



Asian Art Museum, Lenora Lee Dance, Asian Improv aRts, and API Cultural Center present

## World Premiere of ***Convergent Waves: SF*** performances by Lenora Lee Dance

From the award winning site-specific, multimedia dance company, Lenora Lee Dance brings you ***Convergent Waves: SF*** is a new site-specific, multimedia performance by Lenora Lee Dance making a collective statement for the preservation of community, as neighborhoods across the country face cultural erosion, loss of businesses, displacement through gentrification and the pandemic, eliciting stories of community agency, resilience, and transformation.

### **Asian Art Museum**

**Thursday, June 9, 2022**

**6-7 PM, and 7:30-8:30 PM**

*Performances will begin on time, please arrive early.*

*These performances are also part of Asian Improv aRts' 35th Anniversary programming and Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center's United States of Asian America Festival.*

### [LINK TO ARTIST PHOTOS](#)

**(feel free to take photos from this folder to use. Please credit dancers & photographers)**

**Conceived, Produced & Directed by** Lenora Lee

**Choreography by** Lenora Lee in collaboration with **Performers / Dance Collaborators:** Naoko Brown, IJ Chan, Flora Hyoin Kim Han, Lynn Huang, SanSan Kwan, Johnny Huy Nguyen

**Media Design by** Lenora Lee

**Projection Images** courtesy of Amalia Avendando, Junjie Lin 林俊杰, Abdoalehman Sade

**Interviewee Voiceover by** Malak Alameri, Asala Alhanshali, Amalia Avendando, Martha Jaime, Junjie Lin 林俊杰, Aisha Majdoub, Frederick Martin, Abdoalehman Sade, Eduardo Sandoval, Emelita Torio, Anonymous

**Interview Translation by** Sherman Ayala, Rachel Chen, Rosa Mariscal, Diana Pang, Jacinta Wu

**Props & Sets:** Sherman Ayala, Flora Hyoin Kim Han, Lenora Lee, Johnny Huy Nguyen

**Audio / Visual Crew:** John O'Shea, Timmy Leong, additional museum staff

**Production Assistance:** Edward Kaikea Goo, Q. Quan

**Resource Partner Organization:** Chinatown Community Development Center

### **Music**

**Vijay Iyer**

"Ascent", "Proximity", "Prayer" composed and performed by Vijay Iyer

"Ghost Time" composed by Vijay Iyer, performed by Fieldwork

*The following are used by arrangement with ECM Records:*

"Chorale" and "Geese" Composed by Vijay Iyer. Performed by the Vijay Iyer Trio.

"Passage" Composed by Vijay Iyer. Performed by Vijay Iyer and Wadada Leo Smith.

"Mutation X: Time" Composed by Vijay Iyer. Performed by Vijay Iyer, Miranda Cuckson, Michi Wianko, Kyle Armbrust, and Kivie Cahn-Lipman

"The Empty Mind Receives" Composed and performed by Vijay Iyer and Wadada Leo Smith, published by Kobalt Music Publishing America Inc. and Kiom Music. (ASCAP).

### **Tatsu Aoki**

"Let it not fall" composed and performed by Tatsu Aoki, with Kioto Aoki, Jamie Kempkers, Edward Wilkerson Jr. Courtesy of Asian Improv Records.

### **Francis Wong**

"Revolutionary Process 1.0" (2013) BMI, from the "Trio SF" album (to be released in 2022).

Composer and leader: Francis Wong. Performed by Francis Wong, Deszon X. Claiborne, Tatsu Aoki. Courtesy of Asian Improv Records.

### **Lenora Lee Dance**

Artistic Director: Lenora Lee

Project Consultant: Lucy Tafler

Development Consultant: Francis Wong

**Convergent Waves: SF** is the second iteration of a multi-city project (second to [Convergent Waves: Boston](#) April 2022), which will continue to shed light on the stories of displacement and gentrification in communities across the country, touring Los Angeles (2023/2024), and New York City (2023/2024). For those interested in sharing contacts and resources in LA & NYC to help Lenora Lee Dance with the tour, please email [LenoraLeeDance@gmail.com](mailto:LenoraLeeDance@gmail.com)

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Visit [www.LenoraLeeDance.com](http://www.LenoraLeeDance.com) for more information about this project, information about redistricting recently approved in San Francisco, as well as Spanish and Chinese written translations of interviewee stories included in the performance.

### **OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **June 30 | [EXPANSIONS // HORIZONS](#)** | Program A: 6-7pm & Program B: 7:30-8:30pm @ Asian Art Museum (200 Larkin Street, San Francisco)
- **Sept 1 - 11 | [World Premiere of In the Movement](#)** w/ Lenora Lee Dance | Thursdays-Saturdays 8pm, Sundays 2pm @ ODC Theater (3153 17th Street, San Francisco)

### **BIOGRAPHIES**

#### **Lenora Lee Dance**

Lenora Lee Dance (LLD) integrates contemporary dance, film, music, and research and has gained increasing attention for its sustained pursuit of issues related to immigration, incarceration, global conflict, and its impacts, particularly on women and families. The company creates works at times crafted for the proscenium, or underwater, or in the air, and at times are site-responsive, immersive and interactive. Its work has grown to encompass the creation, presentation and screening of films, museum and gallery installations, civic engagement and educational programming. [www.LenoraLeeDance.com](http://www.LenoraLeeDance.com)

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

**Lenora Lee** (artistic director) The company is directed by San Francisco native Lenora Lee, who has been a dancer, choreographer and artistic director for the past 24 years in San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York. She has been an Artist Fellow at the deYoung Museum, a Djerassi Resident Artist, a Visiting Scholar at New York University 2012-2016, an Artist in Residence at Dance Mission Theater, and a 2019 United States Artists Fellow. Lenora is currently artist in residence at Pao Arts Center in Boston, and ArtsEmerson.

