand

## **Festivals/Screening selected highlights**

Edit International Dance Film Festival, Budapest; Dance for the Camera,  
Chicago; British Dance Edition; Dance on Camera Festival, NYC; Women with  
Vision, Walker Art Center; Dance Camera West, LA; American Dance  
Festival; Kerry Film Festival, Ireland; Moving Image Festival in Uruguay;

Minneapolis International Film Festival; Minnesota Public Television; Central Standard Film Festival; Commonwealth Film Festival, UK; NY Independent Film & Video Festival; New Zealand International Film Festival; Cinedans, Amsterdam; Polish Public Television; London International Dance Film Festival; International Dance Film Festival, Yokohama; ATHICA, Athens, GA; Video Dance Festival of Le Breuil, Burgundy, France; Dance for Camera Festival, Brighton.

### **Residencies selected highlights**

**2020** Norsk Teknisk Museum **2018** Weisman Art Museum **2017** Carleton College (academic year) **2016** Figure Space 3 week residency with Lisa Nelson and Steve Paxton at Earthdance and Bennington; Headlands Center for the Arts **2013** Soap Factory **2012** Walker Art Center, Minneapolis **2011** Bell Museum, Minneapolis, Impulstanz, Vienna, Studio 206, Minneapolis **2010** Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography, Florida; Les Subsistances, Lyon 2009 K3, Hamburg **2007** Kyoto Arts Center, Japan **2006** Headlands Center for the Arts, CA **2005** California State University of San Marcos; National Center for Contemporary Art, Kronshtadt/ St Petersburg, Russia **2003** Winona State University Lyceum Residency

### **Collaborations**

**2020** *Arv og Landskap* with Katarina Skår Lisa and Ramona Salo Myrseth at Riksscenen as part of Black Box's Oslo Internasjonale Teaterfestival **2018** Rodrigo Gattas's *The Institute of the Unexpected*; Sharon Mansur's *...in the space between* film project, Winona, Minnesota **2016** ROME Chloe Lum/ Yannick Desranleau, St Cloud State **2015** Station to Station, Doug Aitken feature film; Intangibles Project, Walker Art Center **2014** Though I Destroyed My Body Doing It, a short film with Works Progress **2013** Station to Station, Doug Aitken event, Union Depot, St Paul, Domestic Integrities, Fritz Haeg, Walker Art Center **2009-2012** Emmett Ramstad and composer Zeena Parkins for *1/2 Life*, *Symptom* and *Super Nature*. **2008** *Entreterritorios*, 16 screen video installation in collaboration with Marila Velloso, Brazil, *Station/ Stationary*, video installation for Crewe Train Station, UK

### **Fellowships and Funders selected highlights**

Oslo Kommune, Kulturrådet, Oppland Fylkeskommun, Marin Headlands/ Alumni New Works, American Composers Forum, Creative Exploration Fund, National Dance Project, American Composers Forum, National Performance Network Creation Fund and Forth Fund, CEC Artslink, McKnight Foundation, Foundation for Contemporary Arts, Minnesota State Arts Board, Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, Moore Family Foundation, St Paul Public Art, Multi Arts Production Fund/Rockefeller Foundation, Arts International, Bush

Foundation, Jerome Foundation, Forecast Public Art Works, Lions Foundation, Wellington City Council, The Performing Arts Foundation of NZ, Creative New Zealand, San Francisco Arts Commission, Zellerbach Family Fund, CASH/Hewlett Packard Foundation, Dorothy Daniels Dance Foundation

### **Awards**

**2015** Foundation for Contemporary Art **2013** City Pages Dance Company of the Year **2010** McKnight Fellowship **2008** Sage Award for Outstanding Performance **2007** City Pages Artists of the Year, Public Art St Paul Sustainable Arts Fellows **2006** Archibald Bush Fellowship Artist **2005** Winner of Dance for Camera Festival at ADF **2004** Highly Commended at Kerry Film Festival, Ireland **2003** NZ Fringe Festival Awards/Pelorous Trust Creativity Award & Outdoor Award **2002** NZ Fringe Festival Outdoor Award **2001** NZ Fringe Festival Outdoor Award

### **Professional affiliations**

**2002-2020** Professional member Body-Mind Centering Association, and the Body-Mind Centering Program Directors Group

### **Recent publications**

#### **Book & Magazine Contributions:**

- *Te Ao Live: Experimental Dance Aotearoa NZ in the Early 21st Century*, Ed. Alexa Wilson. New Zealand, January 2019
- Under Seeing: An Approach to Feeling and Sensing Performance. *Contact Quarterly*, Vol. 44 no. 1 Winter/ Spring 2019
- *Dance, Place, and Video* *Contact Quarterly*, Vol. 31 no. 2 Summer/Fall 2006
- *Moving Sites - Investigating Site-Specific Dance Performance*. Ed. Victoria Hunter Routledge. 2015
- *The Place of Dance: A Somatic Guide to Dancing and Dance Making*, Ed. Andrea Olsen, Wesleyan University Press
- *Site Dance: Choreographers and the Lure of Alternate Spaces*. Ed. Caroline Pavlik and Melanie Kloetzel. *University of Florida Press*. 2011

