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# Danspace Project

Winter 2020

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## Saturday Afternoon Conversation #2:

### *Kin & Care*

Organized by Kin & Care Research Fellows:  
devynn emory, Maura Nguyen Donohue,  
Angie Pittman, iele paloumpis,  
and Jaime Shearn Coan

February 29, 2020

Part of PLATFORM 2020: *Utterances From The Chorus*

Please enter quietly and feel free to explore the space.

Facilitation by: Seta Morton

Audio Description by: Alejandra Ospina

Grounding exercises and Mental Health Resource: Jasmine Cohen (LCAT, R -DMT)

Cupping Practice: Kristin Cheng (LMT, L.Ac.)

Sound Bath: GraceElaine F. Osborne

Throughout the day, guests are invited to come in and out of the collective programming while also invited to quietly explore the space where stations, resources, and accommodations will be available to be activated.

**11:30am:** Sound Bath, GraceElaine F. Osborne

**12pm:** Land Acknowledgement, devynn emory and Angie Pittman

**12:10pm:** Welcome, Seta Morton

**12:15pm:** Listening to "How to Catalogue a Crisis: An Afterward to Lost and Found: Dance, HIV/AIDS, New York, Then and Now (2016)", iele paloumpis, Jaime Shearn Coan, and Samantha the robot screen reader

**12:35pm:** *mmm*, devynn emory (with a post-performance/lecture conversation, facilitated by Seta Morton)

**1:15pm:** Vibrational Tuning, led by iele paloumpis

**1:30pm:** Open space exploration

**2pm:** Kin & Care Research Group Panel Conversation, devynn emory, Maura Nguyen Donohue Angie Pittman, iele paloumpis, Jaime Shearn Coan. Moderated by Jaime Shearn Coan.

**2:45pm:** Collective Land Acknowledgment

**3pm:** A Shared Meal in the Parish Hall: a stew by Maura Nguyen Donohue.

You may sign up for a 20-minute cupping session with Kristin Cheng anytime between 1-4pm.

**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.

In 2016, Danspace Project's *Lost & Found* Platform revealed the persistent connections between artists and legacies of care. Dance is a vital vehicle for this heightened attending that we call care, and during that (11th) Platform, curated by Ishmael Houston-Jones and Will Rawls to focus on the impacts and echoes of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, time became elastic, history reshaped itself, and tenacious bonds formed among kindred spirits.

Initiated by Danspace Executive Director and Chief Curator, Judy Hussie-Taylor in Spring 2019 and with facilitation from Danspace Project's Assistant Curator, Seta Morton, The Kin & Care Research Fellows: devynn emory, iele paloumpis, Angie Pittman, Jaime Shearn Coan and Maura Nguyen Donohue have been following individual threads that have gathered along the lines of blood and time. The group has circulated questions and writings about what it is to be kith, kin and/or comrades, as well as the sustainability of care as a practice.

Plans for the culminating event grow out of conversations about time as it relates to trauma, death and dying, queer time, "crip-time." It has

turned towards the bodies that disrupt linear time, including vampiric and sci-fi entities navigating blackness, isolation, white supremacy and the violence inherent in late-stage capitalism. The group has investigated the complex symbolism and rich materiality of blood in relation to ancestry, indigeneity, seropositivity, and Eastern and Western medicine, and healing.

We will gather in the Sanctuary of St. Marks church. The day will end with a shared meal in the Parish Hall of St. Mark's church.

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**Kristin Cheng** began her training at the McKinnon Institute of Massage in Oakland, CA in 2006 where she received massage training in western massage as well as shiatsu and acupressure. This served as an introduction to eastern medicine and a starting point for falling in love with Chinese Medicine. Kristin received her NY State License in Massage Therapy in 2013, and a Masters of Science in Oriental Medicine in 2015. Advanced training has included pre/post natal massage certification, ashiatsu massage, Thai massage, facial gua sha, neurofunctional acupuncture, and other electro-acupuncture methods. Her previous life as a modern dancer and a lifelong love of movement informs her work. She is the owner and practitioner at Gotham Holistic.

