**ARMORY**

Site Dance Performances at CCA

Outside the Center for Contemporary Arts, adjacent to the CCA Tank Garage, $5
Friday & Saturday, August 24 & 25, 6:00 p.m., Sunday, August 26, 2:00 p.m.

**Armory** is a full length site dance performance choreographed and directed by Micaela Gardner in collaboration with performing dancers Amy Compton, Micayla Duran, Camille Duran and Paige Hunter. This piece takes its title from the site itself, once a National Guard facility. Set within the trees, water catchment pits and expanse of dirt adjacent to The Center for Contemporary Arts, Armory endeavors to illuminate and reconcile media imagery, political theater and modern psyche in six dances performed by four dancers.

Athletic, ethereal and sometimes comic these dances use musical formality and absurdity to distill human activity into both futility and poetry. The vision for this work developed by Gardner is nuanced and augmented with content from the dancers who have created several solos and ensemble material. Costumed in pale smocks, dancers tramp, gallop and hover within a developed system of dance language that evokes a kind of interpretive ghost dancing. Presenting pictures of human isolation and environmental depletion, Armory wonders at our ruptured connections to nature, human community and our estrangement from and destruction of the landscape. Media overexposure, fear and dissociation find ground in the dancers’ bodies and the raw immediacy of performance.

Performed outdoors, the dances dwell in real time without sound score except for vocalizations by the dancers. Unfolding with shifts in location, Armory travels through its setting in the trees with exuberance, quietude and curiosity.

Armory is a dancing poem for human resonance in our current era of inurement and distraction.

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**Micaela Gardner** is a dancer, choreographer and native of the Southwest. Her focus has been solo performance, dance film and ensemble site dance. She received classical and modern dance-training in New Mexico, Arizona and California. Her work is described as combining the expressionistic tradition of Ausdruckstanz, (German Expressionist Dance), with contemporary urban and modern dance—focused in form, story and musicality. As Micaela Gardner Projects she has choreographed and directed several full length site dance works in this region including The Federal Dances, 2014; 123, 2015; Dancing in a Hard Place, 2016; and Earth Terma, 2018

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The Center for Contemporary Arts is located at 1050 Old Pecos Trail, Santa Fe, New Mexico