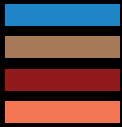


legacy

50 YEARS
OF DANCE ON
THE EDGE

09.23-12.10.2022



LEGACY: 50 Years of Dance on the Edge

Maida Withers and the Dance Construction Company

Surveying Maida Withers' lifetime of work, *LEGACY* is a journey into the mind of an experimental dance artist emboldened and fascinated by technology and empowerment through cross disciplinary voices—a story told through still and moving images of live art from the past creating new meaning when the past becomes the future, connecting us to our lives today. *LEGACY* reveals the power and passion of the moving body in boundary-breaking works of dance on the edge.



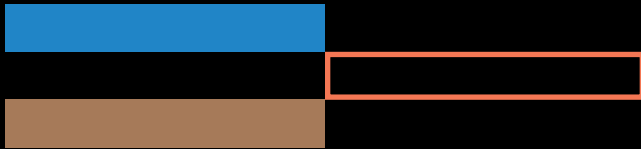
**South Atrium: On view until
October 22nd**

The exhibition draws viewers into the fascinating, sometimes weighty world of Withers' dance with video displays including: new media, interactional works, live-performance documentaries; a gallery wall, *Excavations*, simultaneous presentation of fragments of dances; and a timeline of select events of the life and works of Maida Withers and the Dance Construction Company. Music in the South Atrium and Gallery 1 designed by Steve Hilmy.

**Gallery 1: On view until
December 10th**

LEGACY, a new work, a collaboration by Maida with noted projection artist, Robin Bell, highlights Maida Withers Dance Construction Company's extensive fifty-year archive and Robin Bell's projection work in an experimental video installation that explores the intersection of dance, visual art and social action. *LEGACY* brings life to dance of the past through technology. Music created and performed by Steve Hilmy from Company archive collection, redesigned for the exhibition. Visitors are encouraged to move freely within Gallery 1, joining in the dance on the walls and ceiling. *Legacy/Dance* participation script is posted at the entrance to Gallery 1.

NEW MEDIA, INTERACTIONAL DANCES



Since the founding in 1974, with few exceptions, original music has been created and performed live for all works by Maida Withers and the Dance Construction Company. John Driscoll and Steve Hilmy, Resident Composers/Musicians.

**Utah * Spirit Place * Spirit Planet *
Tukuhnikivatz (1996)**

Premiere: NYC, Lincoln Center Great Dance
in the Bandshell

In redefining the power and mystery of the ancient ancestral voice in wilderness lands, consciousness and connection to the earth and planet is celebrated and renewed.

“Withers’ piece was ambitious and awesomely complex, filling the stage of the Damrosch Park bandshell with layer upon layer of huge video images and photographs projected on rocklike sculptures.” Jennifer Dunning, *New York Times*



Tukuhnikivatz (Film) (1996)

On-site instinctual performance, “back-lit by early morning Sun, our figurative images on red rock reaffirm our existence.”

TUK—Tukuhnikivatz, Yosemite International Film Festival—recipient of the John Muir Award for Outstanding Filmmaking (2009); Get Reel in Moab Film Festival, Moab, Utah (2008); DC Independent Film Festival, Washington, D.C. (2008); Visões Urbanas 2020, Dancing in Possible Landscapes, São Paulo, BR.



Thresholds Crossed (2006)

World Premiere: Luna (Moon) Theatre in Moscow, Russia

Four Russians, one Ukrainian, and six American dancers, passionate about dance and country, share the stage in a joint expression of understanding and care.

“Our prime evangelist of the novel and strange byways of dance, a tireless advocate of causes, aesthetic and otherwise, and a human juggernaut in the force of her wit, stamina and intelligence.” Alan M. Kriegsman, *Washington Post*



Collision Course—*a.k.a.* Pillow Talk (2012)

At the end of the day we return to the pillow, the place where thoughts are shared and decisions are made. There’s pillow talk—then life happens!

