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andrea haenggi :: AMDaT

blast wall art
outdoor dance video installation

Travel to the concrete nation!

**As dusk turns to dark, a handball court becomes a powerful public canvas
woven from movement, live music and video projections.**

DATES	June 15 th through June 18 th (Wed-Sat)
TIMES	8:15pm
MEETING POINT	<i>gallerie</i> , 63 Pearl Street, Brooklyn (DUMBO) F train to York Street Station. Walk down the hill towards the East River, turn left onto Front Street and take your first right onto Pearl Street.
TICKETS:	\$ 10 at the door (suggested donation)
RSVP:	www.amdat.org/rsvp or 718 218-8236

(Brooklyn, NY, May 20) – From June 15 through June 18, Swiss-born choreographer/visual artist **Andrea Haenggi**, AMDaT’s artistic director, invites the participating audience to gather at a hip Brooklyn gallery and travel with “action performers” to the Commodore Barry Hand Ball Courts to witness Haenggi’s evocative choreography of a trio between AMDaT’s athletic company dancers **Einy Aam** and **Tori Sparks** and **swiveling video projections**. The dancers move away and retreat back to the wall in sharp, edgy movements, leading with elbows, shoulders and hips, and freeze in surprisingly theatrical poses. As the audience scans the walls, unexpected interruptions of group movement by the “action performers” address issues of protection and attack. The work starts almost in miniature, with tiny projections. As dusk passes into dark, the performers disappear into the wall and the projections take fully over, becoming a visible dream world canvas of surreal fantasy images of joy and happiness.

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The dance is set to avant-garde improvised jazz played live on June 15/16 by the trio of **Arto Artinian** – flute, **Brad Kemp** – contrabass, **Adam James Wilson** – guitar and on June 17/18 played live by wild solo jazz drummer **William Hooker**.

Haenggi's inspiration for this work are the concrete blast walls in Baghdad, which protect buildings against bombs and mortars but have become a public canvas for Iraqis, featuring everything from retro-Chagall murals to prog-rock album-covers to teenage fantasies. The handball courts are the indirect symbols of the concrete blast walls in Baghdad. With blast wall art, audience members will make associations and see something that is in their own minds. This work is quite open to interpretation. And Haenggi likes that.

About the Artist

AMDaT established in 1998, creates and produces *visual motion constructions*: site-specific dance video installations and multi-media stage works that combine contemporary dance with visual art, prosaic architecture, and technology. The company AMDaT engages audiences in rich, thought-provoking aesthetic experiences, and aims to transform people's perception of everyday life. AMDaT has performed for a variety of audiences in New York City and has toured internationally to Germany, Canada, and the Czech Republic. U.S. highlights including being presented by Lower Manhattan Cultural Council "Site-Lines" Festival, *Dancenow Festival*, *Joyce SoHo*, *MASS MoCA* and a community project at *Maria Hernandez Park* in Bushwick, Brooklyn. AMDaT has now been invited by TSEH Dance Agency in Moscow, Russia to create a new version of the company's successful dance video installation *under whose control*, as a special project for the fifth anniversary of the *TSEH Dance Theater Festival*.

Andrea Haenggi is a recipient of the *2005 Digital Fellowship* at Dance Theater Workshop's Artist Resource and Media Lab (ARM). She has been invited to participate in the *Artward Bound Residency* at the *White Oak Plantation, Florida*, and for a workshop/residency performance with her company AMDaT at *Tanzhaus Wasswerwerk* in Zurich (Switzerland) for the development of her new work, *correre I+II*. Ms. Haenggi pursued a professional training at the *Jutta Klamt School* and *CH-Tanztheater* in Zurich, Switzerland. She then got the opportunity to continue her training at the *Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance* and performed in an international tour of Graham's ballet *Panorama*. She also continued her long-time passion for visual art. One day she asked herself: *What happens to the experience of a digital image or a painting if it moves like a dancer?* This was the genesis of the complex dance/art installations she calls *visual motion constructions*, and resulted in the birth of AMDaT in 1998.

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blast wall art is commissioned by AMDaT, Inc. which thanks Jan Larsen Fine Art, theXpo at gallerie, the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation and individual donors for their support.

PRESS QUOTES:

"Haenggi's powerful installations cross many disciplines.....the result is both vaguely sinister and lovely"
Gia Kourlas, Time Out New York

"The expression of their bodies is phenomenal." Jeff Culbert, Theatre in London Press, Canada