

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 27, 2023

PRESS CONTACT

Steve Sucato

Marketing & Communications Manager

steve@groundworksdance.org

(216) 751-0088

GROUNDWORKS DANCETHEATER PRESENTS
Transcendence: the installation

CLEVELAND, OH – Originally conceived as a dance film, then a live stage production, GroundWorks Executive Artistic Director **David Shimotakahara's *Transcendence*** is now re-imagined as an immersive mixed media art installation.

Says Shimotakahara: "I became interested in exploring additional possibilities for how *Transcendence* could be reimagined and experienced. With generous assistance from **The Ohio Arts Council's ArtsNEXT program**, GroundWorks worked with Akron artist **Miriam Bennett** and in partnership with **Dan Bush**, owner of **78th Street Studios**, for the creation of an entirely new *Transcendence* experience. One that extends and expands the audience's engagement with the work through an immersive and interactive installation combining music, dance, and film. People can participate in an entirely new experience with all three."

Inspired by composer Olivier Messiaen's poignant masterwork, "Quartet for the End of Time" and featuring recorded music performance produced by **CityMusic Cleveland** with Ken Wendt and Jack Sutte, and film by **Kuo-Heng Huang**, *Transcendence: the installation* is dance like it has not been experienced before.

A special **Opening Night Live Performance** on **Friday, February 10** kicks off *Transcendence: the installation's* run featuring **GroundWorks DanceTheater's dancers** and musicians **Miho Hashizume (violin)**, **Keith Robinson (cello)**, **Daniel Gilbert (clarinet)** and **Donna Lee (piano)** in the stage version of *Transcendence*. Set to Olivier Messiaen's "Quartet for the End of Time," the performance also includes excerpts from *Transcendence*, the dance film by Kuo-Heng Huang. It will be a moving introduction to the installation's immersive visual experience.

For more information visit groundworksdance.org/transcendence

OPENING NIGHT LIVE PERFORMANCE**February 10, 2023 | 7:30 p.m.**

78th Street Studios | smARTspace

1300 W 78th St, Cleveland

Tickets: \$25

groundworksdance.org/transcendence



Transcendence: the installation
February 10-24, 2023

78th Street Studios | RAMP East space
 1300 W 78th St, Cleveland
 FREE ADMISSION

Transcendence: the Installation and its opening live performance were made possible through funding by The Ohio Arts Council's ArtsNEXT program.



If you would like to set up interviews to talk to Miriam Bennett, the musicians and/or David Shimotakahara or one of GroundWorks' dancers, need photos, or press tickets, please contact me ASAP at steve@groundworksdance.org.

ABOUT MIRIAM BENNETT

Miriam Bennett is an American filmmaker, artist, and academic. Studying Italian Baroque Art History under Richard Spear at Oberlin College, she was awarded High Honors for her undergraduate thesis. She went on to receive her MFA from the University of Iowa, studying Intermedia under Hans Breder. She is now a professor of Media Arts and Filmmaking at Cuyahoga Community College and the owner and director of Moving Studio Productions. Bennett's work has been featured in exhibits and screenings in the Tri-C Jazz Fest, The Cleveland Film Festival, The Art Museum of the Americas (Washington, DC), The National Gallery of Victoria (Melbourne, Australia), The Akron Art Museum, and in several US galleries in Cleveland, New York, and Chicago, the Wall Street Journal Speakeasy Arts and Culture, Esquire Magazine Online, Cleveland Scene, Nashville Arts Magazine, and Akron's Devil Strip Magazine. Her documentary films on youth voice, for Scenarios USA films can be seen on Showtime. In April of 2017 she directed her first stage play, William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. She is currently editing an experimental documentary titled *The Shape The Color The Feel* based on the project by Kate Tucker and the Sons of Sweden. Bennett resides in Akron, Ohio with her husband, author Jon Stephen Miller, and their two children.

