

# MUNA TSENG

**Artistic Director, Dancer, Choreographer, Teacher, Author, Lecturer**

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**Born:** August 10, 1953, Hong Kong. **Citizenships:** American, Canadian.

**Education:** B.A. 1975, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. Majors: Dance, Fine Arts.

Founder and Artistic Director of **Muna Tseng Dance Projects Inc.** a 501 (C)3 not-for-profit organization incorporated in 1984 in New York City. Muna Tseng has served as Artistic Director, Choreographer, Performer since its inception in 1984 to the present, based in New York City.

## **Awards, Fellowships, Grants, Citations, Honors:**

**BESSIE**, New York Dance & Performance Award for Choreography/Creation with Ping Chong, **SlutForArt**, 1999.  
Citation for Best Choreography, 2000-2001 theater season, Philadelphia Inquirer, PA, **The Silver River**.  
Fund for American Artists at International Festivals and Exhibitions, Arts International, 2001, 1998, 1995, 1990.  
Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, International Touring Grant 2011.  
Meet the Composer, Choreographer/Composer Project, 1996, 1992, 1991.  
New York Foundation for the Arts, Choreographic Fellowship, 1991, 1987.  
National Endowment for the Arts, Choreographic Fellowship, 1988, 1987.  
New York State Council on the Arts, commissions 1980, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85.  
New York State Council on the Arts, Choreographer/Visual Artist Collaboration, 1985.  
Citation for Outstanding Performances for Children and Youths, Kennedy Center, Washington DC, 1984.  
Citation for Artistic Excellence, Smithsonian Institute, Washington DC, 1984.  
Citation for Outstanding Achievement in the Arts by Asian-Americans, City President of New York, 1993.

## **Select Public Appearances, Talks, Panel Discussions:**

Yabu Pushelberg Creative Salon Series, New York, NY, October 2024  
*Art, Identity, and Legacy* Panel Discussion with 80WSE NYU, Soft Network and Visual AIDS, October 2024  
*Keith Haring: Art Is For Everybody* Opening Panel, Walker Arts Center, April 2024  
*The Dance Historian Is In*, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts with Wendy Perron, October 2023  
*East Meets West: A Tale of Two Siblings* presentation to accompany group exhibition featuring Tseng Kwong Chi at Nassau Museum, curated by Eric Fischl, May 2019  
*NüVoices of the Diaspora: An Evening of Storytelling*, excerpts from "Family Portraits" works, Museum of Chinese in America, New York, NY, March 2019  
*The Dance Oral History Project*, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts with Lesley Farlow, June 2018

## **Teaching:**

Qigong Tai Chi weekly classes, 2007 to present.  
Residency workshop, Pollitalu Arts Centre, Tallinn, Estonia, 2018.  
"Mother-Daughter" Workshops, Danspace Project, New York, 2010.  
Residency workshops, Bordeaux, France, 2008, 2010.  
Adjunct Professor, New York University, Atlantic Theater Program, New York, 2002 to 2004.  
Adjunct Professor, New York University, Playwright's Horizons Program, New York, 1996.  
Founder, Director and faculty, Caumsett Summer Dance Residency Program, Queens College, City University of New York, 1984 to 1987.  
Adjunct Professor, Rutgers University, Douglass College, New Brunswick, NJ, 1980 to 1983.  
Workshops and master classes taught on tour and during residencies, 1984 to present.

## **Professional Service on Panels and Boards:**

Creative Director, Estate Archive of Photographer Tseng Kwong Chi  
Chair, 'Current Practice' Committee, BESSIES (New York Dance & Performance Award)  
Danspace Project, New York, Board of Directors  
New York State Council on the Arts  
New York Foundation of the Arts  
Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation

**Muna Tseng Dance Projects Productions:**

(full stage productions, collaborators, venues, premiere & performance dates)

\* with teaching residency.

**L'Après Midi: then/now**

Muna Tseng (Concept, Choreography, Performance)

A solo dance poem in homage to Tseng's late brother Tseng Kwong Chi, a beautiful faun in search of beauty.

Music by Debussy, Video by Muna Tseng

Performed at Yabu Pushelberg Creative Salon Series, New York, NY, October 2024

**Visitor/Visiteur**

Muna Tseng (Concept, Choreography, Text, Performance)

A solo derived from SlutForArt (1999) at Commonwealth and Council Gallery, Los Angeles, performed at the opening of an exhibition of photography by Tseng Kwong Chi Visitor/Visiteur, on March 16, 2024.

