Please enter quietly.

10:30am: Doors Open

11am: A Conversation between Saidiya Hartman, Simone Leigh, and Okwui Okpokwasili

12:15pm: A Response by Asiya Wadud

1pm: Voice & Body Research Group: An Afternoon of Shared Practice, Jasmine Hearn, Tendayi Kuumba, Benedict Nguyen, Samita Sinha, Tatyana Tenenbaum, and Asiya Wadud

3pm: Reception

All times are approximate.

@DanspaceProject
#PLATFORM2020

This series of long form conversations unfolds over four Saturday afternoons during PLATFORM 2020: Utterances From The Chorus. They will allow for different ways to gather, talk, and share practice. Curators, artists, audience, writers, scholars, friends and family will take this slow time to process the lines of inquiry guiding the Platform to come together, across disciplines.

Saidiya Hartman, Simone Leigh, and Okwui Okpokwasili will open the day with readings from Leigh’s Chorus (Courtesy of the artist) and Hartman’s essay The Plot of Her Undoing (commissioned by the Feminist Art Coalition) followed by a conversation. The Voice & Body research group will follow in response, conducting an afternoon of shared practice. Research fellows are Jasmine Hearn, Tendayi Kuumba, Benedict Nguyen, Samita Sinha, Tatyana Tenenbaum, and Asiya Wadud.

Citations:
Simone Leigh, Chorus, 2019
http://publications.risdmuseum.org/raid-icebox-now/simone-leigh-chorus

Saidiya Hartman, The Plot of Her Undoing, Notes on Feminisms. Commissioned by the Feminist Art Coalition (FAC).

In 2018 Danspace Project Associate Curator Lydia Bell initiated collective terrain/s, a year-long process into “sounding in the body” led by artists Jasmine Hearn and Tatyana Tenenbaum with invited artists Tendayi Kuumba and Samita Sinha. In spring 2019, Danspace Executive Director and Chief Curator, Judy Hussie-Taylor, invited these artists back alongside writers Asiya Wadud and Benedict Nguyen to form a Research Group, Voice and Body. With facilitation from Assistant Curator, Public Engagement, Seta Morton, these Research Fellows have gathered threads...
of individual practice, shared research, and collective reading to weave a lexicon of words and a transmission of ideas that reverberate in sound, sonatics, language, and narrative.

The Research Group has focused its work on acknowledging personal and cultural patterns of carrying, ancestral and trans-generational trauma, joy, weight, and sacrifice. They troubled institutional systems of power and the authority of the archive while placing a high value on embodiment as knowledge. Vibrational frequencies were shared as acts of deep care in resistance to violence. These artists asserted a radical invite, and black ways many things are there to say the same thing and how can we say it again? In conversation with Okpokwasili, Hartman, and the Fellows will guide us through a day of gestures and shared practices as we gather in community to build a collective song.

Saidiya Hartman is the author of Scenes of Subjection: Terror, Slavery, and Self-Making in Nineteenth-Century America (Oxford, 1997); Lose Your Mother: A Journey Along the Atlantic Slave Route (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2007) and Warday Lives, Beautiful Experiments (Norton, 2019). She is currently at work on a new book project, N Folio: An Essay on Narrative and the Archive. She has published articles on slavery, literature, and the history of women’s lives including “The Terrible Beauty of the Slum,” “Venus in Two Acts,” and “The Belly of the World.” She was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship in 2019. She was a Guggenheim Fellow in 2018-2019, she is currently a company performer, curator, director, choreographer, organizer, and teaching artist, she is currently a company performer, curator, director, choreographer, organizer, and teaching artist. She is the former director of the Institute for Research Literature and Gender Studies at Columbia University. Berke and is Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Chicago. She received her B.A. from Princeton University, and a Critical Inquiry Visiting Research Artist-in-Residence. She attended Oberlin College & Conservatory of Music.

Jasmine Hearn is a native Houstonian holding her BA in dance from Point Park University. A Brooklyn based performer, curator, director, choreographer, organizer, and teaching artist, she is currently a company member with Urban Bush Women and a 2019 Jerome Foundation Jerome Hill Fellow. She collaborates with Aliisha B. Wornsley, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company, and with Nick Mauss as a part of exhibition, TRANSMISSIONS, at the Whitney Museum of American Art. In 2017 she received the Pearl Award for her performance with Skeleton Architecture, and has also shared her work at Danspace Project, BAAAD!, New York Live Arts, La Mama Theater, and The Camargo Foundation.