ABOUT DAVID SHIMOTAKAHARA

Executive Artistic Director David Shimotakahara founded GroundWorks in 1998, determined to challenge the preconceptions about dance. This desire to push boundaries is evident in Shimotakahara's bold initiative: To seek collaboration and input from guest choreographers of the highest caliber and to constantly evolve the repertoire of the company. Over the past 23 years, GroundWorks has created and produced over 100 original works. 60 of these have been commissioned from nationally and internationally renowned guest artists. In addition, Shimotakahara has contributed over 50 pieces to the company's rep. His work is about here and now. He is interested in framing issues surrounding individuality, privacy, place, and connectivity through movement that speaks through its musicality and physicality. Shimotakahara's performance history includes being a member of the Atlanta Ballet, Boston Repertory



Ballet, Kathryn Posin Dance Company, and Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre. He performed with Ohio Ballet under the direction of Heinz Poll from 1983-1999. He also served as Rehearsal Assistant for Ohio Ballet from 1989-1999. From 1989-97, Mr. Shimotakahara founded and was Director of New Steps. This acclaimed dance project offered a variety of programs that stimulated the creation and growth of new choreography in Northeast Ohio. Mr. Shimotakahara has choreographed for opera and theater with the Cleveland Opera, Great Lakes Theater Festival, and the Dallas Theater Center. He served on the Carlisle Project advisory panel in 1996, and dance panels for the Ohio Arts Council, Illinois Arts Council, the Mid Atlantic Arts Alliance, and the National Endowment for the Arts. He has received 7 Individual Artist Fellowships for

Choreography from the Ohio Arts Council from 1996 to 2012. In 1998, he received a McKnight Foundation Fellowship from the Minnesota Dance Alliance to create new work in the Minneapolis, St. Paul communities. Mr. Shimotakahara was awarded the 2000 Cleveland Arts Prize for Dance. In 2002 his work with GroundWorks DanceTheater was voted "One of 25 to Watch" by Dance Magazine. In 2007, he received the OhioDance award for Outstanding Contributions to the Advancement of the Dance Artform. Mr. Shimotakahara was a 2008 recipient of the first COSE Arts and Business Innovation awards as the founder of GroundWorks DanceTheater. In 2010 Shimotakahara received a Creative Workforce Fellowship, a program of the Community Partnership for Arts and Culture, funded by Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

ABOUT KUO-HENG HUANG

Kuo-Heng Huang is a Taiwanese artist currently based in New York City. He started his art practice as a photographer, Huang strives to see things, for their appearance and substance, structure and order, cause and effect, in relation with time and space, the unseen and invisible. The subjects in Huang's mind: Gene, System, Space-Time, Neurology and Mind and Identity, Evolution and Sapien and Neanderthal, Theater and Reality and Virtual Reality, Justice, and History.

ABOUT 78TH STREET STUDIOS

78th Street Studios is the largest art and design complex in Northeast Ohio, featuring 170,000 square feet of art galleries, artist studios, performance spaces, and music recording studios. Primarily known as an attraction for fine art, 78th Street Studios has quickly become an incubator for businesses in the fields of product design, publishing, music, and special events.

ABOUT GROUNDWORKS DANCETHEATER

GroundWorks DanceTheater, founded by David Shimotakahara in 1998, is a contemporary dance company located in Northeast Ohio. Now in our 24th season, GroundWorks is continually pushing the boundaries of what is possible through dance by engaging, educating, and enlivening our community. We are committed to presenting unique opportunities for engaging the community through work-in-progress showings, masterclasses, artist talks, and educational outreach to school age children, college students, and senior adults, along with the development and presentation of new choreography and collaborations. The company performs new works by Executive Artistic Director, David Shimotakahara and nationally and internationally acclaimed choreographers including Artist in Residence Antonio Brown, Rena Butler, Rosie Herrera, Kate Weare, Robert Moses, Ronen Koresh, Dianne McIntyre, Lynne Taylor-Corbett, Adam Barruch, Gina Gibney, Robyn Mineko Williams, Brian Brooks, Peter Chu, and many others. GroundWorks is proud to be Cleveland



State University's Professional Dance Company in Residence. GroundWorks' annual programming is made possible with funding from The National Endowment for the Arts, The Ohio Arts Council, Cuyahoga County residents through Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, The Cleveland Foundation, The George Gund Foundation, The Toby Devan Lewis Philanthropic Fund, GAR Foundation, Peg's Foundation, The John P. Murphy Foundation, The Kulas Foundation, Akron Community Foundation, The Demetros Charitable Trust, The Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation, The Judith Gerson Fund, Sisler McFawn, Individual Contributors & Members of the GroundWorks Board of Directors. For more information, please visit www.groundworksdance.org.