

***Hidden Forest* was choreographed by Elaine Summers in 2007.** Elaine asked Carman Moore to collaborate on the music. He was reading Dante at the time. She had long enjoyed Italo Calvino's writing and shared that with lone and Pauline Oliveros. lone wrote a poem and read it to Pauline's accordion accompaniment. Ideas flowed. That the quotes from both writers were given to the audience was unusual and gives us a window into her thinking. When Elaine made *Hidden Forest* she had returned to live in New York after time in Florida to be by the sea - but New York was home. It was a long path to reconnect in the city. *Hidden Forest* was a step in an amazing comeback at 82 years old. *Hidden Forest* uses video from her *Flowing Rock Still Waters* (1987) choreographed around the reflecting pool at Lincoln Center.

Each viewer sees their own *Hidden Forest*, but to me, Elaine's work is always about looking. Look hard enough, and the invisible becomes visible. Your active watching is essential. Chance encounters and connections that happen only once start to emerge - where image, dancer, sound, and perhaps a passerby collide in a fraction of time. What is happening ? Sometimes it doesn't seem like much, but the images evoke feelings that linger long after the performance is over.

Originally performed on the other side of the Opera House, *Hidden Forest* takes place on the same plaza as *Flowing Rock* was performed, further connecting the two pieces. In her archives, scores and site maps for both pieces share a folder. Given all the moving parts, changes in technology, no two performances of Elaine's work will ever be the same - nor should they be. Her embrace of freedom of expression and democracy in all its forms remains a beacon of hope in troubled times.

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June 2025