

# WHITNEY

Whitney Museum of American Art  
945 Madison Avenue at 75th Street  
New York, NY 10021  
[whitney.org/press](http://whitney.org/press)

Tel. (212) 570-3633  
Fax (212) 570-4169  
[pressoffice@whitney.org](mailto:pressoffice@whitney.org)

## Press Release

Contact:  
Whitney Museum of American Art  
Stephen Soba, Leily Soleimani  
212-570-3633

### THE WHITNEY PRESENTS A SPECIAL EXHIBITION EXPLORING LUCINDA CHILDS'S LEGENDARY *DANCE* Iconic Collaboration between Lucinda Childs, Philip Glass, Sol LeWitt

NEW YORK, July 1, 2009 – A legendary collaboration between Lucinda Childs, Philip Glass, and Sol LeWitt, the iconic performance work *Dance* is the subject of a special exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art, featuring an archival performance video and various related materials by the three artists, in its fifth-floor galleries throughout the summer. The installation has been organized by Chrissie Iles, the Whitney's Anne & Joel Ehrenkranz Curator.

In 1979, Lucinda Childs and Philip Glass invited Sol LeWitt to collaborate with them on a new work titled *Dance*, commissioned by the Brooklyn Academy of Music. The project brought the minimalist language of the three artists into a tightly structured dialogue. Glass's musical score formed the framework for Childs's choreography, to which LeWitt responded by creating a 35mm black-and-white film of the dancers performing passages selected from each of three dances.

This focused exhibition brings together for the first time previously unseen material by Childs, Glass, and LeWitt created during the making of *Dance*. The material includes drawings by Childs; three large storyboard diagrams by LeWitt related to the making of the film for *Dance*; the original score by Glass for 'Dance # 1'; black and white photographs from the first performance of *Dance* in 1979 by Nathaniel Tileston; and a video of a performance of *Dance* in Paris in 1991. Seen together, the material reveals the working process behind a unique performative collaboration by three key figures.

In five drawings by Childs, the dancers's movements across the stage in each section of *Dance* are traced in deceptively simple geometric patterns, each colored according to the

lighting of the stage. In LeWitt's complex storyboards, drawn on top of Childs's dance scores on clear Mylar sheets by LeWitt and his camera person Lisa Rinzler, the camera's movements in relation to each dancer are notated. Hiring a studio on 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Childs, LeWitt, and Rinzler shot the dancers performing Childs's score to Glass's music, marking a grid on the dark floor with white tape. LeWitt's ability to translate visual structures into temporal form, and his understanding of both Childs's and Glass's scores, is revealed in his early observation that "regular spacing might become a metric time element, a kind of regular beat or pulse."

The resulting film was projected onto a large transparent scrim covering the front of the stage in three of the five sections of the final performance of *Dance* ('Dance no. 1', 'Dance no. 3', and 'Dance no. 4'), as the dancers performed the same steps behind it. In 'Dance no. 1', 'Dance no. 3', and 'Dance no. 4' the stage behind the scrim was lit in blue, yellow, and red respectively, creating a sense of volumetric space that contrasted with the flat space of the black and white film projected on the scrim. The frontal movements of the live dancers were further counter-pointed by LeWitt's use of close-ups, diagonal viewpoints, overhead shots, split screens, and freeze-frames to reveal otherwise hidden perspectives of the dancers's movements.

LeWitt's filmic structure echoes that of Childs who, as Henry M. Sayre observes, "explicitly explores a geometry of repetition and reflection." In *Dance*, space becomes a unit of time contained within a grid, a format that can imply progressive movement, yet be perceived as a whole, simultaneously. *Dance* marks a unique moment in the history of collaboration between artists and dancers, from Robert Rauschenberg, Merce Cunningham, and Jasper Johns, to Yvonne Rainer, Trisha Brown, and Carolee Schneemann – all of whose work is part of the Whitney Museum's permanent collection. This focused exhibition demonstrates the Whitney's ongoing commitment to that collaborative practice, and its demonstration that dance, music, and film can be brought together in a seamless whole.

