

# Performance *Contact* by Karel van Laere



**September 13, 14 , 15, 2025**  
**15:00–15:15 / 16:00–16:15 each day**

Karel van Laere explores the relationship between the body and technology through works that fuse performance and video. His work concerns the theme of how one's own senses and physicality change through means of machines or other people. Through active creative process incorporating research and audience dialogue, he transforms extreme ideas into reality through the form of expression.

*Contact* is a participatory performance on the theme of the unconscious habits and sensations underlying moments of physical contact in the public space. This piece was conceptualized from the artist's "diary of moments of touch," in which he recorded subtle moments of contact in everyday life. The audience is seated on chairs in a circle, and a camera set up in the middle films their hands in turn. This footage is immediately projected onto multiple monitors throughout the venue, and the audience is confronted with the sensation of their body being suddenly exposed to the gaze of others. The visuals are further overlaid with a voice narration that spontaneously describes the scenes, creating a structure which reinterprets the moments of contact through both sight and sound. The footage quietly yet certainly unsettles the audience's sense of boundaries, reconstructing relationships between gaze and touch, distance and intimacy. A new collaborator is invited to provide the narration for the exhibition in Japan, weaving in social contexts particular to Japan and creating a space for the audience to directly engage with these sensations.

Venue: Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, B2F, Auditorium  
Admission: Free (with a valid same-day exhibition ticket,  
or by presenting an MOT Passport, or a disability certificate, etc.)  
Capacity: 20 per session (advance registration required / first-come, first-served)