**Jasmine Cohen** (LCAT, R-DMT) is a Licensed Creative Arts Therapist, Dance/Movement Psychotherapist, and dance artist. She is deeply committed to maintaining a trauma focused, intersectionality minded, and anti-oppressive oriented practice. Working collaboratively to cultivate intrapersonal curiosity, Jasmine encourages strengths-based reflection through the somatic and creative experience. With integrative and compassionate care Jasmine supports each individual towards finding a sense of home within their body, mind, and community. Jasmine currently works as a therapist at The Post-Graduate Center for Mental Health, The Changing Room, and in private practice at Manhattan Play Therapy. Previously, Jasmine worked at Montefiore Hospital in the adult inpatient psychiatric unit, and Sanctuary For Families in a transitional domestic violence shelter.

**devynn emory** is a mixed Lenape/Blackfoot choreographer and dance artist living in Lenapehoking. emory's company devynnemory/beastproductions sources from multiple in-between states of being both in their body as a transgender person, and in their work in multiple realms of liminality as a healer/bodyworker and emergency/hospice Nurse. emory was institutionally trained in rigorous classical lineages of line and exactitude. They have thus committed to formalism as a

tool for structural reclamation, investigation and decolonization of pattern making. In addition to making choreographic work they lead ceremony, movement and writing workshops, and engage in somatic practices releasing grief concerning trauma and death and dying.

**Maura Nguyen Donohue** appreciates the kinship of two teen sons and many other sibling spirits. She is Associate Professor of Dance and Faculty Associate for Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College. She has been making, writing about and curating performance works in NYC since 1994. She has served on The Bessies, as well as the Boards of Movement Research, the Congress on Research in Dance and Dance Theater Workshop. She has a BA in Anthropology and Dance ('92) and an MFA in Dance ('08) from Smith College.

**Grace Osborne** is a performance artist originally from Pasadena, California currently based in New York City. Her artistic practice is grounded in improvisation, listening, spirituality, and intuitive knowledge. Her work often features themes of space, process, memory, ritual, healing, and reconfigurations of the senses. Through her work and artistic practices she sees herself as being a conduit, activator, and curator of collective and private experiences that draw attention to the power of connection, critical awareness, and listening deeply.

**Alejandra Ospina** is a first-generation native New Yorker and full-time wheelchair user whose family has roots in Colombia. She has been active for several years in various advocacy and performance projects locally and beyond, and also works as a media access provider, creating closed captions and audio descriptions. Always glad to be a part of formative works to share with new audiences, she has previously collaborated with organizations such as Heidi Latsky Dance, Infinity Dance Theater, ZCO/Dance Project, Kinetic Light, the Queens Theatre, HiGlass Entertainment, and others.

**iele paloumpis** is a dance artist, death doula and intuitive space-holder. their work is rooted in kinesthetic awareness and ancestral healing practices - all within a trauma-informed framework that centers social justice. Choreographic works have been shown through the Chocolate Factory Theater, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, New York Live Arts, Dixon Place, the Flea Theater, Movement Research, Painted Bride Art Center, and Franklin Street Works, among others. iele is excited to premiere their newest evening length work, *In place of catastrophe, a clear night sky* at Danspace Project this coming May 21st, 22nd and 23rd, 2020. iele received a BA from Hollins University in 2006 and was awarded end of life doula certifications from Mount Sinai, Valley Hospice, and the Quality of Life Care, LLC

Accompanying the Dying Program between 2014-16. As a disabled, queer, trans survivor from a working class background, iele empathizes across multiple axes of oppression and brings this awareness to their work as a dance artist and death doula.

**Angie Pittman** is a New York based Bessie award-winning dance artist, dance maker, and dance educator. Her work has been performed at The Kitchen, Gibney Dance, BAAD!, Movement Research at Judson Church, Triskelion Arts, STooPS, The Domestic Performance Agency, The KnockDown Center (Sunday Service), The Invisible Dog (Catch 73), and Danspace Project. Angie is currently working as a collaborator and dance artist with Adam Linder, devynn emory/beastproductions, Anna Sperber, Stephanie Acosta, and Donna Uchizono Company. Angie has had the pleasure of dancing in work by Ralph Lemon, Tere O'Connor, Jennifer Monson, Kim Brandt, Tess Dworman, Antonio Ramos, Jasmine Hearn, Jonathan Gonzalez, and many others. Angie's work resides in a space that investigates how the body moves through ballad, groove, sparkle, spirit, spirituals, ancestry, vulnerability, and power. [Angiepittman.com](http://Angiepittman.com)

