

COLLABORATION CLASS: PERFORMANCE ART

Instructor: Maureen Fleming, Performance Artist/Artistic Director

Course Overview:

This course is an intensive introductory experience in cross-cultural interdisciplinary performance art with a focus on the human form as the instrument for creation. Open to all departments, students participate in movement classes that enhance flexibility, improve alignment, and build vital energy, awareness, strength and endurance. Students will also conduct research about cross-cultural performance art from a historical perspective. They will engage in collaboration techniques used in Maureen Fleming Company's multimedia performances that have been presented internationally spanning five continents. Students from various disciplines will create and compose original creations integrating collaboration techniques. This course culminates in a presentation of collaborative projects allowing for a more complete realization of one's personal and creative vision. The final presentation includes performance, still photography, video and a kinetic sculpture integrated into the live performance. Students with interests in any of these areas are encouraged to consider this unique course: PERFORMANCE ART, LIGHTING DESIGN, PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEO ART, PAINTING, SCULPTURE, CONTEMPLATIVE STUDIES, THEATER, AND DANCE.

Course Objectives

- Gain a personal awareness of the alignment necessary for regenerative and sustainable movement through a study of Maureen Fleming's Ten Images.
- Initiate movement from the first layer of muscles in the body through a series of daily exercises, improvisation, and composition.
- Understand and experience principles of gravity used in efficient expansive movement.
- Improve students' ability to access imagery into physical creativity.
- Research cross-cultural performance art from a historical perspective.
- Collaborate within the class in the creation of self-portraits taking the form of photographs and short videos of student's solo and partner work that will serve as a basis for student creation involving the human body in relation to environments, structures and elements of nature.
- Develop an understanding of the elements necessary to create multidiscipline performance through a hands-on internship opportunity in the presentation of a Maureen Fleming Company performance/installation.

Course Requirements and Expectations:

Participation Although students from all disciplines are welcomed, all students are required to participate in daily movement sessions. Photo sessions will be scheduled to explore collaborative process.

Attendance Prompt attendance is expected, and attendance will be noted throughout the session. Due to the intensive nature, there will be no tolerance for tardiness or absence. Excused absence will be considered only if you have been admitted to the infirmary and have a doctor's signature or have had to leave campus for medical emergencies. Prior notice to instructors is mandatory.

Assignments During the course sessions, videos will be presented as background for creation. Maureen Fleming Company's personal library of videos of Butoh and related topics, including six of Joseph Campbell's *The Power of Myth* videos will provide points of discussion relating to the creative process involved in the class. There will be minimal written assignments, however, journaling is required and the following bibliography is suggested:

- Campbell, Joseph, *The Power of Myth*,
Apostrophe S Productions, Inc., 1988
- Jung, Karl Gustav. *Alchemical Studies*
Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1967
- Jung, Karl Gustav, *Symbols of Transformation*
Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1967
- Jung, Karl Gustav, *The Psychology of Kundalini Yoga*
Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1999
- "The Japanese Artistry of Butoh" *Dance Views* 1999: 10.11.13
- Klein, Susan Blakeley, *Ankoku Buto, The Premodern Influences on the Dance of Utter Darkness*
Cornell East Asia Papers, 1988
- Buber, Martin, *Walter Kaufman (Translator), S. G. Smith (Translator) I and Thou*
Simon and Schuster Adult Publishing Group, 1971

Event There will be a required culminating presentation event, which will consist of both an informal demonstration and a presentation of a completed work. All students are required to be involved in the culminating presentation event.

Schedule: Tuesday and Thursday 6:30pm – 9:30pm; Additional Rehearsals TBD for Culminating Event

Grading:

The course will consist of active physical training; community building and introductions to collaboration techniques used for Fleming Company multidiscipline performances and installations. Students will be evaluated on written assignments, improvement/class performance tests, quizzes, class projects, participation in the final culminating event, and attendance.

15% Attendance, 25% Quizzes/Technique Execution,
10% Mid Term Paper, 10% Final Assessment Paper/Mission Statement
20% Class Project Completion, 20% Final Culminating Event

A	=	Excellence in all work.
B	=	Above-average work.
C	=	Satisfactory work exhibiting basic understanding of materials and concepts.
D	=	Poor work demonstrating a lack of understanding of material and concepts.
F	=	Unsatisfactory and/or incomplete work.