

christine bonansea company



FLOATERS the Trilogy | photo by Robbie Sweeney

christine bonansea

is a New York-based dancer and choreographer with over 15 years of international experience in conceiving, directing/choreographing and performing movement-based works. She creates performances, installations, and films. She is the Artistic Director of Christine Bonansea Company, founded in 2010. Defined by expressive, virtuosic, improvisation-driven movement, her work inhabits an experimental, interdisciplinary, and collaborative environment in which other media – theater, video, visual art and design, spoken word, and music – play an important and integral part. Having studied Modern Literature at Paris' La Sorbonne, she cites writers and philosophers as major influences.

artist's statement

My work inhabits the intersection of artistic practice and philosophy. I draw on visceral emotions that engage audiences personally and socially while searching for deeper truths. In doing so, I pose existential questions that challenge the mainstream notions about the human condition. My movement vocabulary is sculpted by improvisation and innovation: I strive to create experimental forms rich in visual intensity and physical tension. I strongly believe that interaction and dialogue between diverse artists and communities are the key to transcending the inevitable limitations of choreography or theatrical dramaturgy; hence incorporating other media – music/sound, visual arts, film/video, and text/language – is crucial to my artistic practice.

Bonansea studied dance in her native France and later trained and performed with such luminaries as Regine Chopinot, Catherine Diverres, and Mathilde Monnier. She had the pleasure of working with such artists as Ralph Lemon, Anna Halprin, Catherine Galasso, Sara Shelton Mann, Faustin Linyekula, Tino Sehgal and Wally Cardona.

In New York City, Bonansea's work has been presented by Danspace Project, Dixon Place, and Movement Research at the Judson Church. Her dances have also been commissioned by and performed at numerous venues and festivals in the U.S. and worldwide, including Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, ODC Theater, San Francisco International Arts Festival, and The Joe Goode ANNEX (San Francisco); Headwater Theater Linda Austin Space (Portland); Atlantic Center for the Arts (South Beach, Florida); DanceMatters (Toronto, Canada); Whenever Wherever Festival (Tokyo, Japan); and at DOCK11 (Berlin, Germany).

Additionally, Christine is also an accomplished dance teacher in both professional / performative and therapeutic setting.

Christine Bonansea Company has been supported by funds from the Zellerbach Family Foundation, American Dance Abroad, Foundation for Contemporary Arts, and the French Consulate of San Francisco, among others.

www.christinebonansea.com



about

current dancers

Nicholas Bruder is a graduate of CalArts who has been collaborating with Christine Bonansea on FLOATERS 3. He also worked with the UK company Punchdrunk on their New York production of Sleep No More, for which he won the 2011 Falstaff Award for Best Principal Performance. He has performed with the Metropolitan Opera in *The Death of Klinghoffer* (dir. Tom Morris) and *Cavalleria Rusticana / Pagliacci* (dir. Sir David McVicar), as well as with Palissimo in their 2016 Bessie-nominated production of *Custodians of Beauty*. His own works as a choreographer and fine artist have been shown at multiple venues in the US and throughout Europe.

Sherwood Chen has worked as a performer with such artists as Anna Halprin, Xavier Le Roy, inkBoat, Sara Shelton Mann, Ko Murobushi, Liz Santoro, Oguri, Dohee Lee, Xavier Leroy and Grisha Coleman. In 2009, he co-founded a dance collaborative Headmistress with choreographer Amara Tabor-Smith. Since 1993, Chen facilitates Body Weather Laboratory movement research training originally developed by Min Tanaka, and is Associate Director of the Alliance for California Traditional Arts. Recently, he was a participating artist for the CESTA Arts Festival of International Interdisciplinary Collaborations in the Czech Republic, and was a San Francisco Foundation Fellow.

Amy Gernux is a Western MA born, New York-based performer and artist with great love and enthusiasm for dance theater, improvisation, and the blues. She has performed at BAM Fisher, Joe's Pub, Danspace, Judson Memorial Church, The Invisible Dog, Dixon Place, Roulette, JACK, Gelsey Kirkland Art Center, Bates College, and in festivals throughout New York and New England. She performs primarily with Raja Feather Kelly's the feath3r theory and Third Rail Projects (featured in recent production of *The Grand Paradise*), and is one-half of a two-piece folk/blues outfit, Greasy Slax. Amy is delighted to have collaborated with/performed the work of David Dorfman, Kyle Abraham, Laura Dean, Nicholas Leighter, Andrea Miller, Alex Springer | Xan Burley, Lisa Race, and many others.