Video of the event included in Fac Xtra Retreat: Force Ghosts, performed at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, June 16, 2024. Anna Sew Hoy (Curation).

**Me, You, Then, Now**

Muna Tseng (Concept, Choreography, Text, Performance), Irene Hultman (Choreography & Script Articulation), Thomas Dunn (Lighting, Video and Scenic Design), James Lo (Sound Design), Ain Gordon (Dramaturgy and Script Articulation), Courtney Golden (Stage Management)

Premiered at the 2023 Singapore International Festival of the Arts at the Victoria Theatre, Singapore, May 27, 2023.

**Epochal Songs**

Muna Tseng (Choreographer & Performer) Thomas Dunn (Designer) Bruce Tovsky & Tracy Wuischpard (Score) and Stefani Mar (Costumes)

Reimagining of Epochal Songs (1982) on its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in tandem with SCHUNCK Museum's Keith Haring: Grace House Mural exhibition. Schrittmacher Dance Festival, Heerlen, Netherlands, March 8, 2022.

**Human Signs – LIVE GRID N1 NEW YORK**

Yuval Avital, performed by Muna Tseng, Luisa Muhr, Peter Sciscioli, Irene Hultman Monti, Chanan Ben Simon, Walter Dundervill, Jen Anaya. Performed in Brooklyn on October 25, 2020.

**IT'S ALL TRUE: GRANDFATHER**

Muna Tseng (Director, Author, Choreographer & Performer)

in development at Baryshnikov Arts Center Residency March 27 - April 21, 2017

**After Fukushima**

performed with Perry Yung, a 24 hour event to remember the tragedy, curated by Eiko, Danspace Project, March 2016.

**High Rise / Medusa**

Muna Tseng (Choreographer & Director)

a site-specific dance commission for New York City Parks Summer Events, on large scale sculpture by Charles Ginnever, Hudson River Park, June 2014

**STELLA**

Muna Tseng (Direction, Choreography, Text, Performance) Ong Keng Sen (Dramaturgy), Workshop version at 72-13, presented by Theatreworks Singapore, 2006.

New York City premiere commissioned and presented by Danspace Project, May 2011.

**For Her**

Bruce Tovsky (Music Composition), Muna Tseng (Choreography, Performance)

Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, MA, 2008.

La MaMa Moves Festival, New York, 2009.

**Water Trilogy: Water Mysteries I, Water Mysteries II, Water Water, Pond**

Mike Vargas, Bruce Tovsky (Music Compositions), Emmanuelle Koutsourelis (Direction)

Muna Tseng (Choreography, Performance)  
Premiered at 14<sup>th</sup> Street Y Dance Center, New York, 1984.  
American Festival, Bloomsbury Theatre, London, England, 1985.\*  
Riverside Studios, London, England, 1987.\*  
Lycabettus Amphitheater, Athens Festival, Greece, 1987.  
Joyce Theater All-Together Different Festival, New York, 1988.  
Central Park Summerstage, New York NY, 1998.  
La MaMa Moves Festival, New York 2008.  
Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, MA, 2008.  
La MaMa Moves Festival, New York, 2009.

### **The Silver River**

Bright Sheng (Opera Composition), David Henry Hwang (Libretto),  
Ong Keng Sen (Direction), Muna Tseng (Choreography, Performance).  
Premiered at Spoleto Festival USA, Charleston SC, 2000.\*  
Prince Music Theater, Philadelphia PA, 2001.\*  
Victoria Theatre, Singapore, 2001.  
Lincoln Center Festival, New York, 2002.

### **Liquid**

Muna Tseng (Conception, Choreography, Performance).  
Premiered at the Whitney Museum at Philip Morris, New York NY, 2000.  
Bihac Arts Festival, Bosnia, 2001\*.

### **SlutForArt a.k.a. Ambiguous Ambassador**

Ping Chong (Direction, Text), Muna Tseng (Choreography, Performance).  
Premiered at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y Harkness Dance at Playhouse 91, New York NY, 1999.  
Central Park Summerstage, New York NY, 1999  
National Dance Project Tour 2001, funded by New England Foundation for the Arts:  
PICA (Portland Institute for Contemporary Art) , Portland, OR, 2001.  
Contemporary Art Center, New Orleans LA, 2001\*.  
Spoleto Festival USA, Charleston, SC, 2000.  
The Dance Place, Washington DC, 2001\*.  
University Montana Productions, Missoula MT 2001.  
Off-Broadway season: Zachary Scott Theater, Austin TX 2002\*.  
La MaMa ETC for Ping Chong & Co. 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season, 2002.  
3:Vanigen, Goteborg, Sweden, Goteborg Art Bienale 2011.

