

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST  
INDEPENDENT CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS – DANCE  
AMERICAN MASTERS: MERCE CUNNINGHAM CONTEMPORARY DANCE RESIDENCY**

The National Gallery of Australia (NGA), with support from the Embassy of the United States of America, will host an international contemporary dance residency in association with its forthcoming exhibition *American Masters 1940–1980*, on at the NGA 24 August – 11 November 2018.

*American Masters* is an in-depth survey of art of the post-war period for Australian and Asian-Pacific audiences. Celebrating the NGA's extraordinary 20<sup>th</sup> century American collection, one of the best outside the US, the exhibition presents for the first time the depth and quality of the holdings. *American Masters* also explores the profound impact that American artists had, and continue to have, on the cultural and artistic lives of Australians.

The National Gallery of Australia is seeking three independent Australian contemporary dance artists (1 from the ACT and 2 national) with experience in creative making environments for a two week residency period. During this time, they will work with The Merce Cunningham Trust stager, Jamie Scott. A range of solo, duo and trio Merce Cunningham repertoire works will be remounted on the successful applicants during the residency period in September. There will also be workshop presentation opportunities with local emerging artists and up to five public performances within the *American Masters* exhibition at the end of the residency period.

The successful independent contemporary artists will be engaged as contractors by the National Gallery of Australia for a period of 14 days. Please see draft residency program below.

The *American Masters* Contemporary Dance Residency will be managed by the Program Producer within the Public Programs, Education, Research Library and Archive (PERLA) department at the NGA.

**Independent contemporary dance artist duties and responsibilities**

- Work collaboratively with other participants, under the direction of The Merce Cunningham Trust stager, Jamie Scott during the residency;
- Provide a very high level of practical expertise in contemporary dance and performance art for the residency;
- Rehearse and deliver four public performances of Merce Cunningham repertoire, in response to the NGA's major exhibition *American Masters*;
- Collaborate to deliver three high quality, engaging workshops to local emerging dancers in response to the NGA's major exhibition *American Masters* (1.5 hours sessions);
- Be available during the full residency period;
- Be onsite for rehearsal and performance days from 10am – 5pm;
- Maintain a safe working environment at all times;
- Work within the NGA code of conduct and risk management framework;

**Essential Selection Criteria**

- Strong commitment to and demonstrated track record in contemporary dance and performance art;
- High level of self-motivation and an ability to work independently;
- Excellent communication skills and interpersonal skills;
- Working knowledge of rehearsal practices, high level of creativity and practical experience in professional environment;
- Contemporary dance teaching experience in a public forum;
- Certificate of Currency for Public Liability Insurance cover.



Funding provided by the United States Government

### **Desirable Criteria**

- Skills and experience working across a range of arts practices;
- At least two years professional contemporary dance experience;
- Tertiary or VET qualifications in Performance Arts, and/or Performance and Education Studies;
- Individuals from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to express their interest.

### **Work, Health & Safety Obligations**

The *American Masters* Contemporary Dance Residency dancers will be required to:

- have current public liability insurance;
- take reasonable care for their own health and safety;
- take reasonable care that performances or activities do not adversely affect the health and safety of others;
- comply with any reasonable WH&S instruction that is given by a person with authority;
- have an understanding of and to co-operate with all WH&S policies and procedures.

### **Dates of the *American Masters* Contemporary Dance Residency 2018**

The successful dancers must be able to be present for the residency at the NGA Canberra from:

***Monday 3 September - Monday 17 September 2018*** (2 full days off given during residency period).

### **Fees and Allowances**

The National Gallery of Australia will pay weekly fees consistent with Media Entertainment Arts Alliance standards. Return airfares within Australia, ground transport, per diems and accommodation will also be provided for the 2 interstate artists.

### **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Your submission for The American Masters Contemporary Dance Residency should include the following information:

- A current Curriculum Vitae (max 3 pages) which includes contact information for (2) professional referees;
- A headshot and short biography;
- A written Expression of Interest letter of no more than (2) pages outlining your capacity to undertake this contract and in consideration of the selection criteria, with mention of teaching capacity;
- Moving image (max 5 minutes) and still imagery (max 5 images) of recent performance work.

Please note: submission requirements can be sent via a large format provider, via YouTube link or by post.

**SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE LODGED BEFORE 5PM ON SUNDAY 1 JULY 2018 TO;**

[publicprograms@nga.gov.au](mailto:publicprograms@nga.gov.au)

Attn: Jessica Ausserlechner, Program Producer  
National Gallery of Australia  
PO Box 1150  
Canberra, ACT 2601

### **Enquires:**

Jessica Ausserlechner, Program Producer  
[jessica.ausserlechner@nga.gov.au](mailto:jessica.ausserlechner@nga.gov.au)  
(02) 6240 6432



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## **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

\*Please note, this program is subject to change

### **Monday 3 September**

Travel to Canberra

### **Tuesday 4 September**

10am – 4pm

Class

Tour of *American Masters* exhibition

Rehearsal session

### **Wednesday 5 September**

10am – 4pm

Class

Rehearsal sessions

### **Thursday 6 September**

10 – 4pm

Class

Rehearsal sessions

Public program - Open rehearsal session

### **Friday 7 September**

10am – 4pm

Class

Rehearsal sessions

Public program - Open rehearsal session

### **Saturday 8 September**

Free day

### **Sunday 9 September**

10am – 4.30pm

Open workshop with students – Junior

Open workshop with students – Senior

### **Monday 10 September**

Free day

### **Tuesday 11 September**

10am – 4pm

Class

Rehearsal session

Public program – Out of the Box

### **Wednesday 12 September**

10am – 4pm

Class

Rehearsal session

### **Thursday 13 September**

10am – 4pm

Class

Rehearsal sessions

Public program - Open rehearsal session

### **Friday 14 September**

11am – 4pm

Class

Rehearsal sessions

Public program - Open rehearsal session

6pm – 8pm

American Masters Friday night event

Performance 1

### **Saturday 15 September**

11am – 3pm

Class

Performance 2

Performance 3

### **Sunday 16 September**

11am – 3pm

Class

Performance 4

Performance 5