Beth Graczyk is a choreographer, a performer, and a scientist. For the past 15 years, Graczyk has performed throughout the United States and internationally in Japan, Ecuador, France and India, participating in over 50 dance projects both as a dancer and a choreographer. As a dancer, Beth has worked extensively with such dance artists as Sara Shelton Mann, the feath3r theory, Mark Haim, Scott/Powell Performance Locate Performance Group, and Sheri Cohen & Co. Concurrently, she has contributed to many science publications in the field of cancer research, including a first author paper in *Analytical Biochemistry*.

Michaela Burns and Liane Burns are identical twin dancers based in San Francisco. Both studied dance in their native California and in Israel, including training in Gaga Technique under Aya Israeli. They also apprenticed with Kolben Dance Company, under the direction of Amir Kolben. Recently, Liane has had the privilege of performing with San Francisco based company FACT/SF in its world premier of *Falling*, while Michaela performed with FACT/SF Dance Company in its world premier of *Falling* at ODC Theater and collaborated with San Francisco based choreographer Scott Well.

Sebastian Grubb is a movement artist based in San Francisco. He has toured nationally and internationally with AXIS Dance Company since 2009, and with Scott Wells & Dancers since 2008. His choreographic work has been shown throughout California and also in Washington State, Wyoming, Iowa, Minnesota, Washington DC, Florida, New Hampshire, Russia, and on FOX TV's "So You Think You Can Dance".

Maryanna Lachman is a dancer, installation artist and curator based in Oakland, CA. She is a co-curator of the annual FRESH Festival in San Francisco and a visiting artist at Whitman College, Green Street Studios (Boston), and Dance New Amsterdam (NYC). Her current collaborative work includes *Snake Talk*, created with Abby Crain and Mara Poliak and touring



current dancers

in 2016/2017. Lachman works as a collaborative performer in works by Minna Harri, Sara Shelton Mann, Kathleen Hermesdorf, and others.

Yuko Matsuyama is a Japanese performing artist based in Berlin. In her early years, she studied Japanese classical dance Butoh and performed with the Takarazuka Revue theatre. Her current movement work is mainly focused on structured improvisation. And as a sound artist, she's performed with Tomi Paasonen of KUNST-STOFF, Uran Hirosaki (neoREVO/Tokyo), and Dance Company A+B Tanzbau. Her recent work with Cristina Elias and César Meneghetti has been shown at 55th Venice Biennale and The São Paulo Museum of Image and Sound. As a vocalist, she collaborate with international artists such as Murat Ertel (BabaZula), Jochen Arbeit (Einstuerzende Neubauten, AUTOMAT), and Schneider TM.

Yuko Kaseki is a Butoh dancer, performer, improviser, choreographer and teacher, based in Berlin. Her works, focused on breaking physical boundaries of existence, combine Butoh dance with objects, texts, and soundscapes. Numerous international collaboration include inkBoat (and Tableau Stations (San Francisco), LEIMAY CAVE (New York), improvisation duo KAYA with Antonis Anissegos and Theater Thikwa (Berlin), Salad theater (Seoul), among others. She performs and organizes dance-music improvisation series "AMMO-NITE GIG" with international performers and musicians in Berlin since 2004.

Ann Trepanier is a dance artist based in Toronto. She is a graduate from the School of Toronto Dance Theatre. Since 2011, she has been working with Bill Coleman / Coleman Lemieux and Company. Other collaborations include Amanda Acorn, Amelia Erhardt, Anna Mcdowell, Jennifer Dallas, Meryem Alaoui, Simon Renaud, Vazari Dance Project. Other engagements include performing Multiform(s) by Amanda Acorn at the FTA 2016 in Montreal, Traditional Dance by Amelia Erhardt at the OFFTA, and the European tour of L'envers by Ici'bas Company.

