

GUILD HALL

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ANNOUNCING THE SECOND GUILD HALL WILLIAM P. RAYNER ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE: CATHERINE GALASSO AND *CITY OF WOM_N*



March 8, 2022—East Hampton, NY — Guild Hall (158 Main Street, East Hampton) announced today the arrival of the next Guild Hall William P. Rayner artists-in-residence, **Catherine Galasso** and company, who will be working on *City of Wom_n* – a dance work that reclaims New York City’s Sheroes, interrogating how histories are written and the criteria for who is remembered. The group will be in residence at *The Tower* from March 3-20.

Manifesting as five distinct shows tailored to each of the five boroughs, the project utilizes the NYC subway system as a base to construct a theatrical tapestry of loose portraits of the women who lived, worked, and made names for themselves in this city from the 17th to the 20th century. Channeling women in their own words, the piece draws on memoirs, poetry, and interviews by a wide range of

luminaries, including Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, prima ballerina Maria Tallchief, bearded sideshow performer Lady Olga, LES poet Diane Burns, and celebrity transwoman Christine Jorgensen. *City of Wom_n* is inspired by Rebecca Solnit's iconic woman-centered subway map, and engages themes of activism, resilience, and legacy.

A multidisciplinary, intergenerational, and ethnically diverse group of female-identifying artists make up the cast and creative team. Each performer will embody multiple characters, engaging in first-person storytelling, as well as abstract image-making. The team includes Catherine Galasso (Director), Sheryl Sutton (Dramaturg & Performer), and Performer/Co-Creators Martita Abril, Toni Carlson, Indah Mariana, and Saori Tsukada.

Throughout their Guild Hall William P. Rayner Artist-in-Residency, the creative team will continue their work and explorations of *City of Wom_n* through daily rehearsals, workshops/roundtables with Guild Hall's Teen Arts Council, and a showcase of work to an invited audience of Guild Hall's upper-level members. In addition, Catherine Galasso will meet several times with noted Art Historian, Curator, and member of Guild Hall's Academy of the Arts, RoseLee Goldberg.

"We are so excited to welcome Catherine Galasso back, now as part of the Guild Hall William P. Rayner Artist-in-Residence program" says Anthony Madonna, Guild Hall's Patti Kenner Senior Associate for Learning + Public Engagement. "As Guild Hall is embarking on this new residency program, we are inviting artists who have close relationships to us, and that we feel exemplify Guild Hall's founding mission to be 'a gathering place for community where an appreciation for the arts would serve to encourage greater civic participation.' To incorporate and reflect community voice, thought, and action into the creative process is a hallmark of Catherine's work, seen through both the community dance & vocal ensemble in last Summer's *Notes on de Groat* performance, and we are thrilled to be able to continue to support her work through this new project, *City of Wom_n*."

Of the project, Catherine Galasso shared "As we weave together first-person narratives of monumental, yet underrecognized, women from NYC history, we see our own struggles reflected back. Telling the stories of 25 marginalized women in just and respectful ways feels like an impossible task. But we embrace this impossibility as part of the process and believe that our honest and personal approach will at the very least inspire critical dialogue about who is remembered and how."

She continued "My team and I had a truly revelatory time when we performed 'notes on de goroat' at Guild Hall this past summer. Maybe it was the pre-show talk by Robert Wilson and Sheryl Sutton, or the fact that this was our first time back on stage before a live audience post lockdown, or the incredible support that I felt from the entire Guild Hall team, but I left feeling like it was one of best performances of that show we had ever given. Guild Hall therefore feels like the ideal place to return to develop our next work, which represents both exciting new territory for me as an artist."

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Catherine Galasso (Director) has been creating original dances for 15 years. Her works revolve around the inherent architectural and narrative qualities of the dancing body, granting equal influence to light, sound, and space. She embraces historical renderings and inspirations in a collaborative approach that values intuition and co-authorship. Galasso has personal roots in the avant-garde through her artist parents, evident in her unique style that is steeped in postmodern abstraction, combined with a pop sensibility that is playfully self-aware. Her work has been featured in the Oxford Handbook of Screendance Studies, and she has been commissioned by Danspace Project, River to River Festival, Arts Brookfield, ODC Theater and

the Kohler Arts Center, a.o. Her 2015 collaboration with Andy de Groat was nominated for a 'Bessie' Award and her 2018 *Alone Together* was awarded a San Francisco "Izzie."

