A Quarreling Pair (2007) by Bill T. Jones, a reference in dance of the digital age

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Abstract

This presentation looks at the notion that new technology challenges where the human body begins, ends and is present in the digital age drawing on a recent article we wrote for peer review). This unification of art and science has impacted in the field of professional dance, pioneered in 21st Century by choreographers such as Bill T. Jones. Jones’s longevity of works dating back to 1970s informs new expressions of dance using new technology. One of his most remarkable works A Quarreling Pair (2007), is a reference to dance of the digital age through the artistic collaboration across all disciplines, reimagining what dance can do as new technologies offer a meaning to merge the borders between the intersection of art and science. This piece has challenged the future of what dance looks like, as the collaboration of the new technology offers creative futures, where dance can make things different to be used as a re-examination of the past, in order to understand the possibilities for the future. Jones also challenges whose bodies can be represented and where. Therefore, dance may happen beyond the dancer’s body as the partnership can disrupt and challenge the limits of human activity.

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