

Chalk was filmed at the OMYA Whiting Works where there is evidence of a working quarry on site for centuries, providing a vast stage for the forms of the four dancers performing a considered movement ritual. The cretaceous "Morden Rock" extracted at the quarry is over a hundred million years old, a very pure, white form of calcium carbonate, a sedimentary rock formed from the compressed skeletons of millions of prehistoric animals and sea creatures. The digger operators – a father and son who have worked alone there for many years – talked of sometimes catching the smell of the sea being released as they cut into the fresh chalk.

Jane Turner

The dance film *Chalk* initiates consideration of:

1. The fossilisation process from skeleton to chalk landmass and the inherent chemical relationships between body and earth.
2. Exceptional intimations of scale across time and space: the accompanying musical score "Dancing on Mars", by composer Pipatpong Preechaporn, evokes the shifting of tectonic plates. Through a range of camera perspectives, the dancers seem small, insignificant and vulnerable, like distant dinosaurs. This is exacerbated by the continuing working presence of the enormous digger.
3. The impermanence of the individual footprint, the permanence of the self-organising organism: in the filming of this work the dance leaves no physical trace in the quarry, whereas the digital dance-film product, which I propose as sci-art artefact, has permanence in virtual space.
4. The expanded stage and the open lab. Referencing my creative research and that of the art-sci community of which I am part, I consider how boundaries blur between the sites and representations of artistic and scientific research and discovery.



Photo Credit: Chris Frazer Smith
Choreographer-Director: Jane Turner
Dancers: Natacha Bizarre, Gwen Jones, Grégoire A.
Meyer, Ann Pidcock
Film: Chris Frazer Smith