Indah Mariana (Performer & Co-Creator) is a choreographer, performer, and dance educator. She has danced in Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, and across the US. Indah earned a BFA in dance from Purchase College Conservatory of Dance in 2008 and an MFA in dance from NYU Tisch School of the Arts in 2014. As a choreographer, Indah was awarded a Creative Engagement Grant from the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council in 2017. Indah has showcased work at venues and festivals including NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Lawrence University, Danspace Project, The Watermill Center, Seattle Asian Art Museum, LaGuardia Performing Arts Center, Dixon Place, and many others. Indah is currently a Visiting Assistant Arts Professor at NYU Tisch School of the Arts.

Martita Abril (Performer & Co-Creator) is a performer, choreographer, and teaching artist from the border city of Tijuana, México. She's worked with dance artists and companies throughout México, South America, and the US, including Lux Boreal, Cristina Baquerizo, Kim Brandt, Yoshiko Chuma, Rebecca Davis, Milka Djordevich, Daria Fain, Allyson Green, Abigail Levine, Mina Nishimura, Cori Olinghouse, Okwui Okpokwasili, Will Rawls, and was a performer in Simone Forti's *Dance Constructions* at the Museum of Modern Art. Martita has been the recipient of a Mexican national fellowship (FONCA) and a Fresh Tracks Artist at New York Live Arts (NYLA). Her work has been seen at NYLA, The Knockdown Center, Movement Research at the Judson Church, CPR, NYFA, HERE Arts Center, Potiker Theater at UCSD, Instituto de Cultura de Baja California, and site-specific locations throughout NYC and Tijuana. She was mentor for the NYFA Immigrant Artist Program from 2015-2020, and is currently the Programs and Events Manager at Movement Research (MR).

Sheryl Sutton (Performer & Dramaturg) began her career as a performer with theater director Robert Wilson in the 1970s, starring in a number of productions including *A Letter For Queen Victoria* (1974), *Einstein on the Beach* (1976, 1984) and *Zinnias* (2013), among others. During this period she toured the world with Wilson's company, performing at venues like Brooklyn Academy of Music, Festival d'Avignon, Kennedy Center, Metropolitan Opera, Opera Comique, Spoleto Festival, and Théâtre de la Musique. She recently performed with Big Dance Theater in *The Road Awaits Us*, directed by Annie-B Parson, at NYU Skirball Center (2019). She is also the subject of a forthcoming play by writer and critic Hilton Als, *Lives of the Performers*.

Saori Tsukada (Performer & Co-Creator) is a New York based creator/performer who harnesses her ability in theater, dance and beyond. Born in America and raised in Japan, Tsukada's "virtuoso" (TimeOut NY) performance with "startlingly precise movements" (*The New York Times*) have been seen at venues like BAM, Public Theatre, The Kitchen, Japan Society, La MaMa and more. Among her many collaborators are choreographers Yoshiko Chuma and Catherine Galasso, playwright/directors Aya Ogawa and Keishi Nagatsuka, composer Joe Diebes and video artist Katja Loher. Her acclaimed duet performance with composer/theater artist John Moran (nominated for Best Actress at Dublin Fringe Festival) has toured across the U.S. and Europe. Tsukada is an alumni of Devised Theater Working Group, where she developed *Club Diamond* (premiered at The Public Theater as part of Under the Radar '17) with co-creator Nikki Appino. Currently, she is developing a stage adaptation of Kafka's *Metamorphosis* (Direction: Aya Ogawa, Music: Philip Glass).

