

## Announcing 2019-2020 CATALYSTS Artists & Visiting Artists At The Dance Complex



**Cambridge, MA- September 23, 2019:** Throughout the 25+ years of The Dance Complex's history, supporting the growth of dance-makers has been a consistent and persistent effort. As we enter the 2019-2020 season, we announce a robust roster of local artists and events in varying relationship to the organization, including the 6th year of CATALYSTS.

Visiting Artists this season to our home-base in the Central Square Cultural District include Boston-based Jenna Pollack and the NY-based duo with New England roots, Nattie Trodgon and Hollis Bartlett. All will share their teaching with this region's dance community, as well as develop work while in residence.

The Dance Complex's 2019 CATALYSTS artists-in-residence will create work throughout a 6-month residency culminating with performances in mid-January through early-February. CATALYSTS 2019-2020 artists are Kimberleigh Holman, Alli Ross, Jennifer Lin, Ruka White, J Michael Winward, and the creative duo Em Papineau and Sofia Engelman.

Individually, the members of this year's CATALYSTS cohort all approach their craft with distinct perspectives; collectively, these perspectives offer an exploration through connectivity ranging from past to present, to personal experience through time, and movement to memory.

CATALYSTS artists have been nominated through a public call-to-artists, recommendations of the Boston dance community, and previous artists-in-residence at The Dance Complex. Each artist is selected as much for their budding and established talents as they are for their individual self-motivation and readiness to engage in dialogue.

Throughout each year, The Dance Complex provides artists-in-residence with hundreds of hours of studio space, feedback opportunities, and additional choreographic skill-building and arts administration development to assist each artists' journey. All artists in residence have a commitment

to “paying it forward” through engagement with The Dance Complex community, especially through the aMaSSiT program, a dance-makers’ tools course offered each spring.

More information about up-coming classes and performances available at [dancecomplex.org](http://dancecomplex.org). CATALYSTS artists are presenting in rotating repertory, with schedule, guest artists, and ticket information to be announced soon.

## Visiting Artists:

**Jenna Pollack** is a Boston-based maker, performer, and educator. For the 2019-20 season she has been commissioned by the Olin College of Engineering, New Movement Collaborative, Hubbard Street Professional Program, The Reciprocity Collaborative, and Endicott College. She has choreographed for Bridge Repertory Theater, InDance Barcelona, Theater Felina-Areal Mannheim, Urbanity Dance, Boston Moving Arts Productions, Brandeis University Theater Department, Salem State University Theater Department, Providence College Dance Department, and in NYC focused on immersive performance with The Center for Innovation in the Arts at Juilliard and Dau al Set Productions. She is a performer with Ali Kenner Brodsky, Betsy Miller, and Heather Stewart. She has previously danced for Bridge Repertory Theater, Scottish Dance Theatre, and The Metropolitan Opera among many others. Jenna holds an M.A. with Distinction in Choreography from the Institute of the Arts Barcelona, a Certificate with Honors from Harvard Business School Online’s CORE program, and a B.F.A. in Dance Performance from The Juilliard School. Additionally, she works Public and Artist Relations for Springboard Danse Montréal and is a Dance Fellow at the Institute of Contemporary Arts Boston. She teaches locally at Salem State University, The Boston Ballet School, and Urbanity Dance.

**Hollis Bartlett and Nattie Trogdon** are Brooklyn based performers, educators, dance makers, and partners. Their collaborations explore the relationship between performative rigor and experienced catharsis; thriving on opportunities to test the boundaries of the human body. Graduates of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and SUNY Purchase respectively, their work has been presented at Triskelion Arts, Gibney, Dixon Place, Duo Multicultural Arts Center (DMAC), Jack Crystal Theater, FIRST LOOK at the Brooklyn Ballet, No Theme Festival (Poughkeepsie, NY), School for Contemporary Dance and Thought (SCDT) and Earthdance. They've taught master classes and shown work at universities including SUNY Brockport, Skidmore College, NYU and SUNY Purchase, and have been artists in residence at The Dance Complex (MA), Peaceable Barn (CT), and through Work Up 5.0 at Gibney. Collectively they've performed for Annie Kloppenberg, Adam Barruch, Brian Brooks, Oliver and Teri Steele, Mark Dendy, David Dorfman, Kensaku Shinohara, and Doug Varone.

## CATALYSTS 2019-2020 Resident Artists:

**Alli Ross** is a dance theater artist most curious about embodied herstories and how they are told or retold. Favorite projects include *Healing Wars* (premiered in 2014 at Arena Stage) in collaboration with choreographer Liz Lerman and U.S. veterans. From 2009-2011, Alli worked with *Punchdrunk* on the award-winning production of *Sleep No More* where she originated the role of Lady Macduff in both the American Repertory Theater and Emursive's NYC production. She is the founding member of the local performance collective, *Excavate* having just completed a residency at daCordova Museum and Sculpture Park. More information at [besspaupeck.wixsite.com/excavate](http://besspaupeck.wixsite.com/excavate). Alli teaches at The Boston Conservatory at Berklee in the theater division. She holds a B.A. in Anthropology and Dance, and a M.Ed. from Harvard Graduate School of Education.

