



Miller & Shellabarger (Untitled) 2003

## LIMINALITIES: A JOURNAL OF PERFORMANCE STUDIES

Call for Papers and Projects: On Contemplation

Deadline: 1 May 2015

Issue Editor: **Myron M. Beasley, Bates College, USA**

“There in the center of that silence was not eternity but the death of time and a loneliness so profound the word itself had no meaning.”

— Toni Morrison, *Sula*

In the fall of 2013 performance artist and social choreographer Ernesto Pujol led people to walk for 24 hours repeatedly encircling St. Paul's Chapel in lower Manhattan. *Time for Us*, Pujol's performance like some of his other endeavors around the World, was performances of slow walking. The performances, monastic in resonance, were invitations to both the audience and the co-performers to a moment of deep reflection to enliven memories and undocumented narratives of place. Honoring the value of process, of dialogue, of deep reflection in city planning, architecture and product development, the critical design collective in Berlin asks, “where is the form for this content?” Thus moving beyond the aesthetic, functional and economic features to consider ecologic and sociopolitical dimensions of both the design object and the design process. Such acts and performances of deliberation recall *Waiting* (1975) a performance that was integral to the *Womenhouse* installation. Faith Wilding sat and rocked and recited the poem “Waiting” asking us to pause—to think deeply and ask how long must we wait for the end of patriarchy and the continued oppression against women. And William Pope.L (2000) chained himself to the door of the Bank of America on Wall Street and chewed pieces of the *Wall Street Journal*, sitting, waiting, pausing—asking us to consider the dangers of a capitalism run amok.

This special issue of *Liminalities: A journal of performance studies* will honor **contemplation** as an important performative component in the creative and intellectual domains of cultural production. Critical theory has welcomed reflexivity and reflection as important categories to be examined, and this issue welcomes conversations and opportunities to interrogate the in-between space of **contemplation**. Remembering its Latin roots, *contemplat-* “to survey” or “to observe” – a place to observe + *Templum-* which shares the root with temple—a place cut out and reserved for the sacred. The verb *contemplate* relates to a moment, a break, a pause. It is also understood as a fissure or a suspension of time in the normalcy of daily life to embrace stillness (as Kant locates the relationship with time and space). Thoreau claimed that every act of daily life should be achieved with true contemplation. Walden Pond, his home, is a temple to contemplation. This issue seeks essays, performances, artist pages, manifestos, videos, sound projects and reviews that will engage in what it means to contemplate: to examine this liminal space as a realm of discovery, of self, of cultural politics, of art. We invite a range and broad interpretations of the call including:

- Contemplation as practice
- Writing as process of discovery
- Toward a pedagogy of contemplation
- Process versus Contemplation
- The relationship between the sacred and art (-ist)
- Ritual, performance, performance art and contemplation
- Contemplation and community engaged art, writing, education
- Contemplation and the art review/art writing
- Contemplation in contemporary art/popular culture

*Liminalities* is an open-access peer-reviewed journal for performance studies, theory and praxis. Our goal is to embrace the possibilities for presenting work in performance studies (broadly construed) by exploring and exploiting the "staging" potential of digital media. We publish essays, aesthetic works, digital media projects, artist pages, performance scripts, themed forums, documentaries, reviews, interviews, works about performance in urban environments, and works about pedagogy & performance. Follow the [journal information](#) link for information about submitting video and audio projects.

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Issue submissions and Inquires: [performbrazil@gmail.com](mailto:performbrazil@gmail.com)

Submission Guidelines:

Style guide: MLA style guide with footnotes or Chicago style