

Elaine Summers

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Elaine Summers; Choreographer, Intermedia Artist

Elaine Summers has worked in a variety of forms, including dance, film and Intermedia. She was one of the original members of Judson Dance Theater and a founder of Experimental Intermedia Foundation. During the Judson years, she was a pioneer of Intermedia works such as *Overture* and *Fantastic Gardens*. In 1968 she founded Experimental Intermedia Foundation, and she was artistic director of the *First Intermedia Festival* at the Guggenheim Museum in 1984 and the *Second Intermedia Festival* at the University of Iowa in 1987.

Don McDonagh and Robert Dunn chronicled the beginning of Intermedia:

"McD: There's an interesting description by John McDowell of the opening of the first concert: 'The very first dance that ever happened at Judson was really very extraordinary in a couple of ways. First, the beginning of it, which was Bob Dunn's doing and was beautiful. The dance concert was announced to start at 8:15 and they went upstairs into the sanctuary to find that in order to get to their seats they had to walk across a movie that was going on. This movie consisted of some chance edited footage by Elaine Summers and test footage that I made... And we went on exactly, precisely for 15 minutes. The first dance which was by Ruth Emerson started on the dot of 8:30. As the movie was just about to go off, the six people or so involved came out, the movie sort of dissolved into the dance.'

Dunn: Yes this was really incredible, the beginning of the first (Judson)concert. It doesn't sound like much now but it was extraordinary, my hair stands on end to think how that worked. Nobody ever did anything like that."*

Elaine founded the Kinetic Awareness Center in 1985, a body therapy and system for understanding connections between mind and body. Her work is currently being archived at the Jerome Robbins Dance Collection of Lincoln Center Public Library.

SkyDance Skytime Skyweb Improvization with Sun Moon & Stars is her ongoing pursuits of creating 'Rainbow' - a combined effect of different elements which in her case are dance and projected images. It features Kiori Kawai solo dancing with multiple projections of sky and stars. In continuation of the developing evolution of SkyDance Skytime Skyweb, and as a transection of a multiplicity of times and places, Thomas Körtvélyessy will be joining this stage of the ongoing performance via satellite from Rotterdam Holland. It was premiered at St. Marks Church/Danspace on March 18th, 2010 for *Platform 2010* curated by Juliette Mapp. It was also performed at Ione's 15th Annual Dream Festival on November 5th, 2010.

Elaine has worked with such artists as Pauline Oliveros, Ione, Davidson Gigliotti, Trisha Brown, Nam June Paik, James Byrne, Meredith Monk, Malcolm Goldstein, Philip Corner, Jon Gibson and Paula Court.

*from Don McDonagh, *The Rise & Fall & Rise of Modern Dance*

Education

- 1985 Master of Arts; Choreography and Film. New York University
1951 Julliard School of Dance
1947 Bachelor of Science; Art Education. Massachusetts College of Art

From 1947 to 1962 Ms. Summers studied variously with Louis Horst, Merce Cunningham, Daniel Nagrin, Don Redlich, Mary Anthony, Charlotte Selver, Carola Speads, Jean Erdman, Janet Collins, and at the Martha Graham School. Ms. Summers also took classes and workshops with Robert and Judith Dunn in connection with her work at the Judson Dance Theater.

Selected Grants and Fellowships

- 2007 Women's Film preservation Fund of New York in Film and Television
1989 Fulbright Research Scholar
1971 - 1986 National Endowment for the Arts
1970 - 1985 New York State Council on the Arts
1981 Creative Artists Public Service (CAPS)
1969 Friends of the New Cinema,