**Vijay Iyer** (music) Described by *The New York Times* as a “social conscience, multimedia collaborator, system builder, and rhapsodist,” composer-pianist Vijay Iyer is one of the leading music-makers of his generation. His honors include a MacArthur Fellowship, a Doris Duke Performing Artist Award, a United States Artist Fellowship, a Grammy nomination, and the Alpert Award in the Arts. His recent album with drummer Tyshawn Sorey and bassist Linda May Han Oh titled *Uneasy* (ECM Records, 2021), was named Best New Music in *Pitchfork* and was hailed by the New Yorker as “a triumph of small-group interplay and fertile invention.” <https://vijay-iyer.com>

**Tatsu Aoki** (music) is a prolific composer, musician, filmmaker, and educator. Based in Chicago, Aoki works in a wide range of musical genres, ranging from traditional Japanese music, jazz, experimental and creative music. Aoki studied experimental filmmaking at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and is currently an adjunct Full Professor at the Film, Video and New Media Department, teaching film production and history courses. To this date, Aoki has produced and appears in more than 90 recording projects and over 30 experimental films. [www.tatsuaoki.com](http://www.tatsuaoki.com)

**Francis Wong** (music) was dubbed one of “the great saxophonists of his generation” by the late jazz critic Phil Elwood. Few musicians are as accomplished as Wong: for over three decades he has performed his innovative brand of jazz and creative music for audiences in North America, Asia, and Europe. A prolific recording artist, Wong is featured on more than forty titles. [www.franciswong.net](http://www.franciswong.net)

**Naoko Brown** (dance – Boston) is a native of Nagoya, Japan. She was introduced to classical ballet by Michiko Matsumoto, and continued her training with Barbara Banaskowski Smith in Lansing, MI, performing with students of the National Ballet School of Gdansk in Poland, and Vaganova Ballet School in St. Petersburg, Russia. Brown received her B.F.A. in Dance from The Boston Conservatory. She has performed with Michiko Matsumoto Ballet, Urban Nutcracker, Zoé Dance, Contrapose, Prometheus Dance and Jo-Mé Dance. She is currently faculty at The Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Walnut Hill School for the Arts Community Dance Academy, and Boston Ballet.

**I.J. Chan** (陳加恩) (dance – Boston) is a dance artist and educator from Boston, MA. She has dedicated her life to training and performing intensively in multiple dance genres and under many choreographers. In her own choreographic work, IJ is interested in intersecting and exploring the Asian-American narrative. She is committed to bringing quality performing arts instruction to low-income and minority youth populations within Boston. She also works as a freelance graphic designer, visual artist and seamstress.

**Flora Hyoin Kim Han** (dance – Boston) is a Korean-American dancer, choreographer, and dance educator. Since earning her B.F.A. in Dance from University of Wisconsin-Madison, she has worked with The Click, Prometheus Dance, Jenna Pollack, Lenora Lee Dance, beheard.world, Jennifer Lin, Deborah Abel Dance Company, Lorraine Chapman, and Urbanity Dance. Flora is Assistant Professor of Dance at Boston Conservatory at Berklee, a Lecturer of Dance at Brandeis University (2021), a senior faculty at Urbanity Dance and Coastline Ballet Center. Flora's artistic vision is to bring inclusivity, empowerment, and joy to individuals and communities through the power of dance.

**Lynn Huang** (dance - San Francisco) Trained in modern dance, ballet, and Chinese dance, Lynn has performed with Lenora Lee, Erin Malley, & Philein Wang in San Francisco, and HT Dance Company, Dance China NY & Ella Ben-Aharon/Sahar Javedani in NYC. She studied at Minzu University Dance Conservatory in Beijing, China on a Fulbright fellowship and graduated magna cum laude from Barnard College of Columbia University.

**SanSan Kwan** (dance - San Francisco) teaches dance and dance studies at UC Berkeley. She has danced with Jonathon Appels, Joanna Mendl Shaw, Chen and Dancers, and Maura Nguyen Donohue/In Mixed Company, among others.

**Johnny Huy Nguyen** (dance - San Francisco) is a second generation Vietnamese American multidisciplinary dance artist. His practice is centered on the body, recognizing its power as a place of knowing, site of resistance, gateway to healing, and crucible of imagination. Drawing from fluency in multiple movement modalities rooted in a street dance foundation, he weaves together dance with text, ritual, performance art, and other mediums to navigate the intersections between the personal and the political. He has appeared in the works of Lenora Lee Dance, KULARTS, and Embodiment Project and has performed nationally.

[www.johnnyhuynghuyen.com](http://www.johnnyhuynghuyen.com) IG: @johnny.huy.nguyen

***The Convergent Waves performance pieces in Boston and San Francisco*** are supported by ArtsEmerson, Asian Improv aRts, API Cultural Center, Asian Art Museum, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center / Pao Arts Center, California Arts Council, Chinatown Community Development Center, Fleishhacker Foundation, San Francisco Arts Commission, San Francisco Grants for the Arts, and by Generous Individuals. The creation, presentation of and production residencies for *Convergent Waves* were made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Its creation is also supported in part by an award to Pao Arts Center from the National Endowment for the Arts, and artist residencies at ArtsEmerson and Pao Arts Center.

**Special thanks to** Indra Mungal, John O’Shea, and Allison Wyckoff of Asian Art Museum, Soha Abdou, Rachel Chen, Lily Li, Rosa Mariscal, and Diana Pang of Chinatown Community Development Center, Lorenzo Listana, Hang Le To of Au Co Vietnamese Cultural Center, Will Douglas of Saint Francis Foundation

