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# Danspace Project

Spring 2021

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**PLATFORM 2021:**  
*The Dream of the Audience*

# Danspace Project

## **Land Acknowledgment**

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.

## **Site Acknowledgment**

“Before we begin, let’s take a moment to acknowledge that the construction of this building, Saint Mark’s Church-in-the-Bowery, was completed in 1799. That same year, New York State enacted the Gradual Emancipation Act 1, so it is reasonable to assume that this building where we are when we stand, sit, dance, and some still worship, was built by enslaved individuals on what was the homeland of the Lenape people.”

– Ishmael Houston-Jones

# Danspace Project Presents

## **Conversations Without Walls with Lydia Bell and Kristin Juarez**

### **From the Archive II:**

Platform 2018: *Dancing Platform, Praying Grounds:  
Blackness, Churches, and Downtown Dance*  
curated by Reggie Wilson

Platform 2020: *Utterances From the Chorus*  
curated by Okwui Okpokwasili and Judy Hussie-Taylor

Monday, June 14, 2021  
5pm (ET)

Part of PLATFORM 2021: *The Dream of the Audience*  
curated by Judy Hussie-Taylor

**Lydia Bell** is a Creative Producer based in New York City. She currently works with Leslie Parker Dance Project, Andrew Tay & Stephen Thompson, and Ni'Ja Whitson. From 2015-2020 she was Program Director at Danspace Project, where she collaborated with Judy Hussie-Taylor on programming, publications, and research initiatives. From 2009-2011, Lydia coordinated the three-year tour of the Eiko & Koma Retrospective Project in collaboration with 15 partner venues, including the Walker Art Center and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago. Lydia has worked on projects with Movement Research, Sam Miller/OAM Company, and the Institute for Curatorial Practice in Performance. She has contributed to publications such as *Judson Now* (Danspace Project, 2012), *Museum and Curatorial Studies Review*, and *Movement Research Performance Journal* and spoken nationally and internationally about her work. She is a graduate of Wesleyan University (B.A., Dance and Classics) and the Institute for Curatorial Practice in Performance at Wesleyan University.

**Kristin Juarez** is the research specialist for the African American Art History Initiative at the Getty Research Institute. She received her Ph.D. in moving image studies from Georgia State University specializing in artists' cinema. Her dissertation "Artistic Gestures: Choreography of the Artist's Portrait Film" offers a sustained look at the ways visual artists engage choreography and blackness in moving image experiments. Her current collaborative research project focuses on the choreographer Blondell Cummings and will result in the first museum exhibition and book dedicated to the artist.

### **About Platform 2021**

Platform 2021: *The Dream of the Audience* (May 15 – June 18, 2021), curated by Judy Hussie-Taylor, is a digital Platform featuring acclaimed artists and past Platform curators, each with longstanding relationships to Danspace Project: Ishmael Houston-Jones, Okwui Okpokwasili, Eiko Otake with Joan Jonas, and Reggie Wilson. Each of the artists are receiving residency time in St. Mark's Church and opportunities for live conversations. New short video works by the artists, created while in-residence at the church, will be screened during the Platform.

Each week of the Platform will feature: Monday Archives: Special Danspace archival footage released on the Online Journal, Issue 12.

Friday Film Screenings: A new film premiere, filmed on site at Danspace Project. Film premieres on Zoom.

In two Conversations Without Walls, Lydia Bell and Kristin Juarez will activate these archives. The Journal will also include new written works by Writer-in-residence, Maura Nguyen Donohue.

Platform 2021 takes inspiration from a poem by the late Korean American artist Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, in which Cha addresses the audience "as a distant relative." "Although written in 1977, Cha's text resonates with our current condition," says Hussie-Taylor. "This Platform is an homage to audiences."

***Audience Distant Relative, Teresa Hak  
Kyung Cha (1977)***

you are the audience

you are my distant audience

i address you

as i would a distant relative

as if a distant relative

seen only heard only through someone  
else's

description

**Funding for Platform 2021**

Special thanks to the Howard Gilman  
Foundation and the National Endowment  
for the Arts for their support for  
Danspace Project's 2021 Platform, and  
thank you to all our vital supporters.



