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**Cecilia Bengolea** (1979, Buenos Aires)

with **Craig Black Eagle**

**Lightning dance, 2018.**

Video digital mono-canal, B/N, sound

6 min 03 sec

Ed. 5 + 1AP

Commissioned by The Vinyl Factory, Stromboli Extravaganza

Co-produced by Vlovajob P.



Filmed during the 2017 floods in Spanish Town, Jamaica, *Lightning Dance* investigates the influence of the indeterminate electric weather on bodily imagination. It features several young Jamaicans who, in company of the artist, perform solo and group dance routines next to a roadside shack, while heavy rain falls and a billowing, turbulent thunderstorm roars, soaking their clothes. As the dancers take center stage, their movements refer to popular Jamaican Dancehall, a highly sexualized dance style, which Cecilia Bengolea sees as infused with magical healing powers.

The unapologetically rough setting of the piece in combination with its illuminating effect—reinforced by the black-and-white aesthetics—highlight the dynamic gestures of the performers captivating the gaze of the viewer, whilst the sounds of thunderstorm become the beats to which the choreography is synched. The only trace left of Dancehall music is the low-frequency base in the background, amplified by the intensity of the choreography. By dissolving the boundaries between the nature and the human *Lightning Dance* captivates the viewer to the point of channeling life through movement and light.

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**BIO | Cecilia Bengolea** (Buenos Aires, 1979) is a multidisciplinary artist working with video, performance and sculpture, whose practice is focused on anthropological research of community dance forms that are both contemporary and archaic. She's particularly interested in the relation to nature, elements, animist beliefs and choreographed figuration. She embraces collaboration to build a broader body of work whilst perceiving dance and performance as an animated sculpture that allows her to become both subject and object within her own work.

Bengolea has collaborated with dancehall artists such as Craig Black Eagle, Bombom DHQ, Damion BG, and with artists Dominique Gonzalez Forster and Jeremy Deller. Her collaborative work with French choreographer François Chaignaud, *Pâquerette* (2005-2008) and *Sylphides* (2009), have earned several awards such as the Award de la Critique de Paris in 2010 and the Young Artist Prize at the Gwangju Biennial in 2014. They have also co-created dance pieces for their dance company as well as for the Ballet de Lyon (2013), the Ballet de Lorraine (2014) and Pina Bausch Tanztheater Wuppertal (2015).

Bengolea's video installations and performances have been exhibited at the Gwangju Biennial (2014), La Biennale de Lyon (2015), The Tanks and Tade Modern, London (2015), Faena Arts Center, Buenos Aires (2015 y 2017) Fig-2 25/50 en ICA, London (2015), Dia Art Foundation, New York (2017), Tokyo Spiral Hall, Bienal de Sao Paulo (2016), The Infinite Mix, Hayward Gallery London (2016), Elevation 1049, Gstaad (2017), Palais de Tokyo (2015 y 2018), Paris, Art Night, ICA London (2015), Fiorucci Art Trust, Stromboli, Dhaka Art Summit (2018), TBA21, Venice (2018), Art Basel Miami Beach (2018), E.A.T (2019), Centre Pompidou, Paris (2010, 2016, 2019), Engadin Art Talks (2019), Desertx, Coachella Valley (2019), tank Art Basel (2019), FriezeLive, London (2019), Fiac - Parades, Paris (2019), Before We Die, Performa NYV (2019), Alliga Sferik, Tulum (2019), Sylphides, Fondation Giacometti (2019).

Her upcoming projects include "Dancehall Weather" (2019), a new video installation commissioned by the city of Geneva for the new CEVA train station of Shampel, Tank Shanghai (opening on March 8, 2020), Museo Experimental El Eco in Mexico, the Gwangju Biennale 2020 (September 2020) and The Mistake Room, Los Angeles (2021).

With a background in Philosophy and Art History she has also followed the choreographic master Ex.e.r.c.e. by Mathilde Monnier at the Centre Chorégraphique National in Montpellier.