### **After Sorrow**

Ping Chong (Direction, Text), Josef Fung (Music Composition),  
Muna Tseng (Choreography, Performance).  
Premiered in 1997 at La MaMa ETC, New York NY, 1997.  
California State University at Long Beach, CA, 1997.  
The Dance Place, Washington DC, 1997.  
Hamilton College, Clinton, NY, 1997.  
International Theatre of Nations Festival, Seoul, Korea, 1997.  
Festival of Asian Arts, Hong Kong, 1998.  
Rockford College, Rockford, IL, 1998\*.  
Chamizal National Theater, El Paso, TX, 1998\*.

### **98.6: A Convergence in 15 Minutes**

Ping Chong (Text, Direction), Muna Tseng (Choreography, Performance).  
Premiered at P.S. 122, New York, NY, 1996.  
La MaMa ETC, New York NY, 1997.  
Center for Creative Photography, Tucson AZ 1997.  
Asia Society, New York, NY 1999.  
Tanz International Festival of Duets & Solos, Heidelberg, Germany 1999.  
Austin Festival of Dance, TX, 2000.  
La MaMa ETC for Ping Chong & Co. 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season, 2002.  
3:Vanigen, Goteborg, Sweden, Dance Across Borders Dance Festival, Goteborg Art Bienale 2011.

### **The Idea of East**

Tan Dun (Music Composition), Margaret Leng-Tan, Souhan Cheung (Music Performance -Piano),  
Muna Tseng (Choreography, Performance).

Premiered at PS 122-New York NY; 1996.  
RE-Orient Festival, The Place Theatre, London, England 1996.

### **The Pink**

Tan Dun (Music Composition), Muna Tseng (Choreography, Performance).  
Premiered at La MaMa ETC, New York NY, 1994\*.  
Hong Kong Arts Centre, 1994\*.(a co-production with City Contemporary Dance Company Hong Kong)  
Dia Center for the Arts, The Kitchen, Henry Street Settlement, New York NY, 1994  
Bryn Mawr College PA, 1994\*.  
Singletary Center for the Arts, Lexington KY, 1995\*.  
Dance Center at Columbia College, Chicago IL, 1995\*.  
Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan WI, 1995\*.  
Von Krahl International Music, Dance & Theater Festival, Tallinn, Estonia, 1995\*.

### **MTPNC**

Phill Niblock (Music Composition, Video Design), Muna Tseng (Choreography, Performance).  
Danspace Project, New York, 1992.  
New York Festival, Kunsthalle Mousonturm, Frankfurt, Germany, 1993.

### **Post-Revolutionary Girl**

Ana da Silva (Music Composition), Muna Tseng (Choreography, Performance, Text)  
DIA Center for the Arts, 1989.  
Israel Festival of Dance, Tel Aviv, and Karmiel Dance Festival, Israel, 1989\*.  
The Place Theatre, London, England, 1989\*.  
Mayfest, Glasgow, Scotland, 1989\*.

### **Muna Tseng appearances in shared group performances:**

#### ***Elegy***

***Fabulous Women***, curated by Irene Hultman, Danspace Project, April 2016.  
***A Prize Every Time***, Project curated by Sally Silvers, Roulette, Brooklyn, 2011.  
***The Horse's Mouth***, with Jamie Cunningham and Tina Croll, 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y, New York, 2010.  
***La MaMa Moves Festival***, curated by Mia Yoo & Nicky Paraiso, La MaMa Annex, 2009, 2008, 2007.  
***Dance Across Borders***, curated by Susan Osberg, Fisher Center, Bard College, 2007.  
***Dancing Asia/New York***, curated by Eiko & Koma, Asia Society, New York, 2004.  
***The Horse's Mouth***, with Jamie Cunningham and Tina Croll, Duke on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York, 2004.  
***40 Up***, Project by Robin Staff, Joyce Soho, New York, 2001.  
***Food for Thought***, curated by Susan Osberg, Danspace Project, New York, 2001.  
***The Salon Project***, DIA Center for the Arts, New York, 1994, 1989, 1988.

### **Early Professional Dance career:**

Principal Dancer in Jean Erdman and Joseph Campbell's Theater of the Open Eye, New York, 1978 to 1985, performing many of Erdman's classic roles to original commissioned music by John Cage, Lou Harrison, Louis Horst, Teiji Ito, among others.