

**Nora Gibson**

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Gibson is an American choreographer and multimedia artist evolving ballet for the 21st century. Gibson is interested in the beauty of the natural world, as evidenced in mathematics and science. Her hallmark is her collaborations, expanding the understanding of ballet through her work with scientists, mathematicians, and programmers. Gibson creates multimedia work that features both dance and generative digital graphics. Gibson trained at Baltimore School for the Arts, Chautauqua, and NCSA, and earned a BFA from Tisch, at NYU. In addition to performing in the genres of ballet and contemporary dance in MD, D.C., and NY, Gibson was selected to work from 2010-2013 with Lucinda Childs to perform various iconic 70s works as part of the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage's Virtual Reconstruction project. Gibson has been invited as a resident artist in the US and abroad, including the nEW Festival in Philadelphia (2009-10), the CEC New Edge Residency (2009-10), the Ellen Forman Memorial Award (2011), the PHL/Poland Artist Exchange Residency (2012), the Choreographers on Campus Residency, funded through the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (2014), Diepenheim Werkplaats (2016), Kaatsbaan (2017), and The Dance Visions Residency (2018). Gibson's choreography has been presented by New Dance Alliance at Joyce SOHO, at Dance Place in Washington DC, Philadelphia Dance Projects, The Williams Center for the Arts, and by the Franklin Institute. Gibson's work has received consistent critical acclaim, heralded by the Philadelphia Inquirer as "the most authoritative work in Philadelphia. . ." Gibson's innovative approach to ballet garnered her an invitation to speak about her work for an audience of programmers and visual artists at MUTEK in Montreal in 2018. Gibson's work has been commissioned regularly by universities such as Bryn Mawr College, Georgian Court University, and University of the Arts, among others. Gibson is a teacher, and has taught ballet and composition in the US and abroad, including Temple University, University of the Arts, the Zawirwania Festival, and many other institutions. Gibson also makes digital art under the name of Chroma and performs in A/V performances. Gibson creates live and interactive generative digital work with Philly AV and Bismuth String Quartet.

**Selected Awards, Grants, Residencies and Choreographic Commissions:**

2019	Franklin Institute/Philadelphia Science Festival, Commission
2018	Project Stream Grant recipient
2018	Awarded the Dance Visions Residency
2017	University of the Arts, Commission
2017	Alma College, Commission
2017	Kaatsbaan Upstream Residency
2016	University of the Arts, Commission
2016	Werkplaats Diepenheim, residency
2016	Philadelphia Cultural Fund grant recipient
2015	Georgian Court University, Commission
2014	Choreographers on Campus Initiative company residency at Lafayette College and commission
2014	Philadelphia Dance Projects, Commission
2014	Swimpony Residency
2013-14	Bryn Mawr College, Commission
2012	Project Stream grant recipient
2012	Dance/USA Philadelphia Poland Artist Exchange, Residency
2011	Drexel University, Commission

2011 Ellen Forman Memorial Award Recipient  
2010-11 nEW Festival Residency  
2009-10 New Edge Residency

### **Selected Choreographic Works & Presenters**

**Mandala** (2019) Audio/Visual/Dance presented by Franklin Institute/ Philadelphia Science Festival/ Fels Planetarium.  
Made in collaboration with Jason Haggerty (AUS)

**HUMAN** (2018) Full-evening ballet premiering featuring original digital scenography

**Neural Lace** (2017) Commissioned by University of the Arts

**Nothing That Is Not There** (2017) Full evening ballet presented in partnership with The Franklin Institute and Drexel Department of Physics, Materials Lab; workshop performance to be presented by Kaatsbaan.

