

## *Groping in the dark*

This is slipping from my control

I am slipping

I am slippery

Talking is slippery

What if I slip and fall?  
What happens then?

The pieces are body parts  
My parts  
Apart from their parts

Filled with salt  
Himalayan salt  
A reference to the blind, pioneering adventurer, Erik Weihenmayer

I found him when reading about The Brainport, a device that allows the wearer to see using their tongue.

The tongue has the most nerve endings closest to the brain. The Brainport connects a paddle of electrodes, placed on the tongue, to a headcam. The electrodes pop and tingle on the tongue drawing out the images from the camera.

Erik uses it at a climbing wall. He calibrates it by scanning words and then sweeps over the holds on the wall. He scans over them twice to be sure he is launching the right way.

He also uses it to play games with his daughter and for them to laugh together. His daughter can be cheeky and he can correct her.  
They have banter.

My tongue as a tool

The tongue that is both inside and outside

The tool for language  
The slippery tool that slops about behind your teeth  
The intimate  
Sloppy  
Slippy  
Wet  
Furry  
Smelly  
Long  
Wide  
Attached

Muscle

Working with a new language  
Learning a new skill for this body of work  
Using my body

Finding parts that could substitute

A visual language for the walls

The walls that define the non-space

Access point

Both inside and outside the studios

The walls are temporary

Making and marking out spaces

To create a work that takes the line of sight around the site

Work that contains the space but cannot be contained in the viewer's field of vision

Work that leads you to the edges of the space and back.

Body parts as measuring tools

scale and proportion

Seeing my seat, sitting on the walls

Own it

Sit on it

Keep it down

Protest

Rest

Meditate

The salt is flesh

Salt enhances the taste of flesh

Salt is flavour

Salt leaks out in our sweat

Sweat is slippery before it is dry and salty

Bodies slip over each other with sweat

Caught between holding on and letting go

Hold on

Let go

Push up with your legs

Don't just pull

Launch

Read the situation

There is no safety rope and the holds are not for climbing

The climb here is internal

It is a dialogue of movement

What to hold onto and what to let go of?

What brings us most pleasure

And what do we hold close?

Laughter

Playing

Being independent

Sitting still

Being seen

Having space

Groping in the dark