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under whose control

A site-integrated dance video installation staged in a vacant cigar store

by Andrea Haenggi / AMDaT

Co-presented by Lower Manhattan Cultural Council and AMDaT

Part of LMCC's *SiteLines* series and the Downtown NYC River to River Festival 2004

"...the expression of their bodies is phenomenal.....the soundscape and the use of film were unusual and engaging..."

Jeff Culbert, Theatre in London Press, Canada

April 27, 2004, New York City- In *under whose control* Swiss-born choreographer/visual artist **Andrea Haenggi**, artistic director of **AMDaT**, has assembled an adventurous collision of installation, performance and multi-media spectacle inside an evocatively-cavernous 6000 square foot vacant cavernous cigar store. Five female dancers mesh fierce movement with the romantic atmosphere of the evocative storefront, exploring whether the corners of the site and their sculptural twins offer imprisonment or liberation. A mesmerizing and sensuous visual experience.

under whose control performs **June 16-26, 2004** at the **Cocoa Exchange Building** (1 Wall Street Court, corner of Beaver and Pearl, south of Wall Street – Train 2/3/4/5 to Wall Street station) **Wednesdays – Fridays at 5:30 and 7pm, Saturdays at 7pm** only. Post-performance discussion with the artist on Wednesday, June 23. Admission is **FREE** to the general public. To reserve tickets call AMDaT at **(718) 218-8236 x2** or online at www.lmcc.net/rsvp.

A combination of movement, video projection, and set-installation created by Swiss/New York choreographer and visual artist **Andrea Haenggi**, *under whose control* developed from a piece of common geometry - the corner of a room - and was inspired by philosopher E.M.Cioran's remark "to be is to *be* cornered." Five women dance in, around, and up an architectural corner and its sculptural twin, exploring whether the corners offer imprisonment or liberation. *under whose control* meshes fierce movement with the romantic atmosphere of a storefront. By setting the movement in the corners of the cigar store and interweaving it with precisely timed threatening and sensual video projections, Haenggi's choreographic language developed from the restriction of these corners to create a hall of mirrors effect.



The cast of five female dancers (**Einy Aam, Andrea Haenggi, Michele Jongeneel, Djamila Moore and Tori Sparks**) appear and disappear, move in, around, and up the corners of the site as the audience travels with them. The work builds in a dialogue between the installation and the site to ask: Does a corner offer imprisonment yet also liberation? The collision of performance, installation and multi-media spectacle puts the audience in the position of being cornered, trapped, pinned, restricted and implies that we are in some way being dominated by our everyday reality-but *under whose control?*

All of this action happens in the vacant Cocoa Exchange storefront, a unique environment that was formerly the home of J.R. Cigars. This storefront is redolent of 1920's New York- with mahogany doors, marble floors and cigar boxes stacked two stories high. An audio installation by **David Lipton** and **Erin McGonigle** (original electronic sound score by McGonigle, from *e-Xplo*, and additional piano compositions by American composer **Henry Cowell**) heightens the spatial architecture of the unique 6,000 square foot cigar store.

Andrea Haenggi, AMDaT's artistic director, studied Improvisation at the Jutta Klamt School and Dance /Theater at Comart in Zurich Switzerland, and came to New York City to train in modern dance at the Martha Graham Dance School. Later, she performed in an international tour of Graham's Ballet *Panorama* and with many other companies. She studied Choreography with *Lucia Dlugoszweski*, and 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.

This site-integrated performance work is part of Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Summer *SiteLines* , a new site-specific series designed to enliven Lower Manhattan. For more information or a map with performance sites and calender, see www.Site-lines.org. The work is a co-production by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council and AMDaT. *under whose control*, debuted last year as an experiment in a small urban loft in Brooklyn and finds his further realization in the new J.R Cigar site. The new incarnation of *under whose control* is made possible by the generous support of the *Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Swiss International Air Lines* and *individual donors*.



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