Yuri Shimaoka is a dancer based in Berlin. She has studied classical ballet, jazz dance contemporary dance and acting in her native Japan. Since 2011, she began collaborating with The Forsythe Company dancer Yoko Ando, contributing to such projects as DivisualPlays, YCAM InterLab. She has also been working with such artist as Marten Spangberg, Julia Maria Koch, and Alice Phoebe Lou.

Alexander Zendzian started dancing while growing up in the Penobscot Valley in central Maine. Since relocating to the Bay Area he has been honored to perform with Anna Halprin, Sara Shelton Mann, Joe Goode, Jodi Lomask, Kathleen Hermesdorf, Amelia Rudolph, Kim Epifano, and Lisa Wymore & Sheldon Smith.



FLOATERS the Trilogy | photo by Robbie Sweeny

music & sound design

Jorge Bachmann aka [ruidobello] is a media artist, experimental composer and curator based in San Francisco.

Since the early 1980s, he has been exploring the strange, unique and microcosmic sounds of everyday life, collecting field recordings and creating soundscapes meant for deep listening. He is also a founder member of a multi-disciplinary group MEI.collectiv [ruidobello] has exhibited and performed in both Americas, Europe, and Asia. In recent years, he has performed and improvised with the likes of Bryan Day, Michael Gendreau, Mason Jones, David Graves, Danishta Rivero, Markus Hawkings and Takahiro Kawaguchi. At present, he is one half of the synth duo snowsteps and one fourth of Collision Stories.

Charlotte Benedittini works in sound performance, improvisation, installation video and sound and light installation. She is particularly interested in computer bugs, glitches, and accidents in general. Her projects questions the limit of perception, and attempt to establish a physical relationship with spectators.

Jean Bender discovered circuit bending in 2008. Since then, he has been hacking electronic components – everything that can produce an interesting noise. He plays experimental music on homemade instruments which he builds himself. He enjoys collaborating with other artists – musicians, dancers or videographers looking to extend his artistic practice beyond technical limits. He is a part of an artistic collective H.A.K. LO-FI RECORD (with Ax Delbor).

Nicole Carroll is a composer, performer, sound designer, and builder based in Providence, RI. Her work spans installation, improvisation, and fixed media performance. She is active as a sound designer and composer in theater, performs electronic music under the alias “n0izmk”, and builds custom synthesizers and performance sensor systems. She is also a bassoonist, currently developing a sensor system for augmented bassoon. Other research interests include soft circuits and wearable sensors, and AV synthesis on mobile devices and embedded systems. Through her work, she seeks to reconcile the natural world with technology. Themes found in her work derive from reflections on nature, supernatural phenomenon, literature, and the human psyche. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Computer Music and Multimedia at the Multimedia & Electronic Music Experiments (MEME) program at Brown University.

Jacob Felix Heule is a percussionist and electronic musician focused on sound-oriented improvisation following the traditions of electro-acoustic improv, noise, and 20th-century composition. Heule’s Norwegian/American acoustic noise ensemble Sult has been actively touring the US and Europe, and released its second album, Harm, in 2013. Heule has also been actively touring with Voicehandler, his electro-acoustic duo with Danishta Rivero, and they are currently working on a recording of their open-form song cycle.

Danishta Rivero is a musician and sound artist based in San Francisco. She is a vocalist, and also performs on the Hydrophonium, a water-based electro-acoustic percussion instrument she created. She has recently been active with two duo projects: Voicehandler, with percussionist Jacob Felix Heule; and Las Sucias, with vocalist and noise artist Alexandra Buschman.

collaborators



visual arts & video

Olivia Ting is interested in the role of digital technology in the fabric of contemporary lives and how our perception of recorded media (film, photography, audio) as “reality” has shifted as technology becomes more sophisticated. Olivia has done design work for San Francisco Performances, the Brooklyn Children’s Museum, and San Jose Children’s Discovery Museum. She is currently working on a commissioned video projection as part of permanent exhibition in the Natural History Gallery (now under renovation) of Oakland Museum of California.