**Em Papineau and Sofia Engelman** are dance artists based in New England. Em is a musician, athlete, and non practicing barista who grew up dancing to music videos by blonde pop stars and memorizing and inventing television ad jingles. Sofia is a writer, teacher, and embarrassed social media enthusiast whose first dance, at age 14, involved eating an entire heirloom tomato like an apple. Em and Sofia's first collaborative work, *Where the air is light and clear*, was presented at the National College Dance Festival at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Together, Em and Sofia have held artistic residencies at The Living Room (ME), Ponderosa (Germany), and School for Contemporary Dance and Thought (MA). The pair have performed iterations of their recent project, *INSTANT SAVIORS (just add water)*, at Judson Church, FRESH Festival, EstroGenius Festival, HUT at the School for Contemporary Dance and Thought, The Dance Complex, and AS220's Providence Movement Festival.

**Jennifer Lin** is a classically trained performer, contemporary dancemaker and teaching artist of Euro-American and Korean descent. Raised in the mid-West, she earned a Bachelor's degree from the Boston Conservatory, trained at the Graham School and Clark Center in Manhattan, and completed a three-year Master of Fine Arts program at the University of Hawai'i Manoa. Nationally Lin has presented original work in the Hawaiian Islands at the Asia Pacific Dance Festival and Volcanoes Art Center. In New Hampshire, as Artist-in-Residence at Granite State Ballet and guest artist at the Portsmouth Arts Festival with the Mill Pond Dance Collective, Lin presented dances inspired by the poetry of Theodore Roethke, Marge Piercy, Sylvia Plath, and Adrienne Rich. In addition to ballet and modern dance idioms, Lin has studied and researched traditional Korean dance and performed and taught abroad in South Korea and China. Lin is author of *Interstitial Space*, a description of process driven choreography and creator of a visual ethnography, *Performing Korean-ness: a brief ethnography of Mary Jo Freshley also-known-as Pai Myung-sa*, which is a part of *Halla Huhm Dance Collection* at the University of Hawai'i Manoa. A long-time cohort of the Boston dance community and freelance dancer, Lin has performed with the Massachusetts *Dance Ensemble*, *Boston Dance Collective*, *Dances by Isadora*, and *Kineticompany* among many others. Some of Lin's teaching credits include Professor of Modern Dance at Pine Manor College, Director of Dance at Cushing Academy, and Arts Faculty of Groton School.

**Kimberleigh Holman** is the Artistic Director of *Luminarium Dance* and an artist working interdisciplinarily in dance, theatre and design. Her work gravitates to the exploration of human social interaction and behavior, both real and fictitious, miniscule instances or broad patterns, through comedic, dark, sensory or abstract narrative. Since co-founding *Luminarium* in 2010, Kimberleigh has shown work at venues including the Boston Center for the Arts, mobius, Mount Holyoke College, OBERON, Museum of Fine Arts, Gibney Dance (NYC), and more, including a commission to open TEDxCambridge at the Boston Opera House. Holman has been awarded several grants for her community initiatives and artistic work with *Luminarium*, from agencies including NEFA and the Boston and Massachusetts Cultural Councils. Outside of *Luminarium* Kim works as a freelance choreographer and lighting designer; recent work includes creating a music video for the band Jaggery (screened in Bucharest), choreographing a national commercial for Care.com, and working on dozens of Boston-area theatrical productions for school-age to professional actors. In addition to her artistic work, Kim holds her MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts (Performance Creation) from Goddard College. More at [kaholman.com](http://kaholman.com).

**J Michael Winward** is an independent dance artist based in Boston. With influences in American-style ballroom, ballet, contemporary and somatic dance practices, his work places a strong focus on building connection: connection to one's body, one's self, one's audience, connection between dance partners, connection within and across communities. His solo performances blend movement and memoir, and deal with a variety of topics, including: coming of age, institutional injustice, and the politics of being oneself. Through the Steps in Time program, Michael brings social ballroom dance classes and parties to senior, elder, and memory care communities throughout Greater Boston. Dancing with *Peter DiMuro/Public Displays of Motion (PDM)*, Michael works to advance the PDM mission of cultivating dance/arts literacy, advocacy and engagement. Along with Maggie Cee, Michael produces *Dancing Queerly*, a festival of performances, workshops, discussions, and social dance gatherings by and for the LGBT+ community, friends, and allies. More information can be found at [www.jmichaelwinward.com](http://www.jmichaelwinward.com).

**Ruka White**, in conjunction with *RukaDance*, has a mission to promote an understanding of the human spirit through theatrical and contemporary movement. It hopes to incite deeper conversations about issues of spirituality, community, normativity, and change. Founded by Ruka Hatua-Saar in 2019 and based in Boston, Massachusetts. *RukaDance* focuses on the seamless integration of theatre and contemporary movement. It seeks to explore the notions of sexuality, spirituality, and humanity in a unique way. Hatua-Saar is an advocate for the growth of the African-American Community as well as the LGBT movement. As a member of both groups, he seeks to amplify their unique challenges and struggles in a more visible way, synchronizing society at large to their tragedies and triumphs. "I hope that when people see the work, their spirits are encouraged to empathize, but to also be in agent for change in the world" says Hatua Saar.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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