

## Curriculum Vitae

L. Martina Young, Ph.D.

e: [thelighthouse502@charter.net](mailto:thelighthouse502@charter.net)

w: <https://performingartslegacy.org/younglmartina/>

w: <https://www.apoeticbody.com>

p: +1. 7 7 5. 8 4 6. 0 1 1 7

### **education**

- Ph.D. Pacifica Graduate Institute 2007  
Mythological Studies with Emphasis in Depth Psychology  
Doctoral Dissertation: “Where Grace May Pass: A Poetics of the Body”  
Thesis: Transdisciplinary approach towards a theory of the body
- M.A. Pacifica Graduate Institute 2004  
Mythological Studies with Emphasis in Depth Psychology  
Thesis: Ernst Cassirer: Symbolic Imagination and Poetic Perception
- MFA Arizona State University – Dance, with Honors 1992  
MFA Thesis: “The Sound of One Dancer Dancing”- the solo dance form  
Special Studies in Kinesiology, Ideokinesis, Philosophy, Movement Therapy
- BFA California Institute of the Arts - Dance, with Honors | Ahmanson Scholar 1978  
Studies with Gus Solomons, Cristyne Lawson, Mia Slavenska, Bella Lewtizky,  
California Community Colleges Lifetime Teaching Certification 1981

### **invitationals**

- 2025 Panelist. “Spirit of Sankofa: Bridging the Legacy/Presenting Black Dance Then & Now.”  
Dr. Halifu Osumare, Presiding. San Francisco Public Library Koret Auditorium. <https://www.sfchronicle.com/entertainment/dance/article/bay-area-dance-2025-19991483.php>
- 2024 Professional Artist | Mentor. “Longevity Course.” Stanford University. Winter 2024.  
Interviews with Undergraduates as part of the Performing Arts Legacy Project (PAL).  
<https://performingartslegacy.org/younglmartina/>
- 2023 Professional Artist. Performing Arts Legacy Project (PAL). Member of the first  
Los Angeles | West Coast Cohort: Los Angeles Inner City Cultural Center (LAICCC).  
<https://www.innercityculturalcenter.org/performing-arts-legacy-project.html>
- 2020 Opening Remarks. University of Nevada, Reno’s First Black Film Festival. On the  
relationship of Langston Hughes’s poem, *A Dream Deferred*, to films, *What Happened*,  
*Miss Simone?* and Julie Dash’s, *Four Women*. (Sept. 24).  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VR3c1nHJC54>



published essays select

- “Arabesque | an art of connections, a poetics of the swerve.” Essay | Community Project. 2025  
On the ‘arabesque aesthetic’ ethos—unity & interdependency—this essay draws on Persian origins, somatic ways of knowing, phenomenology, neurobiology, and physics. Assigned for Aesthetics and Criticism course reading, *The Arabesque Project* invites community members to collaborate in public readings of select essay passages + live music by civic leaders, teens, elders, artists, and collaborative composer-musicians. *Coreopsis: Journal of Myth & Theater*. Editor, Lezlie Kinyon. 2025 Autumn Issue. <https://societyforritualarts.com/coreopsis/autumn-2025-issue/arabesque-3/>
- “An Expressive Body: The Beauty of Dancing in Elder Life.” Essay. 2024  
*Coreopsis: Journal of Myth & Theater*. Editor, Lezlie Kinyon. 2024 Autumn Issue. <https://societyforritualarts.com/coreopsis/autumn-2024-issue/an-expressive-body/>
- “How One Performance Transformed a Community of Women.” Essay. On the work of Ntozake Shange’s, *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf*.” *Sierra Nevada Ally*. Joe McCarthy, Editor. <https://sierranevadaally.org/2024/11/10/how-one-performance-transformed-a-community-of-women/> 2024
- “FLOOD/*Mayim, Mayim*.” Essay. On the mythic element of ‘water’ for my choreography project of the same title commemorating the communal response to the 100-year flood in northern Nevada. *One Of A Kind: The People and Places That Make Reno The Biggest Little City in the World*. Editor | Publisher, Mark Curtis. 2019
- “The Swan Lectures.” “Grace Notes.” Essays | Cultural Criticism. Monthly Column. 2013-16  
*Reno Tahoe Tonight Arts & Entertainment Magazine*. Editor | Publisher, Oliver X.
- “Euterpe’s Call: A Melodics of the Mythic Imagination.” Essay. *Coreopsis: Journal of Myth & Theater*. Editor, Lezlie Kinyon. <http://societyforritualarts.com/coreopsis/> 2013
- “perception (w)rites: a *respondeo* | On the Work of Ralph Lemon.” Essay. An experimental writing that foregrounds immediate perceptual experiences and the imaginal-intellectual connections made through observation of aspects of Ralph Lemon’s work over three days. *itch journal*. Editor, Meg Wolfe. Issue #12. 2012
- “Art: The *How* of Culture.” Essay. *neon*, Nevada Arts Council Arts Journal, Winter Issue. 1993  
First published in *Dance/USA Journal*. Bonnie Brooks, Editor. 1992 Spring Issue.

