



***Kira O'Reilly: Untitled (Bodies)***  
**Publication and Roundtables**

## ***Kira O'Reilly: Untitled (Bodies)***

### **Publication, edited by Harriet Curtis & Martin Hargreaves**

This publication is the first major survey of the interdisciplinary practices of Kira O'Reilly.

O'Reilly's works have been exhibited and presented internationally, across many different formats, frames and contexts since 1998 and the book will encompass that breadth and diversity. Bringing together newly commissioned and other writings by major thinkers in and beyond visual and performance studies, and extensive documentation of the artist's work from two decades of practice, it navigates through and between performance, biotechnical practices, image-making and writing.

O'Reilly's work approaches the uncertain boundaries of bodies as the starting point for enquiry, and is distinctly relevant to social themes in the arts. Specifically, O'Reilly asks what kind of societies become possible in collaborations across species, organisms, and bodies. O'Reilly explores these themes through sustained and experimental engagements with politics, biopolitics, change (social, corporeal, chemical, reactive), and the complex relations between the human and the non-human (including the animal, the human-made, and beyond).

Amanda Coogan writes on the body in performance, Shannon Bell considers a feminist political aesthetics in an open body, Tracey Warr explores performances of permeability and messy materialisation, Rob La Frenais discusses the meetings of humans and animals. Other contributors include the artists and writers Marina Abramović, Franko B, Rebecca French, and Linda Montano.

The book will include interviews, archive material and Kira O'Reilly's own writings.

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[www.intellectbooks.co.uk](http://www.intellectbooks.co.uk) [www.thisisliveart.co.uk](http://www.thisisliveart.co.uk)

**Book and cover design: David Caines**

This publication is the fifth in the Intellect Live book series. Intellect Live is a collaboration between Intellect Books and the Live Art Development Agency on influential artists working at the edge of performance. The series is characterized by lavishly illustrated and beautifully designed books that are created through close collaborations between artists and writers, and that are the first substantial publication dedicated to the artists' work.

[www.thisisunbound.co.uk/collections/intellect-live](http://www.thisisunbound.co.uk/collections/intellect-live)

**The publication launch will be marked by a series of Roundtables, see below.**

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### **Publication content summary**

#### Foreword

**Marina Abramović**, on duration and repetition in performance art, with a particular focus on O'Reilly's piece *Stair Falling*, presented at the Manchester International Festival in 2009.

#### 1. Essays:

**Harriet Curtis**, Editorial and introduction.

**Tracey Warr**, 'Compost and Life'.

**Rob La Frenais**, 'A Momentary Cohabitation: Kira O'Reilly Meets Another Species'.

**Amanda Coogan**, essay drawing out O'Reilly's methodology from Coogan's observations of working with her as a fellow Irish, live, durational, performance artist.

**Shannon Bell**, 'Kira O'Reilly: Techné of Anxiety.'

**Rebecca Stevenson**, 'Sculpture is the Body: A Journey Through the Work of Kira O'Reilly'.

#### 2. Interviews:

**Franko B**, Interview with Kira O'Reilly.

**Linda Montano**, Interview with Kira O'Reilly on O'Reilly's early life, education, and development as an artist, on spirituality and interdisciplinarity in artistic practice, and a discussion of ageing.

#### 3. Shorter essays / reflections:

**Rebecca French**, 'Since 1995', collated contributions/reflections from people who have direct experience of Kira O'Reilly's work, and which complicate, compliment, interrogate, critique, laud and unpick what it is to be a viewer of and/or participant.

**Reflections on *Untitled (Syncope)*, performance work commissioned for SPILL festival 2007, and *Synopal Actions and Falling States (2008)***, Fiona Wright, Doran George, Patrick Duggan, Traci Kelly, Dominic Johnson, Julia Bardsley, Helena Hunter.

#### 4. Artist's Writings:

'We Keep Our Biologies Intimate', on O'Reilly's research and exploration of chicken embryos, and integration into performances in Dublin and Chicago.

'I'm All Edges', on O'Reilly's residency at the School of Biosciences, University of Birmingham between 2008 and 2010, during which she collaborated on a series of investigations into growing different kinds of mammalian cells onto spider silk.

'Exit Wounds and Explants'.

'Somehow I Need to Write the Visceral'.

## ***Kira O'Reilly: Untitled (Bodies)*** **Roundtables**

LADA proposes that the publication launch of *Kira O'Reilly: Untitled (Bodies)* be marked by three Roundtable events, each including collaborative dialogues across disciplines, and reflecting on and representing the broad range of Kira O'Reilly's practice.

The Roundtables can explore distinct thematics from O'Reilly's work, and could be presented at three locations: London, Dublin and Helsinki.

LADA, O'Reilly, Harriet Curtis (book editor) and host partners would collaborate on the curation of the Roundtables.

Roundtables would ideally take place in October and November 2017.