



## Resist

Exhibition at Wellcome Collection

### 1880 THAT: Christine Sun Kim and Thomas Mader

<https://wellcomecollection.org/exhibitions/1880-that-exhibition>

#### Here follows, what we know will happen

The performance will be a response to 1880 THAT, a movement collaboration by two Deaf dance artists called Anna Seymour and Raffie Julien.

The durational duet will occupy the gallery space.

It will be performed once on the 11th September 2025

4pm - 8pm within the surroundings of the Exhibition

The exhibition title refers to the [Second International Congress on Education of the Deaf](#), held in Milan in 1880, and its influence on Deaf education around the world. The term THAT is an emphatic expression in American Sign Language (ASL), which adds weight and significance to a preceding statement. The conference declared that oral education - teaching Deaf people to communicate through lip reading and speech - should replace sign language in Deaf schools.

This led to sacking of all Sign Language teachers and children were punished for using signs, an example is that they would need be Deaf children were made to sit on their hands, of course Deaf adults were also hugely affected by this. The teaching of sign language was sidelined and suppressed, resulting in exclusion and stigma for Deaf people.

At the time of writing, the work is not made, nor have rehearsals begun.

Anchors for creative process.

- Positive not deficit model — resisting through celebration not necessarily in resistance to but celebration in itself, for joy.
- Infinite revolution
- Dark/loss
- Counter-culture
- Disruption
- Challenging of power structures
- Physical resistance
  - in dance spaces
- — movement

— to process trauma

- mass Resistance

mass Resistance

Intimacy of Resistance

Soft Resistance

- Languages of resistance

Unwilling resistance

Wrestling

- stillnesses Hidden hands Muted Bodies

Forced voices, trauma of learning to speak verbally.

Language deprivation

- Work owned by all the people

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- Body as archive

Deaf rage

- Embodied memory

- Non-linear time

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- Slowing down time

- Staying still is powerful

Hyper awareness of people's faces and body language

Allowing order to resist

- Radical action

- Feminism

- Oppression

- Misbehaving bodies

- Silly humour/body works

- protest

- Audience participation

- auto ethnographic collective trauma

- Hand holding, hand gestures, expressive hands
- Human chain
- connecting sculptural bodies

Speech therapy vocal sound?...

## **Resist (Fantasy)**

### **Key Ideas and Notes:**

- Deaf Artists
- Deaf children
- Intergenerational Deaf
- Parents of Deaf children + adults
- Deaf dancers
- Deaf choreographers/movement directors
- Dance choreography
- Vocalizing and reclaiming speech therapy sounds within movement
- Urgency to resist the medical model of Deafness
- Limited understanding / resistance from parents of Deaf children

### **Ideas for Action:**

- Could travel with the exhibition
- Connect and collaborate with local deaf dance artists
- Cast of 40 deaf artists
- Sounds of Deaf people making everyday noises as an aesthetic form
- Power of sound to release the body and collective/individual trauma

### **Place ideas**

- Bring back a re-imagined Deaf Club - meeting with food, lunch
- Cool low lighting
- Homely informal kitchen
- Garden kitchen
- As gathering points for deaf children → creating community
- Deaf Gathering festival curated by Jonny Cotsen
- Quiet Beats - bringing in known communities
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### **Screaming Choir/Resist movement work in gallery spaces**

- Speech therapy sounds, primal sounds
- Deaf coming together to reclaim
- Physical forms of resist/ance
- Performers and Audiences throwing bricks to each other - building blocks of language and an act of protest

### **Online community :**

- gathering supporters, participants, followers - social media presence, ( private and public)
- Online performance. - live stream, available to anyone
- Being present in a safe way
- "I'm here" "I'm here" "I'm here"



Modes, modality and media

Example

Work by Artist Sonia Hughes

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