

ABOUT

The Moving Architects (TMA) connects people intimately to dance, focusing on creating female-centric collaborative dance works and community-based projects. We do this through performance of original works, educational movement programming for all ages, and public discourse via our popular podcast. Led by Artistic Director Erin Carlisle Norton, TMA is based in New Jersey/New York City.

the story

Erin Carlisle Norton founded The Moving Architects on New Year's Day, 2007. Growing up in the nooks and crannies of a Victorian house and the Neo-Gothic church outside of Pittsburgh, PA where her father was pastor, she developed a heightened awareness of her experience of physical spaces long-steeped in the passage of time. Adding to this her vigilance in exploring and promoting the female voice and form, TMA is now a female-centric dance company known for creating highly visual, architectural, physically dynamic, and innovative dance works. TMA has toured Central Asia with the US Department of State, across Morocco with Action Danse Festival, and throughout the Midwest, East Coast, and Southern United States. Norton has received choreographic accolades and awards including two NJ State Council on the Arts Choreographic Fellowships. The company regularly collaborates on projects praised by colleagues as "brave and bold and fearless" and by critics as a "fresh and daring aesthetic". Norton's work is grounded in collaboration and her physical research in modern and postmodern dance techniques, Laban Movement Analysis, and improvisational study.



The Moving Architects Media Kit



Erin Carlisle Norton is a dancer, choreographer, movement educator, and arts administrator. She has an extensive movement background including a BFA and MFA in Dance from Ohio State University, a Graduate Laban Certificate in Movement Analysis (CMA) from Columbia College Chicago, and Pilates Certification. Norton's lifetime in the dance field has led her to value collaboration and community in her teaching and choreographic practices. Recent accolades include 2014 & 2020 NJ State Council on the Arts Choreographic Fellowships; residencies as Artist-in-Residence at Dancewave (Brooklyn), MOTIVE (Brooklyn), MANA Contemporary (NJ); and selection for a 2021 Dance/USA DILT (dance leadership) award. Norton was Executive Director of Dance New Jersey from 2020–2023.

Vision & Values

I create dance works that use feminist narratives and ideologies that are deeply explored through collaborative processes. We have an expansive definition of feminine, delving into complex relationships and roles as mothers/caretakers, partners, and friends, and social dynamics that examine power dynamics and varied qualities and traits of gender. Through this we outwardly and dynamically embody current and historically lived approaches to the female experience.

I work with artists in dance, visual arts, and sound in creative projects. At the heart of my work are the dance artists and their relationships to each other of trust, boldness, thoughtfulness, and risk. Physical and emotional power are central to my movement grammar; I am drawn to experiences of time through stillness, speed, and overexertion, and effects of weight through force, conflict, and strength. We collaborate with visual artists, incorporating textiles and interactive costumes and objects as they pertain to movement in order to create material and architectural landscapes to engage with physicality. We work with composers and musicians to imbue textures of sound, instrumentation, and rhythm. Our collaborative processes as a community involve experimentation and trust wherein I lead and facilitate as choreographer and director. From these perspectives we together create multi-faceted worlds for viewers to enter, experience, relate to, and reflect on.

Programs & Offerings



Education

The Moving Architects teach and facilitate specialized classes and workshops with students, professionals, and community members who want to move. Classes have ranged from pay-what-you-can programs for adults and kids, to training workshops for professionals, to visiting artist residencies in school and college programs. With community, inclusivity, collaboration, and exploration at its core, TMA offerings include modern dance technique, composition, improvisation, creative processes, and generating choreographed projects with groups, alongside population specific offerings of Creative Movement for kids and Pilates and Barre classes. In 2023, Norton will teach and create with professionals at Dance Barn (MN), with students at University of KY, and as Artist and Residence at Dance Local (NJ), alongside an array of community movement classes throughout Northern New Jersey.

Mission

The Moving Architects constructs female-centered collaborative dance works and performance experiences; provides movement education to all ages; shares stories and promotes dialogue through Movers & Shapers: A Dance Podcast; and offers residencies, master classes, and workshops in academic, professional, and community settings.

Performance

The Moving Architects has a history of performing on stage, screen, and site-specific locations. In 2023, TMA will begin their second collaboration with textile artist Crystal Gregory, Imlay Gallery, and digital artist gwen charles for “Shapes of Movement” as visiting artists at University of Kentucky, with the interdisciplinary project touring in '23-'25. The company is also creating the new intergenerational collaborative work “O my soul” about memory, grief, and aging, to premiere in 2023.

