



## **Peter Aerni, Bern**

Peter is as much a visual artist as a dancer for improvisation. He studied fine arts (in French) followed by intensive studies of Contact Improvisation (in German and English). His studies in dance made him travel in Europe and the US to meet many of the CI teachers of the first and second generation. He studied intensively for two years at Tanzfabrik Berlin and followed Nancy Stark Smith in the Development of the Underscore. His teaching is strongly influenced by his visual background and has a focus on perception and its analysis in space in function of the body (e.g. Lisa Nelson/ tuning score). He uses different forms of interaction (hand), observation (eye) and notation (head).

He has a wide horizon of teaching experiences including very different formats, all levels and ages. In his artistic work his focus is on drawing, sculpture and photography. For many years he has been also working with site specific performances for the camera.

He is Co-Organizer of the Bern Jam and organizer of RRR Bern, a festival for transdisciplinary Improvisation with music, movement and visual art. He is a teacher at the Bern University of Arts in the interdisciplinary department and a freelance artist and pedagogue.

## **Gestures in CI: tracing the body and reading the other**

We look at CI from its beginning in 1972 and learn to approach it from now. How do we read it from the inside, how do we interpret its hidden codes, how do we learn it now. And how does it develop in time?

In this class I will focus on the relationship between the body, the gesture and your partner – from the inside and from the outside. Where is the center at any moment and how do you change your awareness for it? A physical warm up leads towards more specific questions of room awareness and self awareness. Our position in space and time is in a permanent dialogue with everything else. The complex body–mind system of our perception is part of what we look at. We start with the practice of basic exercises and continue to work as a group within the whole space using scores to define our interest and provide a direction for the exploration. Improvisation will be a tool for exploring the process of feedback in moving in space and drawing or writing on paper. Observing, watching, witnessing and looking at how these activities are transferred through the body, translated by language, remodeled by our imagination. Different roles will serve different purposes: me as a mover, a witness, a documentary mover, an observing mover, a writing mover or may be the other way around: a moving writer. Let's turn the head and the body and reinvestigate the dance.

NOTE: This class is open for all levels. Please bring your favorite pens, pencils and brushes and your favorite paper, sketch book or paper rolls with you. We will provide plain white A3 (30 x 42 cm) paper.

Contact:

[peter.aerni@gmx.net](mailto:peter.aerni@gmx.net)

mobile\_ 0041 31 78 76 74 703