

## BODIES OF ART

*Is this art yet?*

Choreographed, Directed, and Produced by Carly Armitage

May 13th and 14th, 2026

University of California, Santa Barbara: Department of Theater and Dance

*Bodies of Art* explores the enduring human impulse to create. Across history, art has shifted in form and meaning, yet the act of making remains constant. From prehistoric cave paintings to contemporary installations, creation continues as a way of understanding and expressing what it means to be human. In this work, I translate that continuum into movement by linking visual art movements with choreographic styles. Dance becomes a visual language, shaped by the same impulses that guide painting. This work invites viewers to reconsider what art can be. By connecting movement to visual traditions, it asks whether these distinctions between forms are as fixed as they seem, and whether movement itself might expand what we are willing to call art.

I would like to send a special thank you to my project supervisor, Christina McCarthy, for this opportunity and for her help and encouragement. This would not have been possible without them.

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### **Program**

#### **Prologue**

**Dancers:** Zorah Chappel, Juliana Gallegos, Amanda White

**Music:** “*Gold*” — Dustin O’Halloran

#### **Introduction**

**Dancers:** Zorah Chappel, Olivia Chinn, Tessa Driscoll, Juliana Gallegos, Mira Kulkarni, Emily Levin, Jillian Silva, LeeAnn Smith, Zoe Tyler, Amanda White, Lara van Diggelen

**Music:** “*Across the Universe (Remastered 2009)*” — The Beatles

#### **Ancient Art**

**Dancer:** Mira Kulkarni

**Music:** “*Orphée, Act I: III. La chambre d’Orphée (Arr. for Piano Duet)*” — Philip Glass; performed by Katia & Marielle Labèque

#### **Hieroglyphics**

**Dancers:** Tessa Driscoll, Mira Kulkarni, LeeAnn Smith, Zoe Tyler  
**Music:** “*Bitterness*” — Max Anson

### **Medieval Art**

**Dancers:** Zorah Chappel and Lara van Diggelen  
**Music:** “*Scarborough Fair (Instrumental)*” — Alisa Jones

### **Renaissance Art**

(Choreography in collaboration with dancers)

**Dancers:** Olivia Chinn, Juliana Gallegos, Mira Kulkarni, Zoe Tyler  
**Music:** “*Nobody Gets Me*” — Caleb Chan & Brian Chan

### **Baroque Art**

**Dancer:** Zoe Tyler  
**Music:** “*Danny*” — Ólafur Arnalds

### **Romanticism**

**Dancer:** Amanda White  
**Music:** “*Tourbillon*” — Julia Kent

### **Impressionism & Post-Impressionism**

**Dancers:** Olivia Chinn, Lara van Diggelen

#### **Music:**

- “*Rêverie, L. 68*” — Claude Debussy; performed by Alain Planès
- “*Moon River*” — performed by Audrey Hepburn
- “*Vincent*” — Don McLean

### **Art Nouveau**

**Dancer:** LeeAnn Smith  
**Music:** “*On Possession*” — Sea Oleena

### **Cubism**

**Dancers:** Emily Levin, Jillian Silva  
**Music:** “*Deep in It*” — Hector Berlioz & Ted Jasper

## **Art Deco**

**Dancer:** Juliana Gallegos

**Music:** “*When I Get Low, I Get High*” — Ella Fitzgerald & Chick Webb

## **Dadaism**

**Music:** “*Revolution 9 (Remastered 2009)*” — The Beatles

**Dancer:** Tessa Driscoll

## **Surrealism**

**Dancers:** Zorah Chappel, Olivia Chinn, Tessa Driscoll, Juliana Gallegos, Mira Kulkarni, Emily Levin, Jillian Silva, LeeAnn Smith, Zoe Tyler, Amanda White, Lara van Diggelen

**Music:** “*White Rabbit*” — Jefferson Airplane

## **Contemporary Art**

**Dancers:** Zorah Chappel, Olivia Chinn, Tessa Driscoll, Juliana Gallegos, Mira Kulkarni, Emily Levin, Jillian Silva, LeeAnn Smith, Zoe Tyler, Amanda White, Lara van Diggelen

