

MILLS

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Sheldon B. Smith and Lisa Wymore:
ENDLESS GESTURES OF GOODWILL
January 21–March 15, 2015

Opening Reception: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 | 6:00-8:00 pm

OAKLAND, December 18, 2014 □ **THE MILLS COLLEGE ART MUSEUM (MCAM)** is pleased to announce *Sheldon B. Smith and Lisa Wymore, Endless Gestures of Goodwill* on view from January 21–March 15, 2015. An attempt at making a never-ending dance, this two-channel video work utilizes 250 separate video clips of short movement statements inspired by folk dances, edited together by custom software in a manner that implies continuity.

In their work together, Smith, Visiting Assistant Professor at Mills College, and Wymore, Associate Professor of Dance and Director of the Dance Program at U.C. Berkeley, create funny and provocative pieces that are deeply human, odd, rigorous, and inviting all at the same time. Their work subverts formalist notions of concert dance through experiments with language, music, and technology.

Endless Gestures of Goodwill complements the strong history of experimentation in dance and technology at Mills College. Visionary choreographer Marian Van Tuyl established the nation's first degree in modern dance at Mills in 1941. Pioneering connections between dance, music, and technology were forged through Van Tuyl's innovative film collaborations with avant-garde

composer John Cage, who accompanied dance and taught at Mills from 1938 to 1941.

Sheldon B. Smith has been making dances, music and video art for over 25 years in both the Midwest and California. He has been interested in technology for many years and with Wymore, regularly makes performance work that skillfully integrates technology and dance in ways that try to allow both elements to speak to common human experience. His current creative interests are focused on developing workable strategies for integrating technology into improvisational performance. He has a BA in Dance from Colorado College and an MFA from the University of Illinois Urbana.

Lisa Wymore teaches courses in choreography, contemporary dance technique, performance, movement improvisation, and dance/technology. She received a BA from U.C. Santa Cruz and her MFA from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. Wymore is currently the Co-Artistic Director with Sheldon B. Smith of Smith/Wymore Disappearing Acts. Wymore's other projects include creating distributed performances utilizing tele-immersion technology, and working with the Urban Bush Women Leadership Institute on a recent community engagement project around food justice entitled From the Field to the Table.

Endless Gestures of Goodwill choreography: Sheldon B. Smith and Lisa Wymore; concept, sound, and editing algorithms: Sheldon B. Smith; editing assistant: Carmen Veronica; dancers: Sheldon B. Smith and Lisa Wymore.

Image: Sheldon B Smith and Lisa Wymore, *Endless Gestures of Goodwill*, 2014, video stills.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

(Visit <http://mcam.mills.edu> for full details)

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MCAM

Additional programs to be announced via mcam.mills.edu.

ABOUT THE MILLS COLLEGE ART MUSEUM

Founded in 1925, The Mills College Art Museum (MCAM) is a forum for exploring art and ideas and a laboratory for contemporary art practices. Through innovative exhibitions, programs, and collections, the museum engages and inspires the intellectual and creative life of the Mills community as well as the diverse audiences of the Bay Area and beyond. MCAM is located at 5000 MacArthur Boulevard, Oakland, CA 94613. Museum hours are Tuesday-Sunday, 11:00–4:00 pm and Wednesday, 11:00–7:30 pm. Admission is free unless noted. mcam.mills.edu.

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