

# My-Linh T. Le

b. 1987, San Jose, California

**Street dance theater director, film and digital media artist, former environmental attorney**

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## RESEARCH & CREATIVE PRACTICE SUMMARY

My research-focused creative practice, which I call autoethno(choreo)graphy, treats dance as living, embodied archives of community-specific values, kinship patterns, sacred practices, and systems of communication and survival shaped by sociopolitical conditions (e.g. migration, redlining, state-sanctioned violence and surveillance), where intergenerational knowledge and memory are preserved, especially within communities excluded from academic canons. As an educator, I integrate fieldwork and historical research within curriculum design to cultivate critical awareness, technical skill, and community engagement. In my classes, I show that learning, practicing, documenting, and teaching dance within its cultural contexts becomes a participatory study of how communities express and sustain themselves through movement.

## CV HIGHLIGHTS

- Popper for 20+ years, first woman to represent the legacy popping crew **Playboyz Inc**, and invited judge for J.O.A.T. in Montreal—the largest street dance festival in the Americas.
- Founding director of **Mud Water Theatre**, a street dance theater collective blending turfing, theater, and film to preserve the cultural lineage of Bay Area movement traditions.
- “YBCA 10” Fellow at the **Yerba Buena Center for the Arts**, and exhibiting artist in international contemporary art festivals: **Okayama Art Summit** and **Tokyo Biennale**.
- Recipient of **Gerbode Foundation Special Award in Choreography**, Rainin Foundation New & Experimental Works Grant, and USArtists International Award.
- Co-author and co-creator of Jardy Santiago’s Online House Dance Program at [www.house-dance.com](http://www.house-dance.com) which has taught over 1,500 students since 2018
- Former environmental attorney with expertise in legal research and analysis, and experience working as a legal extern for the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.

## EDUCATION

**2020 MFA**, Dance, Arizona State University

**2012 JD**, University of California, Davis School of Law

**2009 BA**, World Arts & Culture, University of California, Los Angeles

## SELECTED RESEARCH & CREATIVE PROJECTS

**2025** ***Movement Arts Research (MAR) Teaching Residency Program***, Inaugural Resident Instructor, presented by MAR, 3.1 - 3.31, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

**2024** ***JOAT x TURFING***: a public exhibition battle and workshop to introduce surfing in Canada, Director/Producer, presented by J.O.A.T. International Street Dance Festival at Place des Arts, 8.29 - 9.1, Montreal, Quebec

**2023** ***Mud Water IV***, Director/Writer/Producer, co-presented by Dance Brigade at Dance Mission Theater, 11.18 - 11.19, San Francisco

***Cypher and Cypher II***, Artist, [Tokyo Biennale 2023](#): Creating Linkage, 10.11 - 11.5, Tokyo, Japan

**2022** ***demons of good dreams***, Artist, [Okayama Art Summit 2022](#): Do We Dream Under the Same Sky? curated by Rirkrit Tiravanija, 9.30 - 11.27, Okayama, Japan

***Mud Water (narrative short)***, Director/Screenwriter/Producer, screened at: [SFFILM Festival](#), San Francisco

***ANIMA***, Artist, presented as part of group show titled ["dreamseeds" | Yerba Buena Center for the Arts \(YBCA\)](#), 4.14 - 9.4, San Francisco, California

## ALL PERFORMANCES AND THEATER PRODUCTIONS

**2024** ***JOAT x TURFING*** (public exhibition battle and workshop), Director/Producer, presented by JOAT International Street Dance Festival at Place des Arts, 8.29 - 9.1, Montreal, Quebec

**2023** ***Mud Water IV***, Director/Writer/Producer, presented by Dance Brigade at Dance Mission Theater, 11.18 - 11.19 San Francisco

**2022** ***Wicked Bodies by Liz Lerman***, Dancer/Guest Collaborator, presented by YBCA at the Blue Shield of California Theater, 10.28 - 10.30, San Francisco

**2020** ***Me Love You Long Time (site-specific + virtual performance)***, Director/Performer, presented by DBR Lab at ASU, 5.6, Tempe

***Trong Nuoc: A Choreographic Study of Family Trauma***, Director/ Writer/Solo Performer, performed in part virtually (due to covid-19) at ASU, Tempe