***sole author, contribution to books***

- “Beloved Bodies: Gestures Toward Wholeness.” *Toni Morrison: Forty Years in the Clearing*. Dissertation chapter on Toni Morrison’s poetics of the body. Bucknell University Press, 2012. Editor, Carmen Gillespie. This writing traces the bodily gestures of four characters in the novel, *Beloved*, underscoring the psychological processes of psychic healing.

**u n p u b l i s h e d / s e l f - p u b l i s h e d w r i t i n g   s e l e c t**

*SWAN: a poetical inquiry in dance, text & memoir*. Four chapbooks written in bricolage form on the swan trope. Collaborative project w/painters, musicians, spoken word (2014-2018).

“Grace in the Age of Obama.” Essay. Presented at the 2009 Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference, San Antonio, Texas. This essay frames Barack Obama’s presidency by expounding on ‘grace’ from diverse fields as Greek mythology, Religious Studies, dance, and Zen philosophy. Graphic Artist: Kelly Peyton.

“Angelitos Negros: A Phenomenological Writing 20 Years in the Making” (2021)  
Part of “Dancing on the Page” series. Languaging the phenomenal-poetic meaning of Donald McKayle’s solo section from his ballet, *Songs of the Disinherited*. Archived. Donald McKayle Papers, <https://special.lib.uci.edu/collections/dance>

**o r a t o r y | t a l k s**

2022 Guest Speaker. “Not *What* but *Who* is Beauty?” A nuanced look at the Greek imagination of *Aphrodite*, the Yoruba *Oshun*, and Hindu *Saraswati*. Relationship of beauty to integrative well-being. Jan. 25. Site: Promenade on the River. Reno, NV

2022 Guest Speaker. “bell hooks’s Tough Love: Practicing care, covenant, solitude, humor, and peace.” Feb. 25. Site: The Family Partnership®, Minneapolis, MN. Zoom.

2022 Guest Speaker. “Joan. Betty. bell. | The Sound of Three Singular Women Voicing.” On the legacies of Joan Didion, Betty White, and bell hooks. March 22. Site: Revel Rancharra Independent Senior Living Community, Reno, NV

2022 Guest Speaker. “Body-Mind Harmony: How Our Bodies Think and Our Minds Feel.” July 6. Site: Revel Rancharra Independent Senior Living Community. Reno, NV

2021 Guest Speaker. “What the World Needs Now, ... A Grammar of Empathy.” The body as bridge to empathic experience. 2021 Northern Nevada Diversity Summit. April 8. Site: University of Nevada, Reno. Zoom.

2020 Guest Speaker. Opening talk for the University of Nevada, Reno’s First Black Film Festival. On the relationship of Langston Hughes’s poem, *A Dream Deferred*, to films, *What Happened, Miss Simone?* and Julie Dash’s award-winning, *Four Women*. Sept. 24. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VR3c1nHJC54> Zoom.

2019 Guest Speaker. “Black Swans and the Mythopoetic Image.” On the fluidity of interior and exterior life in art-making. Bold II Conference & Festival. March 28. Site: National Library of Australia, Canberra, Australia. <https://youtu.be/FvPKJCCtpog?si=mIOoCGHu3gjN1pno>