**Music:** “*Octopus’s Garden (Remastered 2009)*” — The Beatles

## **Street Art**

**Dancers:** Zorah Chappel, Olivia Chinn, Tessa Driscoll, Juliana Gallegos, Mira Kulkarni, Emily Levin, Jillian Silva, LeeAnn Smith, Zoe Tyler, Amanda White, Lara van Diggelen

**Music:**

- “*Comfortably Numb (Instrumental Cover)*” — Karaoke Pro
- “*The Winner Is*” — DeVotchKa & Mychael Danna

## **Digital Art / AI**

**Dancer:** Emily Levin

**Music:** “*Jericho*” — JVLA

## **Finale**

**Dancers:** Full Company

**Music:** “*Across the Universe (Instrumental Piano)*” — Matchstick Piano Man

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**Producer:**

**Carly Armitage** is a fourth-year student at UC Santa Barbara, pursuing a double major in Communication and Dance. Originally from Washington, D.C., she received most of her early training at her family's studio, Ovations Studios. There, she studied ballet and performed annually in *The Nutcracker*, while also dancing on the studio's rigorous competition team in a variety of styles, including modern, ballet, and lyrical. Carly has spent several summers training at intensives in New York City, with especially meaningful experiences at the Joffrey Ballet School. At UCSB, she has performed in numerous student and faculty choreographic works, further honing her skills as a dancer. She is now increasingly interested in pursuing choreography, using movement as a creative outlet to explore storytelling and personal expression.

**Supervisor:**

**Christina McCarthy** (she/they) is a multi-disciplinary artist in dance, aerial circus arts, theater, puppetry, film and visual art. Christina danced with Nina Wiener Dance Company and was both a dancer and Assistant Director to Santa Barbara Dance Theater. They teach contemporary dance technique, dance on film, choreography, solo performance generation, puppet making and aerial dance. Their movement training background includes ballet with Lupe Serrano, Finis Jhung, Bob and Carol Hanlin and Valerie Huston, modern training with Tonia Shimin, Alice Condodina, Nolan Dennet and Christopher Pilafian, and aerial dance training with Ninette Paloma and Autumn Phillips. Christina engages in the department both in theater, where they work in collaboration with directors on choreography for musical theater productions and plays and in dance where they often collaborate with the Music Department on joint dance/music performance projects.

**Lighting Design Support:**

**Siddharth Chatteraj** is a visual storyteller whose work blends art, data, and performance. His designs have supported international and regional productions, including *Gilgamesh: The Opera* in Cerritos, *TrollFest* in Juneau, *Dance Fest Skopje*, and the 2025 UCSB Dance Company tour through Spain, Poland, North Macedonia, and Bulgaria. He graduated from UCSB in 2026 with a BS in Statistics and Data Science, a BA in Theater, and a minor in Language and Speech Technologies, and he has worked on over 20 UCSB Theater and Dance productions. Beyond performance design, he has presented data-driven research across California and develops accessible creativity-support tools that lower the barrier to interactive storytelling.

**Sandarbh Tripathi** is a senior scene technician at University of California, Santa Barbara. He helped me understand and use the platform that enabled me to integrate my projections into the project. This multimedia work would not have been possible without his expertise in scenic design and theatrical technology.

**Dancer's bios:**

**Mira Kulkarni** is a B.F.A. Dance and B.A. Economics candidate at the University of California, Santa Barbara and a graduate of Idyllwild Arts Academy, where she received pre-professional training in Ballet, Horton, Graham, Taylor, and Lewitsky techniques. Her training includes a range of summer intensives with companies such as Alvin Ailey, State Street Ballet, BODYTRAFFIC, Carmel Dance Festival, LINES Ballet and Nickerson-Rossi Dance. She has performed a plethora of repertory works featuring choreography by both faculty and students across UCSB, reflecting a strong engagement with modern-contemporary concert dance and collaborative performance environments.

