

## Simone Forti, *Dance Constructions* Bios

**Simone Forti** is a dancer, artist, and writer based in Los Angeles. Her early *Dance Constructions* were influential in the reinvention of dance that took place in New York in the 1960s and '70s. Over the years Forti has developed movement vocabularies based on studies of animal movements, the dynamics of circling, and the synergy between moving and speaking, as in her improvisational “News Animations.” Forti has performed internationally at venues including the Louvre Museum in Paris and The Museum of Modern Art in New York, the latter of which added her *Dance Constructions* to its collection in 2015.

**Sarah Swenson** has been a principal stager of Simone Forti’s *Dance Constructions* since 2012, and the international project coordinator since 2016. Swenson and Forti met in 1998 and, together with performance artist Luke Johnson and composer Douglas Wadle, they collaborated on several evening-length works. Their anthology, *Unbuttoned Sleeves*, was published by Beyond Baroque in 2006. As an independent choreographer, Swenson has created numerous original works for youth, teens, and professionals, and she conducts workshops in improvisation, composition, and technique worldwide. Swenson is indebted to postmodern minimalist icon Rudy Perez, with whom she has been working since 2004. She also directs installations of ON DISPLAY Global for Heidi Latsky Dance, both at home and abroad.

**Martita Abril** is a performer, choreographer, and teaching artist from the border city of Tijuana, Mexico. Her work considers abstract elements of physical and cultural boundaries. She has been a mentee and mentor for the NYFA Immigrant Artist Program and a volunteer interpreter aiding asylum-seeking families at the South Texas Family Residential Center detention facility in Dilley, Texas.

**Christiana Cefalu** is an artist, writer, and teacher based in Brooklyn.

**Christhian Diaz** currently works as a paralegal with Queens Legal Services Immigrant Advocacy Project. He has performed at the Whitney Biennial, MoMA PS1, Movement Research, and Abrons Arts Center, among others. Christhian holds an MFA from Rutgers University and a BFA from The Cooper Union, and is a MacDowell fellow.

Born in Okinawa, Japan, **Ayano Elson** is a 2018 Movement Research Van Lier Emerging Artist of Color Fellow. Her choreographic work has been presented by AUNTS, Gibney Dance, Movement Research at Judson Memorial Church, and Roulette. Ayano has performed in works by Kim Brandt and Jessica Cook.

**Talya Epstein** is a Bessie-nominated performer, originally from Massachusetts and currently living in Brooklyn. Past and present collaborators include Anna Azrieli, Miguel Gutierrez, Ishmael Houston-Jones, Isabel Lewis, Juliana May, Phoebe

Osborne, Will Rawls, Melinda Ring, Tatyana Tenenbaum, and Larissa Velez-Jackson. She was a 2017 danceWEB scholar at Impulstanz in Vienna.

**Jessie Gold** is a dancer, choreographer, visual artist, and performer. Her work has been shown at various theaters, museums, and galleries, including Danspace Project, BFI (Bas Fisher Invitational), Roulette, Movement Research at Judson Memorial Church and Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami. Gold also performs with Biba Bell, Caitlin Cook, Walter Dundervill, and Maria Hassabi.

**Miguel Ángel Guzmán** is a New York City–based Mexican dancer, actor, and choreographer. He has presented work in Mexico, the US, Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, France, Germany, Sweden, Austria, and Israel. Guzmán’s most recent collaborators include the musicians Amanda Palmer, Lacy Rose, and Lady Rizo and the choreographers Coco Karol, Dorotea Saykaly, Alexandra Pirici, and Deborah Hay.

**Samuel Hanson** has performed for Hilary Carrier, Diana Crum, Isabel Lewis, Ishmael Houston-Jones, Mina Nishimura, Yve Laris Cohen, Yvonne Meier, and Alexandra Pirici. Prior to working in New York, he worked closely on projects with Utah choreographer and activist Ashley Anderson through her platform loveDANCEmore.

**Elizabeth Hart** is a New York–based musician and performer. She is the bassist and a cofounding member of the band Psychic Illis. Hart has worked with various artists, dancers, and choreographers throughout her 12-year career, and she has performed at museums, theaters, galleries, music venues, and festivals worldwide.