- 2018 Keynote Speaker. “A Care for Particulars.” 2018 African Diaspora Student Graduating Class. May 16. Site: Joe Crowley Student Union, University of Nevada, Reno
- 2010 Guest Artist-Speaker. “Articulating Bodies.” Spoken Text for Student Performance. Sites: Damonte High School for the Performing Arts; Spanish Springs High School
- 2009 Guest Speaker. “The Aesthetics of Mythology: Stories of Transformation in Mary Zimmerman’s *Metamorphoses*.” Theater Department, University of Nevada, Reno
- 2009 Guest Speaker. “A Somatic Solution: De-stressing the Art World | An Aestheticization of Ethics.” 2009 Nevada Arts Council’s Oasis Arts Conference. Site: Renaissance Hotel, Reno, NV
- 2009 Guest Speaker. “Poetics of Identity and Hierarchal Power.” Site: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Reno, Nevada
- 2008 Keynote Speaker. “Rememory: Dreaming Continuity.” 20th Anniversary Northern Nevada Black Cultural Awareness Society. Site: John Ascuaga’s Nugget, Sparks, NV
- 1995 Keynote Speaker. “Art and Civility.” Site: Longwood University. Farmville, Virginia.
- 1995 Guest Artist. Master Dance Series. “A Poetic Body.” Workshop. Site: Santa Monica College. Santa Monica, CA
- 1992 Panelist Presentation. “African American Dance: A Lived Aesthetic.” 3rd International Conference on Black Dance. Site: Philadelphia, PA. Published by *Dance/USA Journal*, Bonnie Brooks, Editor.

**film | music video**

- Choreographer, Solo Dancer. *Four Women*. Julie Dash, Director, Cinematographer. 1976  
<https://youtu.be/ebR-gG3vfJ8?si=cL0tzoXbNYBxpbN2>
- Solo Dancer. Music Video. *Ribbon in the Sky*. Stevie Wonder. Black Bull Productions. 1983  
<https://youtu.be/zO2-kIqsGL4?si=bMFtlB9qfN41hvEU>
- Choreographer, Cameo Appearance. *Dancing in the Sheets*. Shalimar. 1984  
[https://youtu.be/fZmHu1t\\_5X0?si=PI7WZHRVhM0BJmly](https://youtu.be/fZmHu1t_5X0?si=PI7WZHRVhM0BJmly)
- Choreographer. *I Love You, Babe*. Babyface (Kenneth Brian Edmonds). 1986  
<https://youtu.be/QWC0SiQ55kE?si=R1fCy7ppBBtdgKp2>

## independent residencies & conferences select

- Northern Nevada Diversity Summit. Presentation, “What the World Needs Now | A Grammar of Empathy.” University of Nevada, Reno, NV. Zoom. 2021
- University of Nevada’s 1st Black Film Festival. Nevada Humanities | U of Nevada, Reno. 2020  
Film Introduction: *What Happened Miss Simone?* and *Four Women*.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VR3c1nHJC54>
- 2019 BOLD II Conference and Festival. The National Library of Australia, Canberra. 2019  
Performance and Artist Talk: “Black Swans and the Mythopoetic Image”
- Guest Artist Residency. Belconnen Arts Centre. Canberra, Australia. Feb-Mar. 2019  
Movement for Mixed Abilities: Parkinson’s, Down Syndrome, Autism.
- Guest Artist Residency. Canberra Dance Theatre, Australia. June 2018  
Musculoskeletal alignment and expressivity for dancers age 50+
- Teaching Artist. Artspace, The Tannery. Children’s Art Camp. Santa Cruz, CA July 2018  
"How Swan Bridged the World" | Multicultural stories and art-making.  
Students’ drawings features in third installment of the *SWAN* Books.
- Damonte Ranch Performing Arts High School. Dramaturge-Choreographer. 2009, 2013, 2017  
*Hiroshima: crucible of light* (2017); *Ajax in Iraq* (2013); Sophocles’ *Antigone* (2009).
- Black Choreographers Moving Toward the 21st Century. Panelist | Dance Artist. 1989  
Dr. Halifu Osumare, Neil Barclay, Presiding. Site: UCLA | Wadsworth Theater

## performance | community projects select

- Guest Dance Artist. Ageless Reading Theater’s 20th Anniversary. Honoring Sylvia Young, 2023  
Creator /Artistic Director. Site: Reno Little Theater, NV
- Guest Dance Artist. Performance & Talk on the processes of dance-making. Site: 2022  
Promenade on the River Senior Community. Reno, NV
- Guest Dance Artist. Camille Saint-Saëns’s *The Swan*. Reno Philharmonic Orchestra. 2020  
Laura Jackson, Conductor. Site: Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, NV
- Black Swans, an opera poem*. Director. Ensemble. Multicultural memoir collaboration 2018  
with teens, spoken word artists, composer/musician. Site: Lighthouse/Studio 502, NV
- Destination Dance /ARTOWN. Choreographer. *Nigunim: soulful prayer songs*. 2018  
Site-specific ensemble performance work. Nevada Art Museum Sculpture Garden.