Movers & Shapers: A Dance Podcast

Since 2015, TMA has delivered a free interview-style digital dance podcast to the public. Produced and hosted by Norton, Movers & Shapers: A Dance Podcast interviews those who “shape” the dance field, including choreographers, dancers, arts administrators, writers, creative collaborators, and educators.

Recent guests include Liz Lerman (choreographer, director, writer), Melissa M. Young (Dallas Black Dance Theater), Mark Morris (Mark Morris Dance Group), Susan Klein (Klein Technique), and Rosalynde LeBlanc (Professor, Former Bill T. Jones dancer), among others.

Collaborators

Multi-disciplinary artist gwen charles (she/her) creates site-specific, collaborative live performances and choreographed actions for and with the camera using handcrafted wearable props & sculptures. Performances and interventions are created for non-proscenium formats, inspired by the trivial moments of daily life & everyday objects.

Born in NYC, artist gwen charles completed her MFA with Transart Institute in Berlin, Germany & NYC. Her undergraduate studies were fulfilled at Parsons School of Design & The New School for Public Engagement. Her video works have been viewed in international venues and video festivals in the USA, Germany, Slovenia and Croatia. She has participated in artist residencies in Mexico, India, Slovenia & in the United States. Collaboration is an integral part of her studio & curatorial practice. Her studio is based in Montclair, NJ.

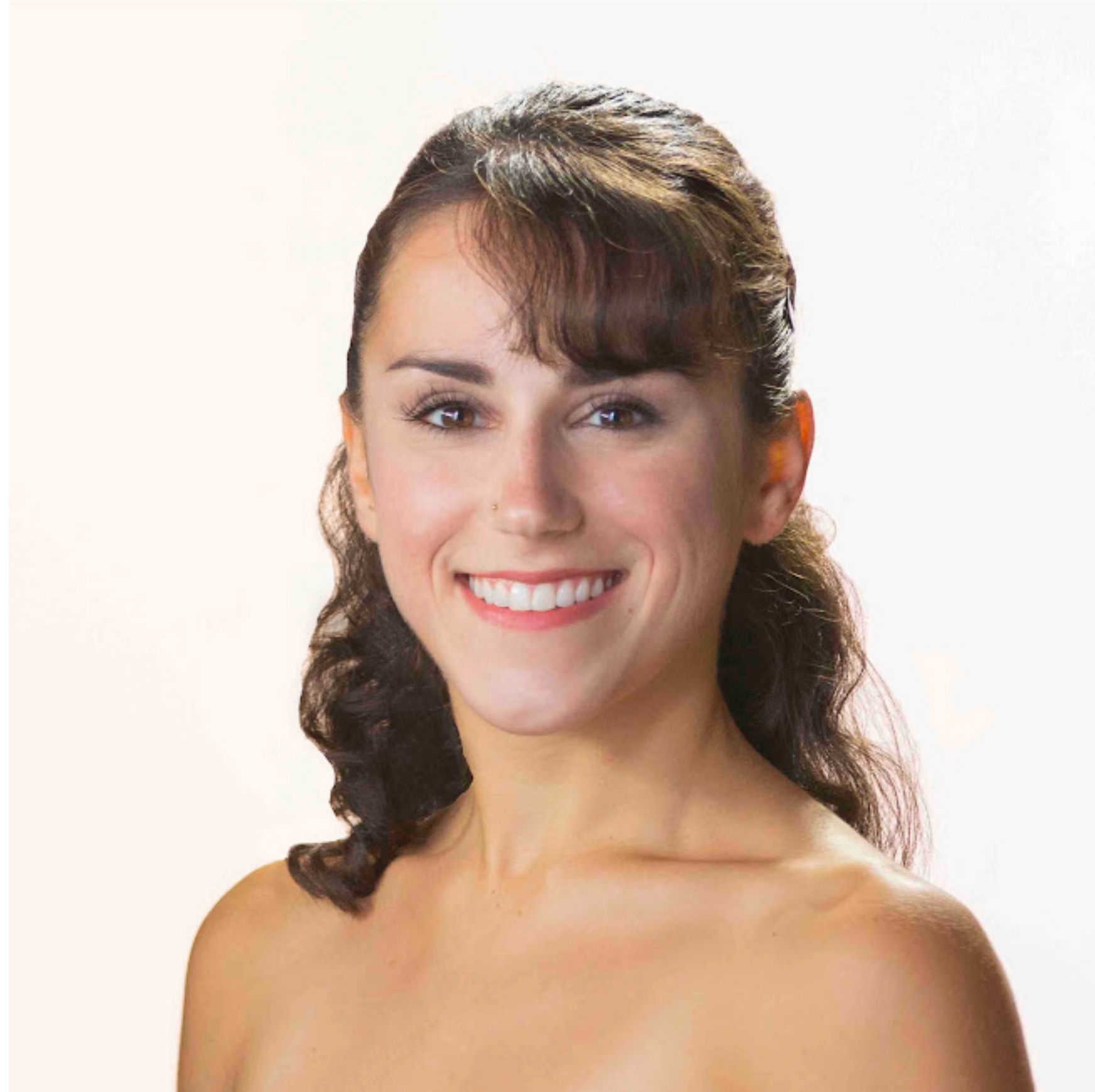
Kathy Imlay, curator & producer (she/her) is an independent curator whose focus is on the power of the visual arts to reshape society. Working predominantly with emerging artists, Imlay partners with public and private institutions to advance their careers, collaborating with museums, architects, and designers. Most recently she guest curated “Lori Field: Tiger Tarot” (September 10, 2022 – Jan 2, 2023) at the Montclair Art Museum. She wrote the catalogue for the show, and designed and published a limited edition Artist Tarot Deck. With a background as an independent researcher, Imlay has developed relationships globally with artists whose work embodies the transformative qualities of art, placing work in museums and with private collectors. She spent 15 years in Africa and Latin America studying the use of art in healing practices and curated multiple exhibitions with programming. Currently she Co-leads art and cultural tours to Havana, Cuba, focusing on the history of women’s work in contemporary art practices. She has a BA from Lesley University, Cambridge, MA, and completed her Master’s courses at Queens College, NY.

