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Photograph by: David Romere
An exhibition at the Phi Centre in Old Montreal is the result of a team of doctors and scientists investigating the psychological and emotional effects of heart and lung transplants. Their research led to the publication in a medical journal of What They Say Versus What We See: Hidden Distress and Impaired Quality of Life in Heart Transplant Recipients, and an invitation to four artists to explore issues raised by transplants.

Hybrid Bodies presents the work of two British artists, Alexa Wright and Andrew Carnie, and two Canadians, Catherine Richards and Ingrid Bachmann.

Bachmann is a founding member of the Hexagram media arts centre at Concordia and director of the Institute of Everyday Life in Montreal. She produced The Gift, a six-channel video of two dancers representing a donor and recipient as they go through the emotions created by the process of transplantation, including the fact that for one person to live, another must die.

The artists spent days listening to the patient interviews recorded by the researchers. We saw that the body language of the patients didn’t correspond to what they were saying, Bachmann said.

Bachmann said she decided to deal with the body and gesture, but she didn’t know much about dance. She did know dancers Linnea Gwiazda and Maxine Segalowitz, and she hired videographer Anna Hawkins and sound designer Douglas Moffat to do a professional job on her video.

Our culture is bound by the sense of individuality, Bachmann said. A transplant brings in the idea of kinship.

It took time to build trust between the artists and the scientists, Bachmann said. The artists were impressed with the rigorous approach of the scientists, while the scientists appreciated the research of the artists, she added.

never felt I had to please them but felt I had to do justice to their