

**Best promising artistic partnership: RoCo and RCDC**

An October 8 collaboration spearheaded by Rochester Contemporary Dance Collective and hosted by Rochester Contemporary Art Center was an unexpected performance gem, and a call to stage more such interrelated arts events in the future. That evening there was a level of audience involvement, and an air of excitement and spontaneous creation in the downtown gallery that is not often felt in Rochester.

Dancers from various local groups drifted amongst spectators, regrouping in front of different installations in the gallery's current "Scapes" exhibit to react to the art through movement - some improvised, some carefully thought through. "Scapes" addresses connections between natural landscapes and human form through use of digital media and exhibits the art work of Jamie Hahn, Sterz, Christina Laurel, Jason Bernagozzi, and Debora Bernagozzi.

Heather Roffe, one of the founders and directors of Futurpointe Dance Theater as well as a member of RCDC's Board of Directors, performed with her company at the event. "I hope to organize further collaborations with visual art and to incorporate even more sound art or music in the future," she says. "Dance is simultaneously visual, aural, emotional, mental, and kinesthetic, so it lends itself well to dialogues and pairings with other art forms."

Other dancers and companies participating in the on-site event were Richard Haisma/Geomantics, Nanako Horikawa, Whitney Denesha, Missy Pfohl Smith/Biodance, Sarah Cooldige, Mariah Maloney, Treeline Dance/Jenny Showalter, Rose Beauchamp, Mone Dance Company/Nikita Mone, and Charmese O'Callaghan.

"With this event we worked toward a set-up where dancers responded to the visual arts with a unique program that we hope to pursue again soon," says Bleu Cease, executive director and curator of Rochester Contemporary. - BY CASEY CARLSEN