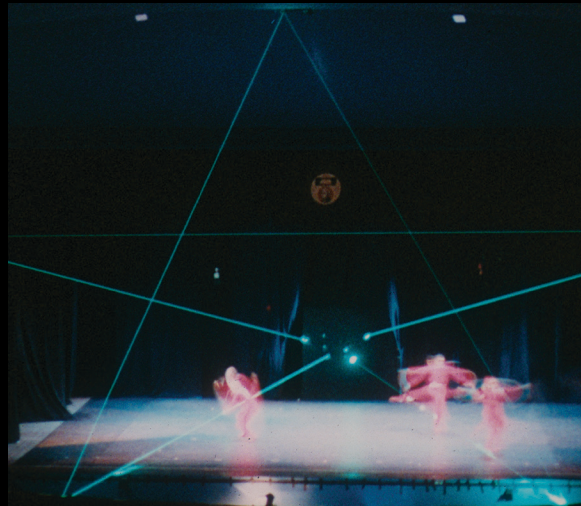
Tour: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Portland, Oregon; Seattle, Washington

“A beautifully complex and thought provoking piece.” Rick Westerkamp, *D.C. Metro Theatre Arts*, Washington, D.C.

LASER DANCE (1985)

Dancers, wearing protective clothing, inhabit the space, interacting and altering the symmetrical grid of spectacular luminous blue-green argon laser beams.

“Washington art has stepped resoundingly into an interarts arena which until now has been almost exclusively the domain of the New York avant-garde.” Michael Welzenbach, Washington Times, Washington, DC



Stall. (1981)

A sonic architecture of sound, created by the robotic spinning loudspeaker suspended above the stage, creates a powerful presence for the dignified formality of dancers below circling on a continuous and demanding running base.

World Premiere: Festival of Pantomime, Music, Dance, and Theatre, Berlin, Germany

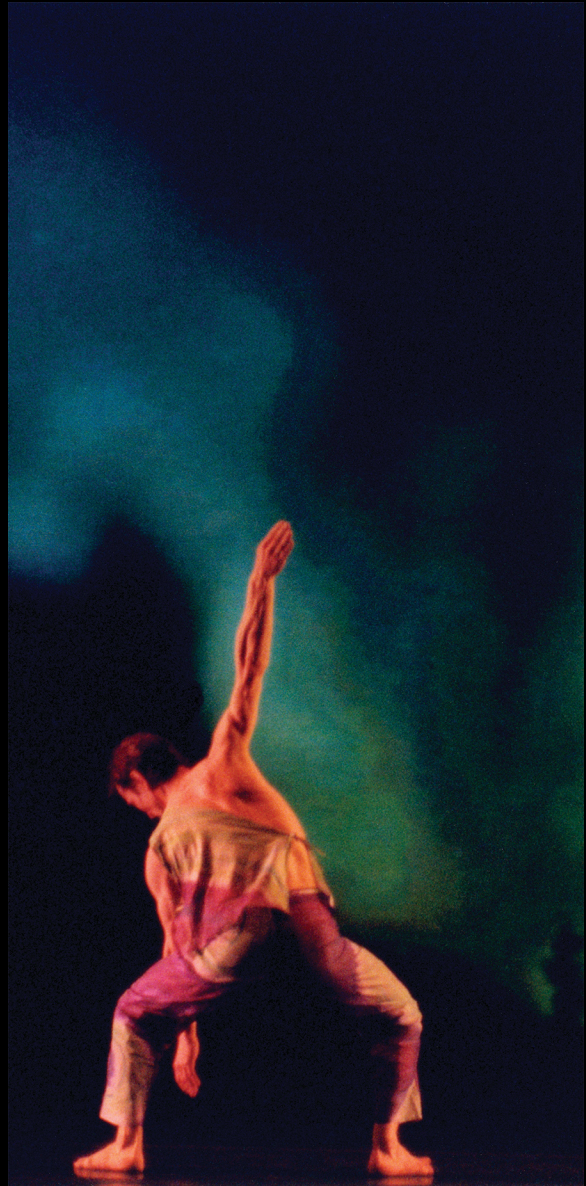
“*Stall.* is challenging—no less to the audience than to the dancers; it’s also bold in conception, at once stark and vivid in atmosphere, and mammoth in dimension.” Alan M. Kriegsman, *Washington Post*

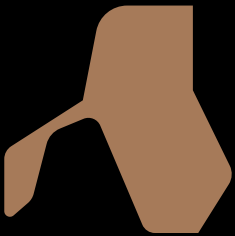
**Dance of the Auroras—Fire in the Sky
(2001)**

World Premiere: Nordly's Festivalen, Tromsø, Norway

Reclaims the connection between science and art, between technology and the natural world—drawing the audience into an illusory ritual both ancient and new.