**2019** ***Underwater***, Director/Writer/Performer, presented by KQED's The California Report Magazine at the Brava Theater Center, 11.21, San Francisco

***The Mis(Diagnosis) of Madam Toy*** by Marianne Kim, Dancer/Guest Collaborator, performed at Second Stage West, 4.4 - 4.6, Tempe

**2018** ***Reverse Turing Test (v2.0)***, Director/Writer/Producer, presented by ASU at the Margaret Gisolo Dance Theatre in Tempe

**2017** ***Reverse Turing Test (v1.0)***, Director/Writer/Producer, presented by Faculty of Fine Art at Chiang Mai University in Chiang Mai, Thailand

***Mud Water II***, Director/Writer/Producer, presented by Dance Brigade at Dance Mission Theater, 3.4 - 3.5, San Francisco

**2016** ***Mud Water II, a work in progress***, Director/Writer/Producer, presented by University of San Francisco (USF) at the Studio Theater on Lone Mountain, 11.17 - 11.19, San Francisco

***Mud Water I (excerpt)***, Director/Writer/Producer, presented by KQED's Women to Watch at SFJAZZ Center, 8.3, San Francisco

***Mud Water I***, Director/Writer/Producer, presented by D.I.R.T. Festival at Dance Mission Theater, 1.30 - 2.1, San Francisco

## ALL FILM AND DOCUMENTARY WORKS

**2025** ***Endangered Perspectives: “The Art of Communing”*** (docu-talkshow series), Director/Producer/Editor/Host, ongoing series self broadcasted via [YouTube](#)

**2024** ***Endangered Perspectives: “The Art of Teaching”*** (docu-talkshow series), Director/Producer/Editor/Host, ongoing series self broadcasted via [YouTube](#)

***Endangered Perspectives: “The Lost Art of Battling”*** (docu-talk show series), Director/Producer/Editor/Host, ongoing series self broadcasted via [YouTube](#)

**2022** ***Mud Water (narrative midlength)***, Director/Screenwriter/Producer, screened at: [SFFILM Festival](#), San Francisco; [CAAM Fest](#), Oakland; [Dance Camera West](#), Los Angeles; [Cinedans](#), Amsterdam

**2021** ***Mẹ Love You Long Time (experimental short)***, Director/Screenwriter/Solo Performer, presented virtually by Vietnamese American Roundtable (VAR) to commemorate the 46th Black April

**2020** ***Freestyling Asian America (experimental short)***, Director/Screenwriter/Solo Performer, presented virtually via Arizona State University (ASU)

2014 **Way of Wingchun (short documentary)**, Director/Producer, published To YouTube

## ALL ART EXHIBITIONS

2023 **Cypher**, Artist, [Tokyo Biennale 2023](#): Creating Linkage, 10.8 - 11.5, Tokyo, Japan  
**Cypher II**, Artist, [Tokyo Biennale 2023](#): Creating Linkage, 10.11 - 11.5, Tokyo, Japan

2022 **demons of good dreams**, Artist, [Okayama Art Summit 2022](#): Do We Dream Under the Same Sky? curated by Rirkrit Tiravanija, 9.30 - 11.27, Okayama, Japan  
**dogd x Untitled Band (performance)**, Artist, [Okayama Art Summit 2022](#): Do We Dream Under the Same Sky? curated by Rirkrit Tiravanija, 9.30 - 11.27, Okayama  
**ANIMA**, Artist, [dreamseeds | Yerba Buena Center for the Arts \(YBCA\)](#), 4.14 - 9.4, San Francisco, California

2021 **Origin Story of No Name**, Artist, [The Monument as Living Memory at the YBCA](#), 9.28 - 12.17, San Francisco

## ALL UNIVERSITY TEACHING AND ASSISTANTSHIPS

2020 **Spring Dance 133 for Dance Majors Urban Movements Practices I**, Instructor of Record, Arizona State University (ASU), Tempe  
**Spring Dance 123 Non-Majors Hip Hop I**, Instructor of Record, ASU

2019 **Fall Dance 123 Non-Majors Hip Hop I**, Instructor of Record, ASU  
**Fall Dance 133 for Dance Majors Urban Movements Practices I**, Teaching Assistant to J. Edson "House" Magana, ASU  
**Spring DCE 123 Non-Majors Hip Hop Dance Level I**, Instructor of Record, ASU  
**Spring Theater Dance Film 126 First Year Seminar for Undergrads**, Teaching Assistant for Joya Scott, ASU

2018 **Fall Film and Media Production 405 Great Directors**, Teaching Assistant to Joseph Fortunato, ASU  
**Fall Dance 123 Non-Majors Hip Hop I**, Instructor of Record, ASU

## ALL OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCES

**2025** *Jardy Santiago's Online House Dance Program* at [House-Dance.Com](http://House-Dance.Com), Co-Authored the full asynchronous curriculum, designed and directed the program's structure and format, and developed the website program, from 2018 to present.