Toni Carlson (Performer & Co-Creator) is a dancer and performance maker based in Brooklyn. She has appeared in the work of Yanira Castro, Moriah Evans, Ishmael Houston-Jones & Miguel Gutierrez, Brendan Fernandes, Alex Rodabaugh, and Ming Wong as well as her own. She has presented her own work as part of the Rooftop/GroundFloor Introducing Series, Hot Consumer Trash, curated by Alex Romania, and through Movement Research at the Judson Church.

RoseLee Goldberg (GH Academy of the Arts Mentor) is a world-renowned art historian, critic and curator, is Founding Director and Chief Curator of Performa. Launched in 2004 to create a highly visible public platform for contemporary art and performance by artists, Performa, has changed public and academic perception of performance art with its exciting city-wide Biennial, ground-breaking commissions, publications, and original arts-broadcasting platform. Performa has inspired the establishment of performance departments in cultural institutions around the globe. Goldberg's many publications include her pioneering book, *Performance Art: from Futurism to the Present*, first published in 1979 and now in fourteen languages; *Laurie Anderson (2000)*, and *Performance Now; Live Art for the 21st Century* (2018). Former director of the Royal College of Art Gallery in London and curator at The Kitchen in New York, Goldberg has organized performance series at the Museum of Modern Art, The Guggenheim and Garage in Moscow. Her many awards include Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters from the French Government, Yoko Ono's Courage Award for the Arts, the Agnes Gund Curatorial Award, and the title of Honorary Advisor to the Ministry of Culture, Taiwan. A graduate of the Courtauld Institute, Goldberg has taught at NYU Steinhardt since 1987.

ABOUT THE GUILD HALL WILLIAM P. RAYNER ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

The Guild Hall William P. Rayner Artist-in-Residence offers artist collectives the time & space to research, experiment, and develop new ideas and projects. Artists are provided with creative mentorships and administrative support, a commissioning fee, living space, and a purpose-built studio on an exclusive property known as *THE TOWER*. Throughout several 2-4 weeklong residencies, residents connect with accomplished artists, community leaders, and philanthropists at weekly salon dinners. They receive mentorship from select members of the Guild Hall Academy of the Arts and professional staff, while visiting artist studios, cultural centers, and the natural landscape of the Hamptons. The program culminates with a presentation of works-in-process for either an invited or public audience. Invited audience consists of artists, community leaders, philanthropists, and industry professionals with the intention of raising support and potential transfer of work to other institutions. The presentation can take the shape of a curated exhibition, performance, recital, outdoor installation, reading, lecture, or other format.

Residents are invited to the program by a committee of celebrated artists, creative professionals, members of Guild Hall's Academy of the Arts, and Senior Leadership. Past selection committee members have included composer Carter Burwell, artist Eric Fischl, architectural critic Paul Goldberger, photographer Ralph Gibson, theatre-maker Stephen Hamilton, science writer Dava Sobel, director/choreographer Susan Stroman, creative writer Frederic Tuten, artist Carrie Mae Weems, and poet Phil Schultz.

*Photo: Catherine Galasso & Company in rehearsal at The Tower, Guild Hall William P. Rayner Artist-in-Residence, 2022.
Photo Credit: Matthew Rosario, Guild Hall Teen Arts Council 2022 for Guild Hall*

Principal Sponsor: Kathy Rayner in memory of her husband, Billy Rayner.

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City of Wom_n is supported by the New York State Council on the Arts, as well as by residencies at Gibney (January-February 2020), Snug Harbor in Staten Island (October 2021), with advisory support from Brian Rogers of the Chocolate Factory in Queens, and Kate Fowl of PS1.

ABOUT GUILD HALL

Guild Hall, one of the first multidisciplinary centers in the country to combine a museum, theater, and education space under one roof, was established in 1931 as a gathering place for community where an appreciation for the arts would serve to encourage greater civic participation. For nine decades, Guild Hall has embraced this open-minded vision and provided a welcoming environment for the public to engage with art exhibitions, performances, and educational offerings. Art and artists have long been the engine of Guild Hall's activities and the institution continues to find innovative ways to support creativity in everyone.

For more information about this and other programs, visit www.guildhall.org.