

Elayne Adamczyk Harrington

I have known Elayne since April 2019 when we met at the SCULPTURE IN PROCESS symposium organised to celebrate the centenary of the Faculty of Sculpture at the University of the Arts Poznan. I was invited to give a keynote paper, and Elayne, who had studied her ERASMUS year at the University, had returned from Ireland to participate in a performance workshop led by John Court, a Finnish-based UK artist. John's workshop involved constructing a sculptural cone-shaped structure that participants kept in constant motion by pushing in a circle over many hours, including overnight. I attended the performance periodically throughout the day and night and was immediately struck when Elayne took her turn to push the object. Elayne brings a palpable energy to performance, a physicality and rhythm underpinned and enhanced by her vocalising, rap and hip-hop skills. She has a manifestly embodied approach to performance, whether as visual art sculpture or as hip-hop music. In fact, what is so distinctive about her approach to practice is how she moves within and across these disciplinary boundaries, drawing together the mass appeal and cultural relevance of hip-hop with the comparatively niche visual art performance. I was immediately impressed with her integrity and commitment of action and was drawn to performing alongside her, pacing counter clockwise to her clockwise momentum and vice versa. As such, my curatorial partner Judit Bodor and I invited Elayne to be one of our artists for the 2019 edition of the Contexts International Festival of Contemporary Art, Sokolowsko, Poland. Elayne's work at the festival was exceptional and professionally delivered in a challenging context. I was also pleased but unsurprised to discover Elayne's advocacy of creative education for working-class and other underrepresented communities. Elayne is a committed and compassionate fighter for art and education – her performance style owes more than a little to her boxing prowess - and one of the most distinctive and creditable artists and people I've ever met.

Roddy Hunter,
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