



Washington
Project for the Arts

CORCORAN
GALLERY OF ART • COLLEGE of ART + DESIGN

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Photo by Shaun Schroth

**Corcoran Gallery of Art and Washington Project for the Arts Announce
This Space Occupied (by Maida) by Maida Withers featuring Steve Hilmy**

Performance part of *Take It to the Bridge*, a series of installations and performances in the Corcoran's
Performance Bridge from July 18 – September 15, 2012

Washington, D.C. (September 11, 2012) –The **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design** and Washington Project for the Arts are pleased to announce *This Space Occupied (by Maida)*, a performance by Maida Withers with musical accompaniment by Steve Hilmy. The performance will take place Saturday, September 15, 2012 from 11 a.m. through 4 p.m. in the Performance Bridge above the Corcoran's 17th Street entrance. It is the final event within the series.

This Space Occupied (by Maida) is an interactive performance of structured improvisation. Stream of consciousness choices by Maida Withers and Steve Hilmy will reflect upon the precariousness of life in the glass cage. This 5-hour endurance event is inspired by notions of the Occupy movement and the current political climate - a timely moment to be an artist-occupant in the Corcoran. The performance will transform the elevated glass entryway at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, through dance, choreography, text, and real-time interaction with the audience. The Performance Bridge provides a special challenge to the speed and wit of the artist's mind. The visibility of the Bridge demands that the performer be present for audiences both inside and outside the museum and calls for intelligent, beautiful, and expressive movements and choreography that can entertain, enlighten, and mystify. During her five-hour performance, Withers will meet the challenges presented by the space and invite the audience to reconsider their expectations of dance and performance.

ABOUT MAIDA WITHERS

Maida Withers is the founder and artistic director of Maida Withers Dance Construction Company of Washington, DC, founder and co-curator for Where Where IS Productions!, and a Professor at The George Washington University Department of Theatre and Dance. Withers, a powerful and commanding performer, is known for her daring in movement and innovation as a choreographer. She has created a significant body of work for Maida Withers Dance Construction Company, dances of breadth and vision involving a process of experimentation and collaboration with visual artists, composers, scientists, anthropologists, and others. Her works reflect her activism for art, her interest in social and political issues, and her pursuit of the mix of dance and technology.

Withers has performed in Brazil, China, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, and Venezuela. Her dance films have been selected for festivals in Australia, Brazil, Germany, India, and throughout the United States, including screenings in California, Chicago, IL, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, and Washington, DC. Her work has been supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Virginia Commission on the Arts, Ford Foundation in Russia, U.S. Embassies, and the U.S. Department of State, among others. Maida has received several lifetime achievement awards including the Pola Nirenska Foundation, Dance in the Desert Festival in Las Vegas, and Dance Place Education Award. For more information, go to www.maidadance.com

ABOUT STEVE HILMY

Steve Hilmy has been on the faculty of The George Washington University Music Department since 1992 where he is the Director of the Electronic and Computer Music Studio. He has won awards from such organizations as the Southeastern Composers League, ASCAP, BMI, the Peabody Conservatory, and The Virginia Center for Creative Arts, including first prize in the Philip Slates Memorial Composition Contest for "Icarus Falling" (piano and electronics, 1989); the Gustav Klemm Prize for Composition at the Peabody Conservatory in 1991; and 2nd place prize in the Prix d'ete II composition competition at the Peabody Conservatory for "Us" (tenor saxophone and electronics, 1999). Much of Steve's recent works have been cross-medium collaborations for dance, video, and live electronics. He has been performing live electronic music since 2005 with international performances in Russia, Kenya, Mexico, Croatia, and India.

This Space Occupied (by Maida) is part of *Take It to the Bridge*, a nine-week series of installations and performances taking place through September 15 in the new Performance Bridge located inside the Corcoran's glass entryway on 17th Street. The Performance Bridge was first constructed at the Corcoran Gallery of Art as the stage for Holly Bass's performance *Moneymaker*, a seven-hour endurance work that took place on February 11, 2012, during the final weekend of the Corcoran's landmark fall exhibition *30 Americans*. For *Take it to the Bridge*, eleven artists living and working in the DC-Baltimore region will present nine installations and performances, investigating the Bridge's physical characteristics and pushing the boundaries of this non-traditional space to explore a variety of social, political, and aesthetic issues.