#### **Pre/Reviews:**

- Kramer, Michael J. "BodyCartography's closer." *Theater Magazine*, May 2018.
- Gastineau, Emily. "Putting the Buzzwords of Engagement into Motion." *Mnartists.org*. 11 September. 2015.
- Kerr, Euan. "Dance group brings performance into public, personal spaces." *Minnesota Public Radio*. 13 August, 2015

- Brown, Jeffrey. "This museum gift shop sells art you can't hang on the wall." *PBS Newshour*. 27 May, 2015
- Crandalla, Maxe and Selby Wynn Schwartzb. "Symptom review from *Women & Performance: a journal of feminist theory*." *Columbia University, St. Mary's College of California*. 22:1-2 (July- Nov. 2012). Routledge
- Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales. 28 Nov. 2014
- Kramer, Michael J. "Dancing the Animal Spirits." *CULTURE ROVER: PROMISCUOUS CULTURAL CRITICISM*. 10 Oct. 2013

### **Interviews:**

- Commonalities & Distinctions  
Body-Mind Centering® & Contact Improvisation, interview with Otto Ramstad by Grégory Chevalier, *Contact Quarterly*, Winter/Spring 2019
- Freeman, Lynn "BodyCartography Project - still crazy after 20 years!" *Standing Room Only*, Radio New Zealand. 26 May 2014
- MN Originals, Minnesota Public Television, 2011

### **Teaching**

#### **Universities:**

**2017** Carleton college artist in residence for one academic year developing multiple productions, Northfield, Minnesota **2016** Bennington College, Vermont; Wayne State University, Detroit

**Other institutions:** Culturgest, Lisbon; Oberlin College, Denison College, Ohio; Luther College, Iowa; University of Madison, Wisconsin; Winona University, Macalester College, University of Minnesota, Perpich Center for Arts Education, Minnesota; CalArts, University of San Diego, California State University of San Marcos, Davis University, California; Auckland University, Otago University, Unitec Performing Arts, Wellington Performing Arts Center, Toi Whakaari, New Zealand School of Dance, New Zealand.

#### **Professional companies:**

Cullberg Ballet, Stockholm; X-Act, Copenhagen; Core Dance, Atlanta; Lower Left, San Diego; Footnote Dance, New Zealand Dance Company; Touch Compass, New Zealand; Guaira Dance Company, Curitiba, Brazil; Crimson Coast Dance Society, Nainamo, Canada; Yokohama University, Japan; Lyon Opera Ballet, France; Staats Theater, Kassel; Interact Center for Performing Arts, Young Dance, Minnesota.

**Professional Body-Mind Centering trainings:**

**2020** Somatic Education Australasia **2019** Somatic Education Australasia, **2018** Leben Nuova, Tuscania, Italy; Moveus, Germany; Assisting Bonnie Bainbridge Cohen in Berkeley, California **2017** Leben Nuova, Tuscania, Italy, Moveus, Germany; Assisting Bonnie Bainbridge Cohen in Melbourne, Sydney, Australia, Auckland, New Zealand **2016** Assisting Bonnie Bainbridge Cohen in Stockholm and Gotenburg, Sweden; Moveus, Germany **2015** Kinesthetic Learning Center, N. Carolina; Moveus, Germany

**Festivals:**

Freiburg International Contact Festival, Germany; SIB Dance Lab, Hamar; Praxis Festivalen, Oslo; Ponderosa Tanzland Festival, Germany; Boston festival Lion's Jaw Festival, Boston; Lepetit Festival, Lisbon; Impuls Festival, Sweden; Impulstanz, Vienna; Contactfestival, Freiburg; Madison Improvisation Festival, New Zealand Contact Improvisation Retreat; DC Improvisation Festival; G.L.A.C.I.E.R.; Liverpool Festival of Improvisation, UK, Choreoessence, Grenoble

**Public workshops:**

Movement Research, NYC; Independent Dance, London; TanzFabrik, Berlin; PRAXIS Oslo, Tanz Quartier, Vienna; Embodied Performance intensive Eden Studios, Berlin; 4 weeks, Embodied Performance intensive, Tapestry Folk Dance Studios, Minneapolis; 4 weeks; Independent Dance, London; Qingonsenterest, Oslo Teatersenter; Schous Plass; Rom for Dans, Oslo; PRAXIS Oslo/Scuda/Proda, Oslo; Guggenheim Lab, Berlin; Whitney Museum, NYC; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Counterpulse, 848, Cellspace, San Francisco; Earthdance, Northampton, MA; Cheshire Dance, UK; Kassel, K3, Hamburg, Germany; Malmo, Sweden; Spiral, Tokyo; Flowing, Kyoto; Dartington College; Manchester, UK; Guira, Curitiba, Brazil; Soul, Titirangi; Wellington; Dunedin; Auckland, New Zealand; Barker Theater, Turku, Finland; HYA, Sydney; Abbotsford Convent, Melbourne, Australia; Canaldans, Paris