

F.H.C. (Osborne's Ascent): A Performance by Dark Adaptive
Colby Museum of Art
Torkwase Dyson: Nautical Dusk

F.H.C. (Osborne's Ascent): Performance Description

F.H.C. (Osborne's Ascent) takes as its inspiration Samuel Osborne's Christian faith and his membership in the Maine lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templars (I.O.G.T.), a fraternal organization dedicated to temperance, or total abstinence from alcoholic drink. This movement performance speculates on Osborne's existence as the moral compass for Colby College, evidenced by his "faithfulness and loyalty" to the school, and his strict "adherence to the rules and regulations" in his counseling and guidance of its student body.

The first part of the work's title, "F.H.C." references the motto of the I.O.G.T., "Friendship, Hope, and Charity," and envisions Torkwase Dyson's three freestanding sculptures in the Colby Museum of Art's lobby as physical manifestations of the organization's principles and its three levels of initiation: first degree (Heart - one's duty to self); second degree (Charity - one's duty to others); and third degree (Royal Virtue - one's duty to God).

The second part of the work's title, "(Osborne's Ascent)," references Osborne's own aspirational journeys from slavery to freedom; secularism to Christianity; uninitiated citizen to fraternal member; immorality to temperance; and life on Earth to the rewarding afterlife of Heaven. In this sense, the work envisions Dyson's monolithic sculptural installation *Dusk* as a metaphor for Osborne's own ascension towards and fulfillment of his humanity.

F.H.C. (Osborne's Ascent) suggests a loose choreography of physical movements and pathways within the gallery based on Osborne's own spiritual and moral journeys. By adapting and translating the concept of "temperance" into movement performance, the work explores the binary tensions of restraint/freedom, balance/imbalance, upright/leaning, and straightness/crookedness embodied through its performer(s). Sequencing movement across the gallery and responding to Dyson's sculptures as performance partners, the work offers a creative interpretation of the life of a resonant historical figure whose "integrity won the admiration of all."

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F.H.C. (Osborne's Ascent): Relevant Notes

*Passage from the Colby Echo - "Sam" Osborne A True Colby Man:

"In 1902 Sam was elected delegate from Maine to the meeting of the supreme lodge of Good Templars at Stockholm, Sweden. He carried the American flag proudly in the grand procession through that city. While there he was presented to the Queen of Sweden."

*Passage from Chapter XII, "The Secret Fraternal Orders of Waterville," in *The Centennial History of Waterville, Kennebec County, Maine, 1802-1902*:

"Samuel Osborne, the colored janitor at Colby College, has always been an active member, having held office in the grand lodge of Maine. He was chosen a delegate to the supreme lodge which holds its session at Stockholm, Sweden, his expenses being paid as a testimonial by his many friends."

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F.H.C. (Osborne's Ascent): Order of Ceremonies

(see movement score for further details)

1. Birth/Emergence (from the interior of *Dusk*)
2. Journey/Transition (from *Dusk* to first sculpture)
3. Initiation: Heart/Duty to Self (at first sculpture)
4. Journey/Transition (from first sculpture to second sculpture)
5. Initiation: Charity/Duty to Others (at second sculpture)
6. Journey/Transition (from second sculpture to third sculpture)
7. Initiation: Royal Virtue/Duty to God (at third sculpture)
8. Journey/Transition (from third sculpture to *Dusk*)
9. Rebirth/Ascension (on the incline of *Dusk*)