**Savannah Knoop** is an artist, writer, and filmmaker who has performed and exhibited at the Whitney Museum of American Art, ICA Philadelphia, and Yale University. They adapted their 2008 memoir *Girl Boy Girl: How I Became JT Leroy* into a feature-length film that premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2018.

**Columbine Macher** began her formal training in Germany under Pina Bausch. Based in New York City since 1987, she has performed extensively with choreographers Eleo Pomare, Maxine Steinman, and Xavier Le Roy at MoMA PS1; taught at The Ailey School and Ballet Hispanico; presented her own work; and held guest artist residencies in Asia and Europe.

**Jody Oberfelder** is a director, choreographer, dancer, and filmmaker who creates visceral experiences for audiences onstage and in alternative sites. Recent work includes *Audience of One, Things* (South Bank’s Flowstate, Brisbane, Australia), *On the Move Shortly* (St. Pancras Station, London), *Castle Walk* (Braga, Portugal), and *The Brain Piece* (NY Live Arts). Upcoming projects include *Madame Ovary* (Flea Theater, May 2019).

**Laura Pfeffer** is an interdisciplinary artist primarily working in video, sound, and performance. Her work has been exhibited at Westbeth Gallery and 80WSE in New York, The Vex in Los Angeles, and St. Agnes Church in Berlin.

**Lee Relvas** is a recipient of the 2018–19 Sharpe-Walentas Studio Program and the 2016 Rema Hort Mann Emerging Artist grant. She has had recent solo exhibitions at Callicoon Fine Arts (New York) and Artist Curated Projects (Los Angeles) and has exhibited and performed at the Whitney Museum of American Art,

Hammer Museum, Brooklyn Museum, and SculptureCenter.

**Lindsay Londs Reuter** is a dancer and dance-maker based in Brooklyn. Her work has been presented by Danspace Project, New York Live Arts, and Movement Research at Judson Memorial Church. She oversees access programming at the Brooklyn Museum and is currently pursuing an MA in disability studies from the City University of New York.

**Alex Rodabaugh** is a dancer, choreographer, and performer. He has worked with artists such as Doug LeCours, Sigrid Lauren, Ishmael Houston-Jones, and Miguel Gutierrez and horsewomen such as Buffalo Bailey. He has shown work at CPR, The Ho\_se, Movement Research at Judson Memorial Church, Draftworks, PRELUDE, Gibney, and American Realness.

**Alex Romania** is a multidisciplinary artist working at the crux of expansive task and deteriorating form, investigating bodies of cultural debris amid the invisible everyday and toxic ingestions. Based in New York City, Romania has presented work and taught nationally and internationally, and is a current Movement Research artist-in-residence.

**Alexis Ruiseco-Lombera** is a Cuban photographer, performance artist, and writer working at the intersection between queer and trans bodies and Cubania. Ruiseco-Lombera has been featured at 00Bienal de La Habana and Leslie-Lohman Museum, is a TuCuba and En Foco fellow, and has been a resident at Marble House Project.

**Quenton Stuckey** is a dance artist and vocalist based in New York City. He has been featured in works at the Whitney Museum of American Art, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Philip Johnson

Glass House, and more. In 2017 he presented his own work at the Guggenheim Museum's Young Collectors Council. Stuckey is currently a member of the Rod Rodgers Dance Company.

**Vanessa Vargas** is a Caracas-born contemporary dancer, choreographer, dance educator, and performer. She holds degrees in performance studies, sociology, and media. Her scholarly and choreographic research focuses on the political potentiality of movement. She has worked with various choreographers and independent artists in Europe, South America, and the US.

#### See Saw Performers

**Malik Gaines** and **Alexandro Segade** have performed and exhibited widely with the group My Barbarian, have collaborated as Courtesy the Artists and A.R.M., and each makes work solo. They are artists-in-residence at the Park Avenue Armory, where their piece *Star Choir* will premiere in 2019. Segade has written for Artforum, Theater Journal and others, and he's currently working on a comic book, *The Context*. Gaines is the author of *Black Performance on the Outskirts of the Left* and many articles and essays. Segade is co-chair of MFA Film/Video at Bard College and Gaines is associate professor of Performance Studies at NYU Tisch.