

Source: Detroit Institute of Arts, http://www.dia.org/portrait_studio/wall.html#



The Hinterlands, Jit Happens at the DIA, 2014

Richard (right): “There’s this poetry in the dance. And that, you learn to speak the language first, you know like, anyone who has to learn to speak you have to learn the words first. So, you learn the words, which in this case in Jit, are the moves like the kick, the wiggle, the clinch, you know, all these different moves and you have to learn those, and then you can start to form sentences, and then you can talk. But then, not everyone who can speak can be a poet, you know. Whereas Haleem, I truly believe is a poet with the dance, with the way he’s able to put the language of the dance together and to improvise with it. It’s beautiful poetry. Everything has a story, you know, every movement, every gesture, every word. It comes from some place. You know, where we don’t exist in isolation separated from our histories. You know, with our work, we’re really interested in Americanism and what are these hidden stories in American culture. You know, what are these hidden stories here in Detroit as well, or even things we don’t know about. There’s, you never know what someone can do, you know. And you never know what story their—they have in their body and in their past, and I think there’s something really special about that.”