International dancer, singer, songwriter, Tendayi Kousoulou is a graduate of Nyack High School of Performing Arts and Spelman College. Choreographic solo/collaborative past works include Prairie Effects, Heroine’s, FLUXX & Unidentified Ffy Objects. Formally a touring singer as member of the American Utopia World Tour for Grammy Nominated artist David Byrne, as well as debut as a band/cast member of David Byrne’s American Utopia. She generates and co-creates artistic space “The Golden Ratio” in Brooklyn, NY alongside partner in life and art, Greg Purnell. She gives thanks and the pursuit of happiness through creativity.

Simone Leigh’s practice incorporates sculpture, video, and installation; all are informed by her ongoing study and research of black women’s lives including “The Terrible Beauty of the Slum,” “Venus in Two Acts,” and “The Belly of the World.” She was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship in 2019. She was a Guggenheim Fellow in 2018-2019, she is currently a company performer, curator, director, choreographer, organizer, and teaching artist, she is currently a company performer, curator, director, choreographer, organizer, and teaching artist. She is the former director of the Institute for Research Literature and Gender Studies at Columbia University. She is the former director of the Institute for Research Literature and Gender Studies at Columbia University.
Streaming on Amazon, Google Play, and Spotify!
The *day pulls down the sky* album is now streaming on Spotify, Amazon, and Google Play! Soon to be on Tidal and Apple Music!

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About Danspace Project
Danspace Project presents new work in dance, supports a diverse range of choreographers in developing their work, encourages experimentation, and connects artists to audiences. For 45 years, Danspace Project has supported a vital community of contemporary dance artists in an environment unlike any other in the United States. Located in the historic St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery, Danspace shares its facility with the Church, The Poetry Project, and New York Theatre Ballet. Danspace Project’s Commissioning Initiative has commissioned over 540 new works since its inception in 1994.

Danspace Project pays respect to Lenape peoples. We acknowledge that this work is situated on the Lenape island of Manhahtaan (Mannahatta) in Lenapehoking, the Lenape homeland. We pay respect to Lenape land, water, and ancestors past, present and future.

Accessibility
Danspace Project’s main entrance is wheelchair accessible via a ramp. The Parish Hall is accessible through the 11th street doors via one (8 inch high) step or a (28.5 inch wide) temporary ramp with assistance from our staff. Please request the use of the temporary ramp, ahead of the event date. All gender bathrooms are accessible via a stairway (24 steps that are all 7.5 inches high). A same-level, one stall restroom is available near Danspace Project’s main performance space in the church Sanctuary. The doorway of that bathroom is 33 inches wide. There is a small corridor to pass through when moving between the Sanctuary and Parish Hall, the narrowest corner of this corridor is 29 inches wide.

CART (Communication access real-time captioning) will be provided.

PLATFORM 2020 Performances & Events


FEB 28, MAR 6, 13, & 20 | 6-10PM Okwui Okpokwasili & Peter Born: *SITTING ON A MAN’S HEAD*

FEB 29 | 12-4PM Saturday Afternoon Conversation #2: *Kin & Care*: Jaime Shearn Coan, Maura Donohue, devynn emory, iele paloumpis, and Angie Pittman

MAR 7 | 11AM-4PM Saturday Afternoon Conversation #3: *Voice & Body*: Saidiya Hartman, Simone Leigh, Okwui Okpokwasili in conversation with Jasmine Hearn, Tendayi Kuumba, Benedict Nguyen, Samita Sinha, Tatyana Tenenbaum, and Asiya Wadud

MAR 9-10 | 7PM Nacera Belaza and Meryem Jazouli: *A SHARED EVENING*

MAR 14 | 8PM Okwui Okpokwasili and Samita Sinha: *A SHARED EVENING*

MAR 19 | 8PM *Poetic Utterance #1*: Justin Hicks, NIC Kay, Tendayi Kuumba & Greg Purnell, Alice Sheppard, Pamela Sneed, and Ni’Ja Whitson

MAR 21 | 12-4PM Saturday Afternoon Conversation #4: *Slowness*: Okwui Okpokwasili, Tina Campt. Catering by YARDY.

MAR 21 | 8PM *Poetic Utterance #2*: Eisa Davis, Yves B Golden x Venïson Man, Madeleine Hunt-Ehrlich, M Lamar, Ogemdi Ude, and Mariana Valencia

Buy your tickets now at danspaceproject.org!