

ANCILLARY ARTISTS
DANCING FUTURES 2023

ARTIST BIOS

Argelia Arreola

Bronx based Mexican dancer, choreographer and musician, passionate about rhythm and everything related to African influences within artistic expressions. Graduated from Universidad Veracruzana, Mexico, with a Bachelor degree in Contemporary Dance. Formally trained in traditional African Dance of Guinea for 20 years. She seeks to make an artistic contribution to the field of contemporary dance by bringing to the fore the dynamic relationship between the music and the language of African (Guinea & Senegal), Afro-Cuban and Mexican folk dance. She is currently on faculty at Gibney Dance and has developed her own AfroKorp style. Argelia has her own artistic project AcustiKorp, where she involved all these movement languages, she is also dancer and choreographer of Ballet Nepantla, dancer and musician of La Mezcla (a polyrhythmic San Francisco-based dance and music ensemble), and member of the afromexican band Jarana Beat.

She has performed at Lincoln Center, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival 2016 & 2022, Movement Research at the Judson Church, Lincoln Center Summer Stage, Battery Dance Festival 2018 & 2019, BAM Dance Africa 2017, Bryan Park Dance Party, Salvatore Capezio Theater at Peridance, Ailey Citigroup Theater, BAAD Bronx, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Joe's Pub Theater, Symphony Space Theater, Summer Stage Harlem Festival 2015, Queens Theatre in the Park. She has been awarded in many occasions with the fellowship of the Mexican National Program of Scenic Creators FONCA as choreographer and dancer.

Mawu Ama Ma'at Gora

Ama Ma'at Gora is a Philly based multidisciplinary artist, educator and choreographer. She received her BFA in Dance from Georgian Court University. Shortly after, she chose to continue her education in dance at Temple University where she received her MFA. These experiences lent her opportunities to work with choreographers such as, Kariamuwelsh, Lela Aisha Jones, Earl Moseley, Sidra Bell, Gregory King, Silvana Cardell and more. Previously, at Drexel she served as Community Based Learning Director overseeing artistic civic engagement, now she serves as an adjunct professor teaching Afro Modern and choreographing for Drexel's Fresh Dance. An avid believer in collaboration, she worked with Lela Aisha Jones as a co-teacher at Bryn Mawr College. At Bryn Mawr she was able to practice her pedagogical framework, expanding the possibilities within the collegiate classroom. Leading and directing Ma'at Works Dance Collective has allowed her to make all dancing bodies visible. She began Ma'at Works in hopes of putting more black femme, queer, trans and fat folk on stage. Her works push controversial dialogue surrounding identity, trauma, restoration and reimagining. Adamant about building safe spaces, Gora is co-founder of The Juba House, a co-creation space for black, queer

artist living near and around the West Philly community. She has been recognized as a dance artist dedicated to serving the community through transformative art by the Leeway Foundation, where she received the 2020 Transformation Award. She was recently a participant in the 2022 New Dance Alliance Black Artists Space to Create Residency.

Shizu Homma

Brooklyn born and Brooklyn based Shizu Homma has been performing modern and postmodern/butoh dance since 1997. She has created butoh informed dances since 2002 and has taught workshops and masterclasses in butoh. She was greatly inspired by a performance at City Center when Sankai Juku came to NYC in 1988. She has performed for butoh choreographers including Catherine Hourihan, Corinna Brown, Celeste Hastings, Moeno Wakamatsu, and Sara June.

Her work, that is usually a combination of choreography and structured improvisation has been seen at theaters and alternative spaces including: BAAD!, Bronx Museum, Dixon Place, Movement Research at DTW and Judson Church, Abrons Art Center, Joyce Soho, Edward Hopper House, Mascher Space, SUNY Old Westbury, Middlebury College, and at Hayden Lord Park, where she was commissioned by Dancing in the Streets to create site specific dance. She has also been in locations of nomadic event organizations with AUNTS, Chashama, and No Longer Empty.

Some of the postmodern/modern choreographers she has worked with are: Arthur Aviles, Nancy Zendora, Pedro Jiminez, Afual Hall, Stanley Love, Thomas Choinacky, and Annie Wilson. This year, she has started working with Yackez/Larissa and Jon Velez Jackson.

Her performance art has been at Asian Arts Initiative and at the Brooklyn International Performance Art Forum's quincennial. Her two-dimensional art has been seen at Spoke the Hub, BAAD Eyes Gallery, Grace Exhibition Space, and Philadelphia City Hall. Her writing has been published in Wingless Dreamer and Front Magazine. Shizu has also worked in performance and video works of artists including Lauri Astala, J."g"J., Machine Dazzle, Jane Wang, Veronica Pena Martinez, and bands The Strangewalls and Wormtooth.

Shizu is makes work about greed and the suffering it causes, how women are treated and perceived, violence, labor, war, exploitation, and the absurdity of human actions and inactions