

Falling, again

Pia Ednie-Brown

It was with some trepidation that I read “Falling into the Surface” again, written now over a decade ago. I was sure would it make me cringe, like flicking through an old diary written in one’s younger days. I was right to some extent, as the paper reads to me now like a cat overdoing a set of acrobatic twists while falling—not without some virtuosity, but mildly ridiculous through enacting a set of moves that could have been more directly embedded in the forces at play. Having been written for a publication on “hypersurfaces” in architecture, a certain hyper-excess of performance might have been warranted—with the form inside the text resonating with certain contrived complexities present in the architectural forms and preoccupations of that time. But perhaps I am just making excuses or enacting, still, a contrived set of cringe-contortions.

What matters now is that the paper—and its project to articulate a mode of turbulent opening to the world—has been offered an occasion to be “replayed” in a context dedicated to practices of bodily movement. For this I feel very grateful. It is an opportunity for the paper to offer the larger project a moment of conversation—a reopening through those with well-practiced sensitivity to the falling always occurring within movement. And it was important that these conversations took place through the specificities of practice—where we can avoid the tendencies of universalizing theories, and burrow into particular subjectivities, experiences, and know-hows. There was less openness to that kind of conversation in the 90s, when we were still moving toward the realization that practice is a form of enquiry that allows for valuable insight into the vastness of lived experience. These days, as creative research finds its ever-moving feet, the impulses and curiosities driving creative practices from within are able to contribute to the larger project of exploring the potentials of living. It’s no wonder that we keep replaying Deleuze’s paraphrasing of Spinoza—“we do not even know what a body can do . . .”—as we are still unpacking ways to know.¹

References

Deleuze, Gilles. *Spinoza: Practical Philosophy*. San Francisco: City Lights Books, 1988.

Ednie-Brown, Pia. “Falling into the Surface (toward a materiality of affect).” *Hypersurface Architecture* 69, no.9/10 (1999): 8–11.

Notes

1. Deleuze, *Spinoza: Practical Philosophy*, 17–18.