A seminal collaboration emerging out of one of the most vibrant and prolific periods in New York's art world, *DANCE* is a rarely performed signature work by one of the pillars of the Judson Dance Theater collective, Lucinda Childs. Recipient of the NEA/NEFA American Masterpiece Award, the 1979 classic has been remounted by the Richard B. Fisher Center at Bard College with a complete restoration of Sol LeWitt's work on film, which comprises the work's decor and with which the dancers seamlessly interact. *DANCE* will tour with a new company of eleven dancers under Childs's direction.

**LUCINDA CHILDS'S *DANCE*: TOUR 2009**

**SEPTEMBER 25-26, FRIDAY-SATURDAY, 2009 8:00PM**

Presented by: Williams College  
Venue: 62 Center for Theatre + Dance  
**WILLIAMSTOWN, MA**  
<http://62center.williams.edu/62center>

**SEPTEMBER 29, TUESDAY, 2009 8:00PM**

Presented by: University of Florida Performing Arts  
Venue: Phillips Center for the Performing Arts  
**GAINESVILLE, FL**  
<http://performingarts.ufl.edu>

**OCTOBER 6-7, TUESDAY- WEDNESDAY, 2009 7:30PM**  
**OCTOBER 8-10, THURSDAY-SATURDAY, 2009 8:00PM**  
**OCTOBER 11, SUNDAY, 2009 2:00PM**

Presented by: Joyce Theater  
Venue: Joyce Theater  
**NEW YORK CITY, NY**  
[http://www.joyce.org/calendar\\_joyce.php](http://www.joyce.org/calendar_joyce.php)

**OCTOBER 15, THURSDAY, 2009 6:00PM**

**Opening Celebration and MCA Stage Benefit**  
Presented by: Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago  
Venue: Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago  
**CHICAGO, IL**  
<http://www.mcachicago.org/performances>

**OCTOBER 16, FRIDAY, 2009 9:00PM**  
**OCTOBER 17, SATURDAY, 2009 7:30PM**

Presented by: Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago  
Venue: Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago  
**CHICAGO, IL**  
<http://www.mcachicago.org/performances>

**About the Whitney**

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the leading advocate of 20th- and 21st-century American art. Founded in 1930, the Museum is regarded as the preeminent collection of American art and includes major works and materials from the estate of Edward Hopper, the largest public collection of works by Alexander Calder, as well as significant works by Jasper Johns, Donald Judd, Agnes Martin, Bruce Nauman, Georgia O'Keeffe, Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen, Kiki Smith, and Andy Warhol, among other artists. With its history of exhibiting the most promising and influential American artists and provoking intense critical and public debate, the Whitney's signature show, the Biennial, has become the most important survey of the state of contemporary art in America today. First housed on West 8th Street, the Whitney relocated in 1954 to West 54th Street and in 1966 inaugurated its present home at 945 Madison Avenue, designed by Marcel Breuer. The Whitney is currently moving ahead with plans to build a second facility, designed by Renzo Piano, located in downtown New York at the entrance to the High Line in the Meatpacking District.

**Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art:**

<b>Oldenburg/van Bruggen</b>	<b>Through September 6, 2009</b>
<b>Sadie Benning: Play Pause</b>	<b>Through September 20, 2009</b>
<b>Photoconceptualism, 1966-1973</b>	<b>Through September 20, 2009</b>
<b>Dan Graham: Beyond</b>	<b>Through October 11, 2009</b>
<b>Georgia O'Keeffe: Abstraction</b>	<b>September 17, 2009-January 17, 2010</b>
<b>Steve Wolfe on Paper</b>	<b>September 30-November 29, 2009</b>
<b>Roni Horn aka Roni Horn</b>	<b>November 6, 2009-January 24, 2010</b>
<b>Alice Guy Blaché: Cinema Pioneer</b>	<b>November 6, 2009-January 24, 2010</b>

*The Whitney Museum is located at 945 Madison Avenue, New York City. Museum hours are: Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., closed Monday and Tuesday. Admission is \$15 for adults; Members, children (ages 11 and under), and New York City public high school students free. Senior citizens (62 and over) and students with valid ID: \$10. There is a \$6 admission fee for a pass to the Kaufman Astoria Studios Film & Video Gallery only. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 6-9 pm. For information, please call 212-570-3600 or visit [whitney.org](http://whitney.org)*