photos: Max Stills & gwen charles



Crystal Gregory, sculptor (she/her) is a sculptor whose work investigates the intersections between textile and architecture. Gregory received her BFA from the University of Oregon and her MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago from the Fiber and Material Studies Department. In 2013 she was awarded The Leonore Annenberg Fellowship for the Performing and Visual Arts. With this grant she moved to Amsterdam, where she took a role as Guest Artist at The Gerrit Rietveld Academie of Art. Her work has been exhibited in museums and galleries nationally and internationally including Through the Thread at the Rockwell Museum of Art, Devotion/Destruction: Craft Inheritance at Dorsky Gallery Curatorial Projects, Load Barring: The Art of Construction at The Hunterdon Art Museum, and Crossover at Black and White Project Space. Gregory’s work has been reviewed in publications such as Hyperallergic, Surface Design Journal, Art Critical, and Peripheral Vision Press. Gregory is an Associate Professor within the School of Arts and Visual Studies at the University of Kentucky and currently shows with Tappan Collective in Los Angeles, CA; Imlay Gallery; and Momentum Gallery, NC.

Dancers



Mariah Anton-Arters (she/her) is a New York based artist who graduated in 2019 from UNC School of the Arts with a BFA in contemporary dance. Prior to her attendance there, she trained in formal disciplines under Jo-Ann Hertzman. Mariah has been privileged to perform a wide range of works and most notably, was a dancer in the Merce Cunningham Trust's "Night of 100 Solos: A Centennial Event" at BAM Opera House. Since then, Mariah has continued to work with the Merce Cunningham Trust, while also freelancing and working with Liz Gerring, Cornfield Dance, Dance Heginbotham, Christopher Williams Dance, Helen Simoneau Danse, Daniel Gwirtzman and The Moving Architects, among others.



Kelly Guerrero (she/her) holds a BFA in Dance and a minor in Business from Montclair State University (MSU), where she received a Choreographic Excellence Award in 2022. Her work has been presented in the 2021 Hellbender Student Film Festival, iKADA Contemporary Dance Company's Falling In Dance Festival, the 2022 Virtual DUMBO Dance Festival, and at MSU. Kelly has had the privilege of dancing in works by Stefanie Batten Bland, Martha Graham, Larry Keigwin, Fredrick Earl Mosley, Helen Pickett, Janice Rosario, and has performed with the Sonia Plumb Dance Company.



Emily Cicio, dancer (she, her) is a New England and Brooklyn based performer. Emily graduated from The University of Massachusetts Amherst in May of 2020 with a B.A. in Communications and a B.F.A in Dance. During her time at The Five College Dance Department, she was selected to perform in works by Aston McCullough, Bronwen MacArthur, as well as having the pleasure to perform "New Second Line" by Camille A. Brown under the direction of Shakia Barron. She was a member of the University of Massachusetts Dance Company where she performed multiple student works. Emily also had the pleasure of dancing with Pantos Project in the summer of 2018 as a scholarship dancer. After graduating, she was selected to be a part of a Development Residency with Leighann Kowalsky as well as work in collaboration with Haley Andrews Movement.