“While ‘interactive,’ ‘multimedia’ and ‘online’ have very nearly become clichés, Maida Withers and her Dance Construction Company found avenues to enliven the art–technology confluence with the 85-minute opus, *Aurora/2001: Dance of the Auroras—Fire in the Sky*.” Lisa Traiger, *Washington Post*





GALLERY WALL: EXCAVATIONS

Excavations—simultaneous presentation of fragments of a wide-ranging selection of dances from site, stage, and film works by Maida and the Dance Construction Company. *Excavations* also includes events from D.C. International Improvisation Plus+ Festival, an annual international festival featuring dance, theatre, music, and performance art established by Maida Withers, 1994–2008. The gallery wall creates a contemporary form of hieroglyphics designed and produced by Jamille Wallick.

TIME LINE

Select events and images of the life and works of Maida Withers and the Dance Construction Company, 1936–2022, designed by Joey Enríquez.



Special recognition to Robin Bell and Jamille Wallick, collaborators for Legacy Installation. Exhibition Music: Steve Hilmy, John Driscoll; *LASER DANCE* costumes, Liliane Fortna (1985); *MindFluctuations* sculpture *Bellow*, by David Page (2015); *MindFluctuations* Emotiv Helmet, Tania Fraga (2015); *Yesterday's Garlands and Yesterday's Kisses* costume, Beth Burkhardt (1974); *FareWell: Rising Tide* bottled water dresses concept/design, Maida Withers and Karen Cerkez (2009); *Pearl* sculpture by David Vincent Magni, on loan from Zenith Gallery.

Unless otherwise noted, all artworks and archives provided by Maida Withers and the Dance Construction Company are reproduced courtesy of the artist and collaborators. DCCo interns: Kate Campbell and Grace Vanetti. Museum Studies: Avery Barth, Margaret Hudak, Matthew Lynch, Sophie Muro, with special recognition to Sarah Farver. Performing artists—Musician/Composers: Bob Boilen, John Driscoll, Steve Hilmy, Yoko K. Sen; Computer Art: Tania Fraga; Performance Poet: Alissandru (Alex) Caldiero; Dancers: Anthony Gongora, Tzveta Kassabova, Anton Ovchinnikov (Ukraine), Giselle Ruzany, Sarah Slifer Swift, Jen Clark Stone, and Megan Thompson.

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LEGACY exhibition is the result of collaboration with Babette Pendleton, Corcoran Exhibitions and Programming Associate; Carl Gudenius, Exhibition Design; Jamille Wallick, Associate Producer and Video Design; Steve Hilmy, Music Design; Jessica Denson, Curator, Opening Panel; Joey Enriquez, Graphic and Visual Design; Abby Bender, Construction Lead, Scene Shop; Brian Davis, Technical Production; Linda Lewett, New Media Design, *Thresholds Crossed*; Joshua Gleason, Video Restoration; Cross Museum Services and Jesse Baltazar, Install Support; Ann Norton and Dalton Lamberth, Events Support; Naomi Rothwell, GW Press, and Alumni Office, Press; DC Vegan, Catering. Additional support by Dance Construction Company Board members, Greg Hunter and Alison Beesley.



MWDCCo Video of Dance Excerpts, 1972–2022 Artistic
Collection of works representing Robin Bell *LEGACY*, Gallery 1

Photography Credits

Cover Image: Robin Bell

Utah Spirit Place Spirit Planet: Adam Peiperl

Tukuhnikivat:z: Bruce Hucko

Thresholds Crossed: Mark Moreseein

Collision Course: Shaun Schroth

Laser Dance: Rockne Krebs

Stall.: Dennis Deloria

Dance of the Auroras–Fire in the Sky: Adam Peiperl

MindFluctuations photo of Maida Withers: Shaun Schroth

LEGACY: 50 Years Dance on the Edge is made possible
by Maida Withers Dance Construction Company Archives

Corcoran School
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