

The Tennis Piece

Atlanta Eke

8 February - 23 March 2019

Taking form as a tennis court and partial clubhouse, Atlanta Eke's project performs as both an installation and platform for a series of choreographed activations. Initially appearing to riff off the southern hemisphere summer and the fervent interest in the Australian Open, the work instead draws upon a historical moment in the evolution of democratic society. Collapsing time and geographical context, *The Tennis Piece* revisits the 20th June 1789, when members of the French Third Estate (*Tiers État*) congregated in the city of Versailles and took the Tennis Court Oath (*Serment du Jeu de Paume*), a moment that would become a pivotal event toward the French Revolution. With the integrated performances taking cue from Renaissance dance and the collapsing of organised court dances and courting rituals, the (tennis) court becomes a site of adversarial competition wherein the players jostle for domination on both physical and psychological planes, against inferred competitors and literal projectiles.

Atlanta Eke is an artist, dancer and choreographer working in Australia and internationally, currently based in Jan Juc, Victoria. Recent projects and performances include *Mother Holding Something Horrific: The Dance* (in collaboration with Claire Lamb), Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne (2017); *The Unsettling*, The National, Carriageworks, Sydney (2017); *Fuck You Buddy*, Dark Mofo, Hobart; and Liquid Architecture Festival, Melbourne (2017); *Body Of Work*, Vitalstatistix, Adelaide Festival (2016); *Body Of Work*, Les Plateaux, La Briquetterie National Centre, Paris Dance Biennale, Paris (2016); Adelaide Festival 2016; Dancehouse, Melbourne; and Perth Institute for Contemporary Art (2015–16); and *Miss Universal*, Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne (2015). In 2014 Eke was awarded the inaugural Keir Choreographic Award.

Atlanta Eke's project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

The Tennis Piece is presented at Gertrude in coincidence with Dance Massive 2019, Australia's foremost biennial festival working in support of contemporary dance.

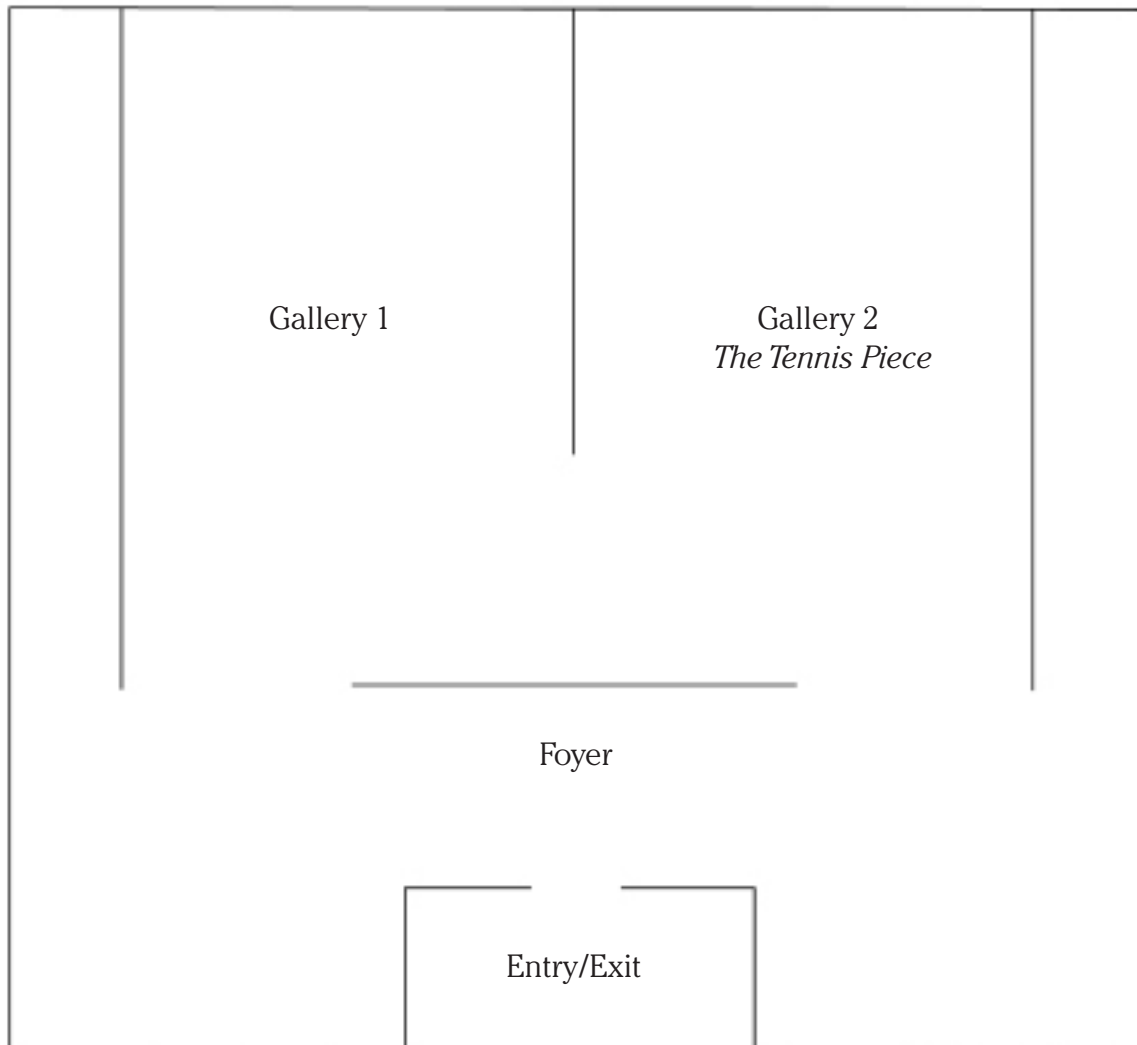
DANCE MASSIVE
12–24 March 2019

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GERTRUDE CONTEMPORARY



Atlanta Eke
The Tennis Piece

Dancers: Atlanta Eke, Annabelle Balharry, Ivey Wawn, Ellen Davies
Composer: Daniel Jenatsch
Architect: Tim Birnie
Builders: Dario Amati, Tim Birnie

Performances will be presented:

Saturday 9 February, 2pm
Saturday 2 March, 2pm
Saturday 9 March, 2pm

All performances at Gertrude are free. No booking required.

The Tennis Piece will be presented as an expanded live choreography at the Collingwood Town Hall, developed by Dancehouse and presented as part of Dance Massive 2019.

The Tennis Piece
Tuesday 19 - Thursday 21 March
7pm (50 Mins)

Collingwood Town Hall
140 Hoddle Street, Collingwood

Tickets for Dance Massive performances are available through the Dancehouse and Dance Massive websites.