Selected Concerts and Intermedia Performances

- 2011 **SUN MOON & STARS**, Fundação de Serralves/Museu de Arte Contemporânea, Porto
2011 **TWO GIRLS DOWNTOWN IOWA**, *Down Low Up High. Performing the Vernacular* at Argos Center for Art & Media in Brussels
2010 **SUN MOON & STARS** for *Ione's 15th Annual Dream Festival* at Emily Harvey Foundation
2010 **Dance for Carola** for *A SANCTUARY FOR THE ARTS*, Judson Church, NYC
2010 **SUN MOON & STARS** for *PLATFORM 2010* at Danspace at St. Marks Church, NYC
2009 **Making Rainbows: an evening of intermedia**, Anthology Film Archives, NYC
2008 **Gulumphing**, site-specific dance on the street, NYC
2007 **Hidden Forest**, Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors
2005 **Invitation to Secret Dancers** at Solar1, NYC
2005 **Crow's Nest / Solitary Geography** for Boston Cyber Arts Fest. MA
2003 **Judson Fragments** at Gray Art Gallery, NYC
2000 **SKYTIME** at Harvestworks, NYC
1999 **Iowa Blizzard** at Univ. of Wisconsin
1998 **Crow's Nest** at Hunter Museum of Art, TN
1997 **Country Houses** for Robert Dunn Memorial at Judson Church, NYC
1997 **Dance for Lots of People** at St.Marks Church, NYC
1995 **Solitary Geography & Open Field Dance** (Improvisatory Dance Scores). Performed by the Mary St. Dance Co. Colony Theater, Miami, Florida.
1986 **Flowing Rock/Still Waters**. Intermedia dance concert, music by Pauline Oliveros and Philip Corner. Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, NYC
1984 **SkyDance/SkyTime**. Intermedia Dance Concert, music by Carman Moore, sculpture by Otto Piene. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, NYC
1983 **Cool Runs and Hot Leaps**. Environmental Dance Concert, music by Stuart Dempster. Castle Clinton, NYC
1983 **Solitary Geography**. Intermedia dance concert, performed by Min Tanaka, Suzushi Hanayagi, Merian Soto and Patti Bradshaw, music by Jon Gibson. Performing Garage, New York City.
1982 **SkyDance**. Environmental dance concert, sculpture by Otto Piene. 2nd Intermedia Art Festival, Iowa University, Iowa City,
1982 **Theatre Piece for Chairs and Ladders**. Experimental Intermedia Foundation, NYC 1980

- Crow's Nest.** Intermedia dance concert, music by Pauline Oliveros.
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, NYC
- 1978 **Youbetcha.** Intermedia dance concert. Riverside Dance Theater, New York City
- 1977 **Energy Changes (Version IV).** Brooklyn Museum, New York.
- 1977 **Town House.** Intermedia theatre piece, text by Robert Dunn.
Anthology Film Archives, NYC
- 1977 **Windows in the Kitchen.** Intermedia dance concert. Performed by Matt Turney,
music by Larry Karsch. The Kitchen, NYC.
- 1977 **Solitary Geography.** Performed by Matt Turney, music by Pierre Ruiz.
Merce Cunningham Studio, NYC
- 1975 **Illuminated Workingman.** Intermedia dance concert, music by Carman Moore.
Niagara Square, Buffalo, New York,
- 1971 **Around the Boat Pond.** Intermedia dance concert, music by Sun Ra. Central Park,
NYC
- 1970 Film for **Spiral Variations** on a theme by Benjamin Britten by Opera Today,
Eight 16mm films by Elaine Summers, The Armory, NYC
- 1969 **Kinetic Athletic Frenzy.** FilmDance. C.W. Post College, Long Island, New York.
- 1968 **Walking Dance for Any #** FilmDance and Intermedia dance concert.
Museum of Modern Art, NYC
- 1966 **Memorial for Edgar Varese.** Dance Concert commissioned by Malcolm Goldstein,
composed by Malcolm Goldstein. performed by Archie Shepp, Bridge Theater, NYC.
- 1965 **Theater Piece for Chairs & Ladders,** composed by Malcolm Goldstein
performed by Archie Shepp. East End Theater
- 1964 **Country Houses.** composer Robert Dunn, based on the plays of Oscar Wilde.
The Gramercy Arts Theater, NYC
- 1964 **Fantastic Gardens.** The first Intermedia dance concert,
music by Malcolm Goldstein and John H. McDowell. Judson Dance Theater, NYC

For more information please visit:

Elaine Summers Dance+Film: <http://elainesummersdance.com>

Skytime: <http://skytime.org>

Kinetic Awareness Center: <http://kineticawarenesscenter.org>

Elaine's Youtube Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/elainesummersdance>

Lincoln Center Jerome Robbins Dance Collection: <http://bit.ly/hGFZ3C>