

Work goes back to the future



Christina Troup, The Examiner
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SAN FRANCISCO -

What does it mean to be human in an age of ever-evolving technology?

(Courtesy photo)

Double Vision examines the role of technology in “To Futurism and Back Again.”

The company Double Vision asks just that question in “To Futurism and Back Again,” a mélange of art, dance, video and music that aims to explore the increasing role of technology in our daily lives.

Pauline Jennings, co-artistic director of Double Vision, says that the idea for “Futurism” came about when she and fellow co-artistic director Sean Clute decided to investigate the origins of a black-and-white photograph of two guys dressed in tin robot outfits that decorates a wall at the company’s Oakland workspace. The image was traced back to the 1924 F.T. Marinetti futurist dance “Macchina del 3000,” which later became known as “The Love of Two Locomotives for the Station Master.”

While researching the photo, Clute and Jennings found striking artistic similarities between the futurist work and Double Vision’s mission, which is to bridge the gap between a variety of art disciplines while exploring the impacts of technological advancements on society.

This week at Dance Mission Theater, Double Vision will reinterpret “Macchina del 3000” and “Macchina Tipografica” and unveil such works as “Three Canons and Mise en Scenes” and “Video Action Painting.”

“Marinetti said, ‘time and space died yesterday,’ and we found that to be true as we were working on these pieces,” Jennings says. “The idea that technology can manipulate time and disrupt what we think of as literal space is an example of how time and space can really die.”

Double Vision directors say they ran into some disagreements while trying to figure out the best way to convey “Three Canons and Mise en Scenes” to an audience, for the reason that technology has evolved from the futurists’ commentary on trains and printing presses.

“The image of technology today is a lot harder to define. Today you open up a computer and don’t see all the electrons inside flying around the way you would see all the parts of a printing press. It’s a lot harder to capture those elements that aren’t visible to the naked eye and we had a hard time agreeing on how to do that,” Clute says.

The directors say Double Vision’s objective is to examine the complexity of the issue and not define anything as good or bad, but as an aspect of human evolution.

“Humans are in a constant state of change and becoming,” Jennings says. “I don’t see the answer as being either black or white. We just hope this work presents itself as fun and amusing and maybe opens up a dialogue about what’s to come in the future.”

To Futurism and Back Again

Where: Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th St., San Francisco

When: 8 p.m. today through Sunday

Tickets: \$15

Contact: (415) 287-0192, www.double-vision.biz

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