**A Mind of Winter** (2016) Commissioned by University of the Arts

**Ephemeral** (2016) Made with support from The Netherlands America Foundation

**Dark White** (Dance for Camera)(2015) Film presented by Triskellion Arts Dance Film Lab Festival

**2^57,885,161 - 1** (2014-15) Quartet commissioned with support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's Choreographers on Campus Initiative (Philadelphia premiere: February 2015; re-presented in 2016 by The Williams Ctr for the Arts)

**Temporal Objects** (2014) Quintet presented by Philadelphia Dance Projects

**Simple Restrictions** (2014) Quartet presented by Bryn Mawr College and the Come Together Festival

**Divergent Iteration** (2013-14) Duet commissioned by Bryn Mawr College

**Antarctica Preview Choreographic Video** (dance for opera) (2013) presented by Fidget Space

**Trinity** (2011) Trio performed at The Painted Bride, Philadelphia, funded in part by New Stages for Dance, and presented by Appel Arts, NJ, in 2013

**Corollary to Fugue in G Minor** (2013) Duet Presented by Koresh Dance Company and Performance Garage

**Fugue I Choreographic Dance for Camera** (2012) Presented by Mascher Space, Philadelphia

**Three Four Twelve** (2012) Group work presented by Drexel University, Philadelphia

**Vested Souls** (2010) Quartet Co-presented by Dance Place, Washington D.C. in 2012, and presented by the CEC in Philadelphia in 2010 through funding from Dance Advance, a program of the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage.

**Etude** (2009) Duet presented by the nEW Festival in Philadelphia in 2009, and Joyce SOHO, in NYC in 2010.

### **Selected Teaching Experience**

2019 Ballet mistress for Yun-Yang Lin/Dancers company of Philadelphia  
2018-2019 Ballet instructor, Georgian Court University  
2013 - present Ballet instructor, Instructor for devised physical theater work, Temple University  
(\*recipient of Outstanding Teaching award 2018)  
2013 Ballet instructor, University of the Arts  
2012 Composition workshop at the Zawirowania Festival, Warsaw, Poland  
2009-11 seasonally, Ballet instructor at the nEW Festival, Philadelphia, PA

### **Education**

New York University, Tisch School of the Arts - B.F.A.

Pennsylvania State University - Juris Doctor

Baltimore School for the Arts - HSD

## **Additional Training**

TouchDesigner workshops attended: August 2017; January 2018; August 2018

### **Selected Praise for Gibson's work:**

*"HUMAN EXPLORES ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND TECHNOLOGY'S COMPLICATION OF OBJECTIVITY AND OTHERNESS. IT IS A POSTHUMAN DANCE THAT USES THE LANGUAGE OF CLASSICAL BALLET TO IMAGINE NEW VISTAS, DRAWING ON THE STRENGTHS OF ITS DANCERS, CHOREOGRAPHY, SCORE, AND STAGING. . . GIBSON'S CREATIVE STAGING SERVED HUMAN'S THEME OF THE TENSIONS BETWEEN NATURAL AND UNNATURAL, HUMAN AND ARTIFICIAL." (MELISSA STRONG, BROAD STREET REVIEW)*

*A MASH-UP OF DATA-DRIVEN INQUIRY AND AESTHETIC EXPLORATION, N O T H I N G T H A T I S N O T T H E R E IS A SCIENCE EXPERIMENT IN THE GUISE OF A BALLET PERFORMANCE – AS WELL AS VICE VERSA. . . . THE ABSTRACT BEAUTY OF [THIS BALLET] MAKES IT A FITTING PIECE FOR A SCIENCE FESTIVAL. THE VIEWER MUST BE CURIOUS AND ALERT TO WHAT'S HAPPENING, BUT AT THE SAME TIME OPEN ABOUT ITS SENSE AND SIGNIFICANCE. IT'S A DANCE I'D LIKE TO SEE AGAIN IN ORDER TO INVESTIGATE ITS UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES FURTHER. (JANE FRIES, THE DANCE JOURNAL)*

*"...Ephemeral, her smartest, most accomplished work to date. She is truly someone to watch, a choreographer who shows a new and strangely poetic direction, a dreamer, a philosopher, a seer." (Marilyn Jackson, critic for Philadelphia Inquirer, on FB)*

*"[T]he most authoritative work in Philadelphia this year." (The Philadelphia Inquirer)*

*"spellbinding" (The Philadelphia Inquirer)*