

If you were going to make your own poetics of dance, what would it say?

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“A poetics seeks to define and uncover in a work of art what touches us, animates our sensibility and resonates in our imagination.”

So....

What touches me?

Sincerity. Feeling a voice heard through dance and witnessing an individual’s discovery of strength and worthiness.

What animates my sensibility?

Feeling grounded and taking flight. Responding to music and feeling my environment.

What resonates in my imagination?

Finding my own space and taking it with me on my artistic journey. Responding to dynamics and creating my own. Making room for something that I want to say or explore. Re-discovering a memory.

How do I put that together? What would my OWN poetics of dance say?

My poetics of dance would express an emotion or a feeling that might be temporal or spiritual – fixed or evolving – simple or complex..... Something fluid that might not stay with me for long - Not necessarily a narrative, but an inquisitive exploration - Dance created and performed as a conversation that might find a resolution and might not. The poetics of my dance initiate from something that I feel within myself, or respond to what I hear consciously or subconsciously. -

Lisa

At the core of my being there are embers I must tend to. Sometimes the hot ashes smolder, but they may never fully extinguish.

The smoke of this slow burn swirls and permeates throughout my body, beyond the borders of my skin, escaping through my pores to become part of the atmosphere.

Sometimes a spark is thrown off, igniting a rampant blaze. – **Lauren O.**

The poetics of dance should look like a microscopic cycling mirror of yourself. In that mirror, there is choice in expression. The expression could be a walk in the park, watching the butterfly bloom anteriorly from Lisa or the interpretation of just being you. If we think about our poetics as a child, we supposedly don't know any better. I disagree, I think we *do* know. We as people are creative beings. The poetics of motion is Individualized and awakened before it's institutionalized. There is voice, there is power in that mirror unconsciously. The language or the first dialect before it's taught is the moving language that is awakened and silently pushed away to then be awakened again through time. So what is that for me? For me, I zero in to the butt shaking when I heard my father play. Wait a minute, who is my father again? The rhythm of the drum awakened my solar plexus and stimulated a neural response to the gluteal muscles area to move. That was my first poetics of motion. We gather outside images, language, tone, rhythm to create our moving poem. The way you walk is distinguished and established through time. But it's something we never think about. So how do you gather all this info? Well, as someone told me, who were you before the world determined who you are...? This paragraph here is my poetics, it's my voice. And finally I get to express and zero in. So I approach my poetics in dance by sharing my world and whoever wants to enter can, but with my permission. However, I am open. - **Beatrice**

A step
Locomotion
Transportation
Projection

A step
A means to locomote
Transporting from one spot to another
Projecting forward

A step
The manifestation of a body and brain's cooperation to propel one through space
Transporting from one spot and place in time to the next present moment
Projecting forward, sideward, backward, or any gradation between

A step
Enlisting the invisible circuitry of our corpus to operate in coordination with our more tangible components to send me into the future
Transporting the container of me, the shell that holds my physical as well as psychic self out of there and towards here
Sidling, Sneaking, Limping, Loping, Sauntering, Swishing, Bouncing, Leaping, Hurdling,

I step

- **Lauren G.**

My poetics of dance would help one more clearly define and articulate their quiet longings and unspoken tendencies, truths and awakenings. It would intend to give breath, life, freedom and space to one's becoming. It supports the seeker in their continual journey of pursuing unanswered questions... letting the dance answer, like a silent mentor in its own unforceable time. The dance becomes the dancer, an inseparable flow. It discards nothing and embraces everything such as matter that can neither be created nor destroyed. In such, the dancer allows matter, form and content to be a witness through them, to experience a consciousness of many.

A disciplined focus, through dynamic punctuation, rhythm, form, archetypal awareness and embodied presence, one learns and becomes the mystery of the universe and gives birth to themselves continually in its perpetual unfoldment. - **Allison**

"Feeling the Charge" to Defend Poetry as Motion

Speaking of dance from my point of view, the point of view of a life-long mover, is an expected, necessary, and valid point of entry. However, remaining in a static place of perception is neither necessary nor valid. For the sake of validating the worthiness of my own perception of the poetics of dance, I submit the following;

Dance is poetic. Poetic dance is a fire of smoldering embers of unpredictable conflagrations engulfing oxygen and politely stealing space. Never forgiving nor apologizing. Dance is a living soul, living. Dance exists as a juxtaposition, an oxymoron, and a silent onomatopoeia...simultaneously.

P. O. E. T. I. C. S. in Dance and the rules which govern are;

Pure

Obtuse

Emancipated

Tempered *Tangents*

Interminably

Circumventing

Still-nesses

▪ **Tammy**

Preface..... (this is not about getting it - feel free to make your own interpretation)

Let go,

Become...come to be

Trust thy self

Be

What is resonating in me

Make a choice

Confidently make that choice, always make a choice

Shift, shift, again, and again and again shift.....shiftingggggg

Go somewhere else...keep going....push your self

Quit being afraid

Get lost

Enter into the new

Unfold

Open up the door to be seen

Open up the door to the universe

Don't think about making it right

There are never any mistakes

Don't think about thinking

Get inside

Get outside

Get in-between

What does it speak

What does it feel

What does it breathe

How does it make me feel?

Is it memorable

Is it forgettable

The impossible does not exist

The impossible is always possible

Attack the impossible.

- **Elisa**

The contemporary dance is encompassing and inclusive. The inspirations are everywhere, the vernacular is shared, and the movement fearless. The dance is structured from nothing being forbidden, taboo. The contemporary dance always strives for the new. It asks: What hasn't been done? Who can I share this with? What sounds, what desires, what impulses haven't been explored? How do I communicate? What do I feel? And how can I let go of the things I maybe love too much?

The contemporary dancer is everything. She educates with confidence, she improvises without force, she composes through her blindness, and constantly creates. - **Becky**

To live and breathe and be present in the knowing of yourself artistically and aesthetically. To allow the movement to flow from the body to communicate and explain what is wanting to be told from the heart. A form of expression which is personal and not necessarily clear to the observer, it isn't about the audience, it is about the art maker's creative process and expression. A personal story unfolding.

There can be no wrong answer or way of approaching the work, it is the freedom to make mistakes and find beauty in the accidents. Jumping into uncharted territories to find rhythms and connections to encourage the voice to be heard and celebrated. Then and only then will the work be.

- **Amy**