JUBILEE & KNELL

10 minutes | 2 dancers

Music:

Komet and Michael Wall
Performances: Mahwah,
NJ; virtual



WALLED

10 minutes | 3 dancers

Music: Komet

Performances: Brooklyn, NY;
New York, NY; Boston, MA;
Pittsburgh, PA; South
Orange, NJ; virtual



EVENT OF A THREAD

10 minutes | 2 dancers

Music: includes Matmos
and Michael Wall
Performances: Lexington,
KY; Manhattan, NY;
2022 Venice, Italy



AMERICA DAWN

25 minutes | 5 dancers

Music: Ralph Lewis and Porl
Gordan

Performances: Brooklyn, NY;
Montclair, NJ; Gladwynne, PA



DEMURE AS DYNAMITE

30 minutes | 5 dancers

Music: includes Matmos and
Michael Wall

Performances: Brooklyn, NY;
South Orange, NJ;
Hackettstown, NJ; Bryant
Park, NY; Queens, NY; Boston,
MA; Pittsburgh, PA; Hoboken,
NJ; Saratoga Springs, NY



COUP

12 minutes | 4 dancers

Music: score edited by Ian
Hatcher

Performances: Brooklyn,
NY; New York, NY; Boston,
MA; Pittsburgh, PA; South
Orange, NJ; virtual; dance
film project



AMERICANA

30 minutes | 4 dancers

Music: includes Adam
Crawley and Woody
Guthrie

Performances: Brooklyn,
NY; Boston, MA; Pittsburgh,
PA; Jersey City, NJ;
Montclair, NJ; New York, NY



CANON

10 minutes | 5
dancers

Performances:
Michael Wall

Performances:
Brooklyn, NY; New York,
NY; Montclair, NJ;
Newark, NJ

"Norton and a band of fierce performers churned out some of the city's freshest, most polished, most unique choreography."

TimeOut Chicago

"a fresh and daring aesthetic"

Dance Informa
on the collaboration between Erin Carlisle Norton
and Visual Artist gwen charles

"Erin Carlisle Norton and The Moving Architects generate an amazing amount of dance vocabulary. Quality matches quantity, too."

Zachary Wittenburg, dance writer

"dancing with vulnerability and power"

Gwen Orel, Montclair Local

"This podcast sounds so vivid and interesting! I am really grateful to be able to hear all these stories from all of these artists. This podcast is a work of art."

Movers & Shapers: A Dance Podcast,
Review from Listener

"The impact of the Moving Architects' program in Tajikistan was enormous and immediately visible...they are versatile and adaptable."

McKenzie Milanowski Louwe
Performing Arts Initiative Program,
US Dept of State

"I was frankly blown away by The Moving Architects.... [performance] showed impressive structural invention and sound execution throughout; the vocabulary suited its interpreters well and the points of intersection were thoughtfully and completely worked out."

Trailerpilot.com



PRESENTERS

The Moving Architects Media Kit

photo: Steve Pisano

PAST PRESENTERS

Dance on Camera Festival
Lincoln Center
(NYC)

BAM Fisher
(Brooklyn)

Berrie Center for the Arts
@ Ramapo College
(NJ)

21C Musuem Hotel
(Lexington, KY)

Wilson College Creative
Residency
(PA)

Dancewave
Artist-in-Residence
(Brooklyn)

Triskelion Arts
(Brooklyn)

Bryant Park presents
Contemporary Dance
(NYC)

Jersey City Theater Center
(Jersey City)

Performance Mix Festival
(NYC)

The Tank
(NYC)

Links Hall
(Chicago)

PAST CLASSES

University of
Kentucky
(KY)

Valley Day School
(PA)

Montclair Public
Library (NJ)

Dancewave
(Brooklyn)

Kenyon College
(OH)

Pomerene Art
Center (OH)

Gibney (NYC)

University of
Chicago (IL)

Western Michigan
University (MI)

Links Hall
(Chicago)

PAST TOURS

Tajikistan and
Kyrgyzstan
(with US Dept of State
and Embassies)

Morocco
Action Danse Festival

Guatemala
Danceform Productions

Actors Fund Theater
(NYC)

Point Park University
(Pittsburgh)

The Dance Complex
(Boston)

"Elevate: A Triple Bill of
Female Choreographers"

Contact

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The Moving Architects on Vimeo