Yoann Trelu is a photographer and digital media artist based in Berlin. She creates imagery as well as project-specific multimedia software. She is particularly interested in themes such as geometry and the idea that shapes and colors can tell stories; the relationship between image and sound; and computer creativity understood as an artistic partnership between a human and a machine. Over the last decade Trelu has worked on over fifty stage productions with various theater and dance companies throughout Europe, USA and Asia, including Post-Theater (Berlin, New York, Tokyo), Konzert Theater Bern (Switzerland), Landestheater Coburg (Germany), Jess Curtis-Gravity (Berlin, San-Francisco), Tatraum Projekt Schmidt (Dusseldorf), Ten Pen Chii (Berlin), Shang Chi Sun (Berlin, Taiwan), Junge Staatsoper (Berlin), and Theater Strahl (Berlin).

Ian Winter is an award-winning video and media artist working at the intersections of performance, architectural form, and time-based media. He often collaborates with composers, directors, and choreographers to create both staged and open-ended media environments through performance, visual and acoustic media. Recent collaborators and media projects include with Myra Melford, Chitresh Das Dance, Netia Jones, Francis Ford Coppola, Robert Moses Kin, ODC Dance, Alice Arts, Pamela Z, Evelyn Ficarra, paige starling sorvillo, /blindsight, Sara Kraft, Mary Armentrout Dance Theater, Shadowlight Puppet Theater, and others. His work has been presented at such venues as The Kitchen, EMPAC, MIT New Media Center, Mass Art, London Cutting Edge Festival, and many more.

Robert Flynt’s work in photography and visual arts has been widely exhibited in the United States and abroad since 1980, both in major museums (including 1992 show “New Photography 8” at the Museum of Modern Art in New York), galleries, and alternative spaces. His collaborative works in performing arts include commissions from Brooklyn Academy of Music (with choreographer Bebe Miller), the L.A. International Arts Festival (with Ishmael Houston-Jones and Dennis Cooper, and many others. Flynt has frequently collaborated with Pavel Zustiak’s Palissimo on many projects including Bessie-nominated *The Painted Bird* trilogy, and with Yoshiko Chuma on *The Yellow Room* and *Love Story, Palestine*. His most recent projects were Octavio Campos’ “Triple Quince”, (Baryshnikov Arts Center, NYC), and “Exit Strategies” with Chris Masters Dance (Triskelion Arts). Flynt has received fellowships from the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, Art Matters, and the Peter S. Reed Foundation, as well as many prestigious American and international residencies.

collaborators



past collaborators

Dancers:

Yaka Yamamoto

Erin Okayama

Raoul Germano

Justin Morrison

Robert Kingsbury

Abby Crain

Jorge Rodolfo De Hoyos

Rosemary Hannon

Kira Kirsch

Marina Fukushima

Composers:

Zachary James Watkins

Noah Phillips

Shane Myrbeck

Emily Shisko

Visual artists:

Ramona Porime Harvey
(costume)

Lauren Klein
(sculpture, costume)

Photographers:

Lydia Daniller

Nicky Bourque

Robbie Sweeny

Sigel Eschkol



OnlyHuman

First Look | Work in Progress:
JACK, NYC (as an APAP showcase)

Concept, choreography, and
performance:
Christine Bonansea

Music composed and performed by
Nicole Carroll

Visual design:
Yoann Trelu

Lighting design:
Elizabeth Mak

Photography:
Robert Flynt

Approx. running time: 30 minutes

OnlyHuman is a solo i inspired by Friedrich Nietzsche's aphoristic volume *Human, All Too Human*. The performer/choreographer is investigating the stark contradiction between our race's capacity for freedom and beauty against its most destructive and illogical behaviors. Created in collaboration with visual artists and conceived as a departure point for a future series, this highly kinetic and virtuosic dance is a meditation on bodily images and stereotypes of self in the context of the environment – geography, emotions, social structure.

VIDEO TRAILER

OnlyHuman | photo by Malcolm Betts



WORKS

floaters a trilogy

The trilogy premiere:
April 2016, The Lab San Francisco
Total running time: 75 minutes

Produced with the support from The Lab, San Francisco; Dock11 Eden 2013-14, Berlin; Foundation for Contemporary Arts' 2014 Emergency Grant; The American Dance Abroad's Rapid Response 2014; Milk Bar residency program; Kunst Stoff arts residency program; and LAD - Dancer's Group 2014.

