

## FR/ACK review

*April 20-21, 2012  
at Sugar Space*

Dan Mont-Eton's FR/ACK played to a small but enthusiastic audience at Sugar Space. There was one live piece, a duet from Erica Womack of recent motherhood/MFA success, and one video dance, made by Tanja London at the surprisingly beautiful "Camperworld" of Northern Utah. The rest of the evening included a PowerPoint lecture on fracking in Pennsylvania, originally presented live for PA locals, and a panel discussion on the power of the arts, the stupidity of politics, and the impending doom of our natural world.

Well, that sounds very depressing. It was actually a lively evening, and it offered artists a chance to connect themselves to the world outside the studio door. Womack shared her inspiration for a piece that evoked quiet desperation and perseverance. "I had just found out that I was pregnant when Dan asked me to contribute to this show. My toddler was jumping up and down on my nauseous belly, and I thought: This is how Mother Nature must feel sometimes." Her work paired a

formally dressed Sarah Allen with Charlene Blackthorn, lovely in a casual style than suggested a more natural sensibility. She was clearly the earth goddess, and she certainly fits the part. With her long, sinewy arms and calm presence, she orbited Sarah with an easy grace. Of course, Sarah ultimately took advantage of their relationship, manipulated her, pissed her off, and caused her to slink off in resignation. But hey, it was a great time while it lasted! Thanks, Earth!

Tanja London's work takes place in an open glass structure at the shared edge of water, earth, and sky. The set was an effective monument to the willful separation of humans from their natural habitat. It provided interesting perspectives, both physical and emotional. The two performers, Katherine Adler and Amy Falls, were sensitive to both the warmth and the coldness present in the steel and glass. Often they gazed through it, as if through a window onto a different world. Yet their feet rested on the same earth whether they were inside or out. During one remarkable passage, the structure seemed

to rotate around them, implying four sides when really some walls were only made of air. This artificial inside/outside divide can tell us much about our lives. Does the earth distinguish between the forest and the city? My backyard and my neighbor's? Why do I spend so much time cleaning up my kitchen, and so little time cleaning up the park? Is my kitchen the only part of this world that is "mine" to steward?

These questions and more were swimming through my mind during the following discussion on fracking and its potential hazards for water tables, college dormitories, highways soaked in radioactive backwash, and this species we call human. We could all use a wake up shower, radioactive or otherwise. I was surprised by how few people made it to this informative show, and I wonder whether the idea of a cold shower doesn't mix with a recreational activity like a dance performance. Comments?

Kitty Sailer makes dances, dances in dances, and teaches students in dance. [www.kittysailer.com](http://www.kittysailer.com)