**Jaime Shearn Coan** is a writer, editor, and PhD Candidate in English at The Graduate Center, CUNY, where he is completing a dissertation titled *Metamorphosis Theater: Performance at the Intersection of HIV/AIDS, Race, and Sexuality*. A current 2019-2020 CUNY/Schomburg Center Archival Dissertation Year Fellow, Jaime previously served as a Mellon Public Humanities Fellow at The Center for the Humanities, CUNY and has taught literature, composition, and creative writing at City College, Hunter College, and Queens College, CUNY. Jaime's writing has appeared in publications including TDR: The Drama Review, Critical Correspondence, Drain Magazine, The Brooklyn Rail, Jacket2, Movement Research Performance Journal, Gulf Coast, On Curating, Women & Performance, and Bodies of Evidence: Ethics, Aesthetics, and Politics of Movement. Jaime is a co-editor of the Danspace Project 2016 Platform catalogue: *Lost and Found: Dance, New York, HIV/AIDS, Then and Now* and author of the chapbook *Turn it Over*, published by Argos Books.

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#### About PLATFORM 2020

The Platforms were launched by Danspace Project in 2010 as "exhibitions that unfold over time" shaped by guest artist-curators. Marking 10 years since Judy Hussie-Taylor conceived of the series, this Platform is the centerpiece of Danspace's 45th anniversary year.

PLATFORM 2020: *Utterances From The Chorus*

emerged from Okpokwasili and Hussie-Taylor's interest in creating containers for sharing artistic practices: "Could we create a Platform for artists to be in a conversation with one another and offer that to a broader audience?" The result is a program that will unfold over four weeks with multiple voices, artistic collaborations, and interdisciplinary juxtapositions.

Together, Okpokwasili and Hussie-Taylor developed these lines of curatorial inquiry for the Platform:

*How do we weave a collective song?  
How can the voice and body be a site of resistance and transformation?  
How can we share artistic practices - between artists and between artists and audiences?*

PLATFORM 2020 follows Okpokwasili's longstanding inquiries addressing the lives of young women of color. It borrows its title from Saidiya Hartman's introduction to her book *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments*.

In addition to Okpokwasili and Hussie-Taylor, the Platform's curatorial team includes Danspace Associate Curator and Program Director, Lydia Bell, and Seta Morton, Assistant Curator, Public Engagement.

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**Issue #10 of Danspace Project's Journal!** *of wishing and superheroes* is a song by Okwui Okpokwasili & Umechi Born. Preview this song off Okwui's *day pulls down the sky 12*" album (in purple vinyl!) today on our journal.

New journal posts each Monday! at [danspaceproject.org/journal](http://danspaceproject.org/journal)

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**PLATFORM 2020 Catalogue and Merchandise on sale at all Platform events and online** Okwui Okpokwasili, *day pulls down the sky* purple vinyl album (in-person: \$35 / \$30 Danspace members)

Asiya Wadud and Okwui Okpokwasili, *day pulls down the sky / a filament in gold leaf* (in-person: \$10)

PLATFORM 2020: *Utterances From The Chorus*, Volume I (in-person: \$20 / \$15 Danspace members)

#### Streaming Soon!

The *day pulls down the sky* album will soon be available for sale on major streaming sites!

## Funding for PLATFORM 2020

PLATFORM 2020: *Utterances From The Chorus* is made possible with lead support from the Lambent Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Ford Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, and the Howard Gilman Foundation.

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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.

Audio Description will be Provided for devynn emory's *mmm* performance lecture

If you have food sensitivities or allergies please proceed with caution.

## PLATFORM 2020 Performances & Events

**FEB 22 | 12-5PM Saturday Afternoon Conversation #1: *Platform as Practice*:** Lydia Bell, Maura Donohue, Judy Hussie-Taylor, Kristin Juarez, Seta Morton, Okwui Okpokwasili, Cecilia Vicuña, Asiya Wadud, Eva Yaa Asantewaa. Food installation by Spiral Theory Test Kitchen.

**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 Venison Man, Madeleine Hunt-Ehrlich, M Lamar, Ogemdi Ude, and Mariana Valencia

Buy your tickets now at [danspaceproject.org](https://danspaceproject.org)!

**#PLATFORM2020**  
**@DanspaceProject**  
**[danspaceproject.org](https://danspaceproject.org)**