VIDEO TRAILER

*"Reality is merely an illusion, albeit a very persistent one."
– Albert Einstein*

"Everything you see or hear or experience in any way at all is specific to you. You create a universe by perceiving it, so everything in the universe you perceive is specific to you." – Douglas Adams

Created in collaboration with a team of international artists, **FLOATERS** is an multidisciplinary trilogy exploring the subjective perception of reality, identity, and alienation. The title of the trilogy refers to an eye condition, with drifting specks appearing the affected person's field of vision as they move their eyes, and darting away when they focus on them. In this three-part study of how perception influences emotion, Bonansea's point of departure is the mental mechanism of projection, essential for the experience of empathy and identification.

The work's three parts are devised to multiply the ambiguity of perception and its perpetual mutability. Each part is a self-contained choreography with a narrative that explores the sensitive nature of human emotions. Establishing a playful dynamic with her audiences, Bonansea creates an immersive environment, turning spectators into performers, and prompting each individual to absorb and mirror a multitude of events occurring in a contained space.

floaters 1

Premiere:
DOCK 11, Berlin, 2013

Concept and choreography:
Christine Bonansea

Performers:
Christine Bonansea, Taka Yamamoto

Music composed and performed by
Charlotte Benedittini and Jean Bender

Video design:
Olivia Ting, Ian Winter

Approx. running time: 25 minutes

A Rorschach test in movement and light, this highly kinetic “fake solo” is in constant interplay with video projections and dynamic lighting shifts, where dancing bodies transform into a hybrid creature. Altering audience’s perception with the use of pulsating soundscape and shadow play, Bonansea conjures an elusive environment at the crossroads of reality and perception, inviting the audiences to constantly question and redefine what is truly there and what is just a product of their overstimulated senses.



WORKS

floaters 2

Concept and choreography:
Christine Bonansea

Performers:
Michaela Burns and Liane Burns

Music composed and performed by
Voicehandler | Danishta Rivero
and Jacob Felix Heule

Video design:
Olivia Ting, Ian Winter

Approx. running time: 25 minutes

Featuring twin female performers, FLOATERS#2 represents a phantasmagoric transformation of a dual body-mind. Opening with an image of two women rife with religious iconography, wax idols transform into wild, hectic monster bodies. The mirror surface serves as a metaphor of the feminine.

FLOATERS the Trilogy | photo by Robbie Sweeny



WORKS

floaters 3

Premiere:
DOCK11, Berlin, 2014

Concept and choreography:
Christine Bonansea

Performers:
NYC CAST: Brandin Steffensen,
Nicholas Bruder, and Robert Kentucky
CURRENT DANCERS: Sherwood Chen,
Alexander Zendzian, Sebastian Grubb

Music composed and performed by
Voicehandler | Danishta Rivero and
Jacob Felix Heule

Light and video design:
Ian Winter and Olivia Ting

Approx. running time: 25minutes

In the final installment of the trilogy, Bonansea sets three monk-like men – a trinity that embodies one mind – on a labyrinthine path towards the center of the space, their final destination. Rich in ritualistic imagery and metaphor, this work explores spiritual fulfillment, where movement towards unity transcends physical limitations of each individual.



asteria

Premiere:
Danspace Project, NYC, May 2015
(solo version);
Movement Research at Judson Church,
August 2016 (version for 6 performers)

Concept and choreography:
Christine Bonansea

Performers:
Christine Bonansea, Amy Gernux,
Beth Graczyk, Maryanna Lachman,
Yuko Matsuyama, Ann Trepanier,
Yuri Shimaoka, Yuko Kaseki
Music composed and performed by
Jorge Bachmann and Danishta Rivero
Yuko Matsuyama
Visual design: Yoann Trelu

Approx. running time: 60 minutes

ASTERIA is a choreographic project that questions temporality using the Nietzschean idea of the "eternal recurrence". The title refers to an ancient Greek goddess, known for her changing appearances/representations. Flooded in otherworldly blue light, a circular stage emerges from the darkness and becomes populated by female figures. Propelled by enigmatic soundscape, a recurring choreographic structure is set in the circular, energetically charged space. Interconnected solo dances reveal the potential for body's transformation through the time.

Produced with support of DOCK11 / Eden 2015-16, Berlin; Artscape artistic residency, Toronto; and the Centre National de La Danse, Paris.

[VIDEO TRAILER](#)

ASTERIA | photo by Sigel Eschkol

WORKS

contact

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