**Tessa Driscoll** is a second-year student at UC Santa Barbara pursuing degrees in Biopsychology (B.S.) and Dance (B.A.). She grew up in Santa Fe, New Mexico where she started her training at the age of 3, primarily at Aspen Santa Fe Ballet under the instruction of Joffrey graduates Tom Mossbrucker and Jean Philleape Malaty, and Paris Opera graduate Gisela Genshow. Over the years she has attended dance intensive programs at the Cincinnati Ballet, Alonzo King LINES Ballet, Vail Valley Intensive in Colorado, and the New Century Dance Project with renowned choreographer Francisco Gella. She is interested in Graduate school and scientific research where she can integrate neuroscience and dance.

**Zoe Tyler** is a third year Political Science major at UCSB pursuing a pre-law track. She began dancing when she was 2 years old and competed with her studio from the age of 10 until she graduated high school. Last spring, Zoe became involved with UCSB's dance program through their open-audition shows. She feels very lucky and grateful to be able to continue her training and performing throughout her college career.

**Lara van Diggelen** is a dancer from the East Bay, pursuing her Dance BFA and Sociology BA here at UCSB. She is a company member with Selah Dance Collective and has apprenticed for Santa Barbara Dance Theater under the direction of Brandon Whited. She is excited to share the hard work, commitment, and artistry of Carly and her peers!

**Olivia Chinn** is a second-year Dance and Global Studies student at the University of California, Santa Barbara. With an extensive background in classical ballet training, she trained for six years in the pre-professional division at City Ballet San Francisco under the instruction of Galina Alexandrova. Olivia has attended summer intensives at American Ballet Theatre in New York, Ellison Ballet in New York, and Arts Umbrella in Vancouver, Canada.

**Amanda White** is currently a third year, BFA Dance Major in UCSB's Theater and Dance Department and a Music Minor. She has enjoyed the learning and development process for the honors project, and she is excited to be provided the opportunity to perform in this work.

**LeeAnn Smith** is a student at UCSB pursuing a double major in Dance and Film & Media Studies. She has trained primarily in contemporary, modern, and ballet, and has participated in student choreography projects as both a dancer and choreographer, most recently creating her own work, *The Moment Stretched* (2025). In addition to performance, she is also a photographer and filmmaker, having taken professional headshots for her peers and produced three dance films—*Forgotten* (2021), *Flow State* (2024), and *Unraveled* (2024). She hopes to continue expanding her photography and filmmaking into the world of dance, blending her passions into innovative and interdisciplinary projects.

**Juliana Gallegos** is Dance B.F.A and Political Science B.A major. Originally from Santa Fe, New Mexico, she received her training starting at age three, from Aspen Santa Fe Ballet. She then attended New Mexico School for the Arts. She has trained under a variety of teachers from Gisela Genchow, Tom Mossbrucker, to Fernando Ramos. She has also attended summer intensives at Alonzo King LINES Ballet, Vail Valley Dance Intensive, Contempora Puerto Rico, and the Jillang School. Juliana looks forward to pursuing a career in dance and law, and is grateful to perform any chance she gets!

**Emily Levin** grew up in Burbank, California, where she trained at Burbank Dance Academy under Jason Coosner and also served as Captain of her high school Dance Team, UNLEASHED. She is currently pursuing a BFA in Dance with a minor in Education at UC Santa Barbara, with the plan to continue on the dance track after graduation!

**Zorah Chappel** trained at Oakland Ballet School and is now a fourth-year undergraduate B.F.A dance major at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She also has a minor in professional writing with an emphasis in civic engagement. Zorah trained under the instruction of Ron Guidi, Denise, and Joral Schmalle. At UCSB, Zorah has continued to expand her movement practice through the guidance of many faculty and guest artists, studying a wide range of styles and approaches to dance. Zorah has had the privilege to choreograph a multitude of works at UCSB, and in the future, hopes to pursue it professionally. She is thrilled to participate in a few honors projects during her graduating year.

**Jillian Silva** is a current third-year UCSB student pursuing her BFA in Dance. She trained under Sue Sampson-Dalena at The Dance Studio of Fresno where she trained rigorously in styles including jazz, ballet, tap, contemporary, hip hop, lyrical, pointe, and African dance. As a student at UCSB, Jillian has furthered her artistic and technical training in modern and ballet, and hopes to someday pursue a career in concert dance.



Thank you so much for coming and supporting the arts!