- International Exhibit of Contemporary Art. Assisi, Italy. *SWAN* Performance III, IV. 2014, 2015  
 Investigations of the swan trope. Alchemy: *Hieros Gamos*; W. B. Yeats: *Solitude*.  
 Site: Città di Assisi, UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Choreographer. Nevada Repertory Theater. Mary Zimmerman's *Metamorphoses*. 2009  
 Site: University of Nevada, Reno.
- FLOOD/Mayim, Mayim*. Choreographer. Interactive community-specific work. 2007  
 Site: Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts Outdoor Plaza, Reno, NV
- Guest Dance Artist. Elgar's *Elegy*. Reno Chamber Orchestra. Vahe Khochayan, Conductor. 2001  
 Site: Nightingale Concert Hall, University of Nevada, Reno
- Guest Dance Artist. Ferde Grofé's, *The Grand Canyon Suite*. Northern Nevada Concert 1994  
 Orchestra. George Rosenberg, Conductor. Site: Elko Convention Center, Elko, NV
- Amigas*. Original two-person play from book, *Amigas: Letters of Friendship and Exile*. 2003  
 Commissioned by author-poets Emma Sepúlveda and Marjorie Agosín.  
 Collaboration w/Nevada Shakespeare Company. Site: Nevada Art Museum
- American Repertory Dance Theatre. Bonnie Oda, Janet Eilber, Artistic Dir's. 1995-1997  
 Reconstruction and performance of works by Martha Graham, Mary Wigman,  
 Ruth St. Denis, Sophie Maslow, Lester Horton, Pearl Primus, Donald McKayle.
- Donald Byrd/The Group. Dance Member. Donald Byrd, Choreographer/Artistic Dir. 1977-1979
- Batsheva Dance Company. Company Rehearsal Director for Donald McKayle's ballet, 1976  
*Album Leaves*. Music: Jelly Roll Morton. Israel.
- Inner City Repertory Dance Company. Donald McKayle, Artistic Director. 1973-1975  
 Repertory works by Donald McKayle, Lester Horton, Talley Beatty, Gloria  
 Newman. National Endowment for the Arts Touring Program.

**fellowships grants scholarships awards**

- Nevada Arts Council Artist Project Grant. "Arabesque | an art of connections,  
 a poetics of the swerve." Essay | Public Reading + Live Music. 2026
- Nevada Arts Council Artist Project Grant. *Black Swans, an opera poem* 2018
- Nevada Arts Council Jackpot Grant, *SWAN Book IV* (Literary) 2017
- Award of Excellence, Traditional Association of Cultural Harmony (Nevada) 2016
- Neila and Candadai Independent Scholar Travel Grant, RMMLA Conference 2009
- Governor's Arts Award for Excellence in the Arts, Nevada Arts Council 2008

Rosemary McMillan Lifetime Achievement Award, Sierra Arts Foundation	2005
National Endowment for the Arts Creative Project Grant w/NV Shakespeare Company	2003
Professional Artist Fellowship, Sierra Arts Foundation	1994, 1997, 2001
The Los Angeles Lehman Award for Excellence in the Arts	2001
Nevada Women’s Fund, Academic Scholarship	1989, 1990
Arizona State University Academic Scholarship, Graduate Assistantship, Dean’s List	1990, 1991
Nevada Arts Council: Artist Fellowships, Project Grants, Artist Residencies	1987-2018
California Community Foundation Brody Artist Fellowship	1987
National Endowment for the Arts Choreographer’s Fellowship	1983, 1984, 1985
Los Angeles Vanguard Award for Outstanding Solo Choreography/Performance	1982, 1983
Virginia Commission for the Arts Project Grant, The College of William and Mary	1981
Miami Intl. Film Festival 1st Place Award for Experimental Film, <i>Four Women</i>	1977
California Institute of the Arts, Ahmanson Scholarship	1976-78

**current teaching**

*The Flow*© Expressive Dance Movement Chair Class. Designed for elders, persons living with Parkinson’s Disease and neuro-physical challenges. Sites: Promenade on the River; Revel Rancharra Senior Living Community. Reno, NV 2021 -

**community service select**

Artistic Advisory Review Panelist. *Dog Days Dance Festival*. Site: Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts. Adam Cates, Director of Arts Education. Reno, NV 2022 -

Guest Dance Photographer. Oberlin Dance Company Residency. July ARTOWN. 2016  
Photo-documentary, “The Making of a Dance” - a new work with Reno-based dancers together with professional dancers of Oberlin Dance Company (ODC). Site: Fascinating Rhythms School of Performing Arts / Glenn Little Amphitheater, Reno, NV

Edited 2026.