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## NEWS LOCAL

# U of A Museums exhibit examines the physical effects of the digital world

By Ramin Ostad

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University of Alberta researchers conducted a one-of-a-kind study to determine the case of stuttering.

Between hunching down to look at cellphones or staring at digital screens with strained eyes, it's hard to deny that modern technology has varying effects on the human body.

That fact is the focus of a brand new audio-visual exhibit called Body in Question(s), presented as a collaboration between Edmonton's Brian Webb Dance Company and Montreal's Van Grimde Corps Secrets.

The exhibit runs from June 18 – August 22 at the University of Alberta Museums Galleries at Enterprise Square.

Using a mix of visual storytelling, physical architecture, and virtual choreography, the exhibit addresses the ways in which modern societies are affecting how we see, think and feel about the body.

The final days of the exhibit will introduce live performers, bringing the displays to life.

If Body Worlds is an analog perception at the human body, Body in Question(s) moves that perception into the digital age.

"It's an exhibit that has a lot of different mediums in it," said Isabelle Van Grimde, the curator, choreographer, and inspiration for the exhibit.

"It's about the body obviously, and it's very much about our perception of the body now in the midst of all the changes that are happening in society, culturally different ways of looking at the body brought on by new scientific discoveries and the increasing presence of new technologies in our lives.

"Especially with the presence of the virtual world in our lives, we look at how that affects our perception of the body and the bodies of others."

The ideas behind the exhibit came about years ago, when Van Grimde was conducting research about how digital mediums effect the human body.

After using her findings in research for several years, she decided to invite visual and media artists from across the globe to use the material to create works that would be put in an interactive and informative exhibit.

It was there she met Brian Webb, artistic director of the Brian Webb Dance Company, who performed in the exhibit along with other performers of all ages and genders.

"There Is a huge connection between the Edmonton community and this project," Webb said.

"One of the stipulations for my company getting involved with Isabelle's project was with the artists from Edmonton in the exhibition.

And so there is a strong connection between the Edmonton arts community and the Montreal arts community in this project. "

Ultimately, Webb and Van Grimde feel the exhibit needs to be seen to be fully appreciated, especially once the live performers are introduced.


They hope it will make people open to the idea that the digital world is changing us not just mentally, but physically.

"Well I'm just always hoping to open horizons and bring angles that have not been considered before," Van Grimde said.

"I want people to also get an idea of how multilayered we are, and how we continue to discover new dimensions to who we are."

The Body in Question(s) exhibit runs from June 18 – August 22 at the University of Alberta Museums Galleries at Enterprise Square.

For more information, head to [Museums.Ualberta.Ca](http://Museums.Ualberta.Ca)

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