See the full *Take it to the Bridge* schedule below and more information online at <http://www.corcoran.org/summer/bridge> and wpaadc.org

July 18 – July 22: *Ubuntu*, Maya Freelon Asante

Saturday, July 28, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.: *Sleep*, Chajana denHarder

August 1 – August 5, all museum hours: *Canaries in McMansionland*, Jennifer Coster

Thursday, August 9, 7 p.m.: Public Talk with Esa Nickle, Managing Director/Producer of Performa

Friday, August 10: WPA Member meetings with Esa Nickle@WPA

Saturday, August 11, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.: *Save the Date*, Kathryn Cornelius

Saturday, August 18, 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.: *Procedures for Ground Loss Safety*, Sarah Levitt/ Dance Exchange

August 22 – August 26, all museum hours: *The Airborne Leaflet Campaign (ALC)*, COLON:Y (Chukwuma Agubokwu and Wilmer Wilson IV)

Saturday, September 1, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.: *Maid in the USA*, Carolina Mayorga

Saturday, September 5 – September 9, all museum hours: *Bridging the Light*, Annie Albagli

Saturday, September 15, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.: *This Space Occupied (by Maida)*, Maida Withers with composer Steve Hilmy

PUBLIC PROGRAM

PRESENT: A Discussion on Live Performance and Contemporary Art

Thursday, October 11 at 7 p.m.

Pre-registration encouraged; visit <https://getinvolved.corcoran.org/PRESENT>

Presented in Partnership with Washington Project for the Arts

Five artists who participated in the Take It to the Bridge series—Kathryn Cornelius, Chajana denHarder, Sarah Levitt, Carolina Mayorga, and Maida Withers—discuss the development and execution of their performances, in addition to the challenges and rewards of working in live performance. Featuring artists with backgrounds in visual art, performance, and dance discussing widely varied projects, PRESENT contributes to the groundswell of dialogue about and presentation of live performance in the D.C. area. Sarah Newman, the Corcoran’s curator of contemporary art, moderates the discussion.

ABOUT WASHINGTON PROJECT FOR THE ARTS

Washington Project for the Arts (WPA) is an independent, nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization whose mission is to serve as a catalyst for contemporary art. WPA supports artists at all stages of their careers and promotes contemporary art by presenting exhibitions, issues, and ideas that stimulate public dialogue on art and culture. www.wpadc.org.

WPA is supported by its members, Board of Directors, invaluable volunteers, and by generous contributions from numerous individuals and the D.C. Commission on the Arts & Humanities, William C. Paley Foundation, The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, Susan and Dixon Butler, Abramson Family Foundation, Ray Garcia, Carol Brown Goldberg and Henry H. Goldberg, Haleh Design, Hickok Cole Architects, Giselle and Benjamin Huberman, Betsy Karel, Russell and Randy Katz, Yvette Kraft, Marshfield Associates, Richard Seaton and John Berger, MD, TTR Sotheby’s International Realty, UBS Financial Services Inc., Sarah Valente, Vivo Design, Alexia and Roderick von Lipsey, and The Washington Post Company.

ABOUT THE CORCORAN

Established in 1869, the **Corcoran Gallery of Art** was one of America’s first museums of art—dedicated, in the words of founder William Wilson Corcoran, to “encouraging American genius.” Today it is Washington, D.C.’s largest nonfederal art museum, known internationally for its distinguished collection of historical and modern American art as well as contemporary art, photography, European painting, sculpture, and the decorative arts. A dynamic schedule of special exhibitions complements a range of educational programming, which together enrich the perspectives of the visiting public, support the local arts community, and encourage thoughtful interpretation of today’s most compelling social issues. **The Corcoran College of Art + Design** was founded as a school of art in 1890 and stands as Washington’s only four-year accredited college of art and design. The College is one of the few in the nation whose educational model includes an integral relationship with a museum, fostering the talent of the next generation of artists. For more information about the **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design**, visit www.corcoran.org.



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