Body I am and ‘book’ is just another word for the body

Part of ‘Illumination – How the Visual Captures the Imagination’
Senate House Library, London

Live art action followed by a friendly forum to examine the relationship between reading and becoming; life as literature.

Publicity statement: We can never overestimate just how much of what we read affects how we interpret the world around us and how we choose to act in it. This live art action – part dance, part ritual – is a celebration of the liberation of our lives made possible by the phenomena of the book. Much like Nietzsche challenged: “Body I am and spirit is just another word for the body” in order to ground abstract philosophy in matter, the performance urges that what we read through our eyes and process in our heads is continually transforming what we choose to become in our lived lives. Gyrating and banging is the name of the game, the spaces and corridors of Senate House Library will become a renegade ballroom in which to applause the power of the page whilst The Durning-Lawrence Library Room will become a place of worshipful study.

Nietzsche also gave us the notion of ‘life as literature’ and, by extension, each of us can be said to write out our life as much as we live it. Where are the boundaries between reading, living and writing more broadly speaking and are they equal types of forces? All of these issues are up for lively debate in the post-performance discussion workshop. Participants are invited to bring the book or text that has affected their life the most with them to this event.

Credits: Colin Holmski curated this event and the photographs were taken by Charles Harrowell.