## Platform 2021 Schedule

**Saturday, May 15 at 7pm (ET):** Platform Launch with Ishmael Houston-Jones, Eiko Otake, Joan Jonas, Okwui Okpokwasili, and Reggie Wilson. Facilitated by Judy Hussie-Taylor.

**Monday, May 17:** On the Online Journal: Ishmael Houston-Jones and Miguel Gutierrez: *Variations on Themes from Lost and Found...*

**Friday, May 21 at 5pm (ET):** Film Premiere: Ishmael Houston-Jones

**Monday, May 31:** On the Online Journal: Okwui Okpokwasili and Peter Born: *Sitting On a Man's Head*

**Friday, June 4 at 5pm (ET):** Film Premiere: Okwui Okpokwasili

**Monday, June 7:** On the Online Journal: Eiko Otake: *A Body in Places* & Joan Jonas' *Moving Off the Land*

**Monday, June 7 at 5pm (ET):** Conversations Without Walls: Revisiting Eiko Otake's *A Body in Places* and Ishmael Houston-Jones and Will Rawls' *Lost & Found* Platforms with Lydia Bell & Kristin Juarez

**Friday, June 11 at 5pm (ET):** Film Premiere: Eiko Otake & Joan Jonas

**Monday, June 14:** On the Online Journal: Reggie Wilson: *...they stood shaking while others began to shout*

**Monday, June 14 at 5pm (ET):** Conversations Without Walls: Revisiting Reggie Wilson's *Dancing Platform*, *Praying Grounds* and Okwui Okpokwasili's *Utterances From the Chorus* with Lydia Bell & Kristin Juarez

**Friday, June 18 at 5pm (ET):** Film Premiere: Reggie Wilson

RSVP at [danspaceproject.org!](https://danspaceproject.org/)

**Journal Issue #12: *The Dream of the Audience***  
visit [danspaceproject.org/journal](https://danspaceproject.org/journal)

## **Mission & History**

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 over 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 570 new works since its inception in 1994.

Danspace Project's Choreographic Center Without Walls (CW<sup>2</sup>) provides context for audiences and increased support for artists. Our public programs (including Danspace Presents, Platforms, Food for Thought, DraftWork), Commissioning Initiative, residencies, guest artist curators, and contextualizing activities and materials are core components of CW<sup>2</sup> offering a responsive framework for artists' works. Since 2010, we have produced twelve Platforms, published thirteen print catalogues and five e-books, launched the Conversations Without Walls discussion series, and explored models for public discourse and residencies.

## **Follow Us**

Instagram: @DanspaceProject

Twitter: @DanspaceProject

Facebook: Danspace Project

[danspaceproject.org](http://danspaceproject.org)

## **Danspace Project's Online Journal**

Ongoing with new posts weekly!

[danspaceproject.org/journal](http://danspaceproject.org/journal)

## Thanks to our Funders

Danspace Project's 2020-2021 Commissioning Initiative and Residency Program receives generous support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and The New York State Council on the Arts, as well as the generous individuals that support the Creation Fund.

Danspace Project's 2020-2021 season, including the DraftWork and Conversations Without Walls series, is presented, in part, with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council. Danspace Project programs are made possible in part through **public funds** from the National Endowment for the Arts; the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; the NYS DanceForce, a partnership program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council; and Materials for the Arts (a joint program of the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs and the Department of Sanitation).

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Danspace Project is also appreciative of the support of individuals, including donors, Members at every level, and its 2020-2021 Leadership Circle, which includes Carol Bryce-Buchanan; Barbara Castelli; Terry Creach; Vallejo Gantner; Allyson Green; Gary Hattem & Frazier Holloway; Dorothy Lichtenstein; Glenn Ligon; Ellen & George Needham; Derek Sands; Martha Sherman; Christina Sterner; Lena Stringari; and David and Monica Zwirner.

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# Danspace Project Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Individuals

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Danspace Project is located inside historic St. Mark's  
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