**Funk Remainz Workshop**, Guest Instructor, presented by Foco Flava and Machinez Remainz Crew in Fort Collins, Colorado 7.18

**Axis PH**, Dance Company Guest Instructor (private workshop), presented by Axis PH in Manila, Philippines 5.19

**Movement Arts Research (MAR) Teaching Residency Program**, Guest Instructor, presented by MAR in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam 3.1 - 3.31

**2024** *Winter Cypher Street Dance Intensive*, Guest Instructor, presented by Rennie Harris U at the University of Colorado, Boulder 12.13 - 12.15, Boulder

**2023** *Artful Eye Studio*, Instructor, self-organized 5.25 - 12.6 in Sacramento

**SacDance Lab**, Instructor, presented by SacDance Lab, 9.11 - 12.12 in Sacramento

**Techniques in Waving (Workshop)**, Guest Instructor, presented by Alice Hur and San Jose Waacking 9.5 in San Jose, CA

**Popping Foundation Workshop Series**, Guest Instructor, presented by Hawkins School of Performing Arts, 5.8 - 5.22, in Folsom, CA

**Creative Practices in Popping**, Guest Instructor, presented by Bodies of Empowerment (BOE) 4.16 in San Francisco

**2022** *Okayama Art Summit Workshop Series*, Guest Instructor, presented by Okayama Art Summit 2022 5.24 - 6.2, in Okayama, Japan

**Master Class in Flowmation**, Guest Instructor, presented by JOAT International Street Dance Festival, 9.5, in Montreal, Quebec

**2021** *MVMNT Fall Intensives*, Intensive Instructor, presented by MVMNT Studio, 11.14, in Oakland

**2017** *Popping Master Classes (Southeast Asia Tour)*, 10.30 - 12.28 in Manila, Philippines; Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, Vietnam; Chiang Mai, Thailand

## AWARDS, HONORS, AND GRANTS

**2024** *USAartists International Artist Award*, granted by Mid Atlantic to to support exceptional

American artists in bringing their work to global audiences at international festivals and arts marketplaces.

**2023** ***Community Arts Award***, granted by Zellerbach Family Foundation to projects that engage diverse audiences and actively involve underrepresented communities in the creative process

**2021** ***Special Award in Choreography***, awarded by the Gerbode Foundation  
***New & Experimental Works Grant***, awarded by Rainin Foundation  
***YBCA 100 and YBCA 10***, honor bestowed by Yerba Buena Center for the Arts to artists, activists, and community leaders for their commitment in building equitable and regenerative communities

**2020** ***Creative Constellation Grant***, awarded by Arizona State University (ASU) to students who will “implement original ideas that use their creativity for powerful innovation and community impact.”  
***Special Talent Award***, awarded by ASU to outstanding students of Design and the Arts

**2019** ***Graduate College Fellowship***, awarded by ASU based on merit to graduate students nominated by their academic unit with strong support from their department chair  
***Special Talent Award***, awarded by ASU to outstanding students of Design and the Arts

**2018** ***Herbert Smith Family Graduate Fellowship in Dance***, awarded by ASU  
***Special Talent Award***, awarded by ASU to exemplary dance students

**2017** ***New Works Grant***, awarded by Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation in support of new daring and diverse projects across various disciplines while celebrating the inimitable creative spirit of the Bay Area

**2016** **“*Best of the East Bay,” People Issue 2016***, honor bestowed by the East Bay Express celebrating some of the “most inspiring people” of the East Bay, California.

**2016** **“*Women to Watch*,”** honor bestowed by KQED Arts celebrating 20 Bay Area artists who are “true vanguards” paving the way in their respective communities

## **GUEST ARTIST, PRESENTER, AND JUDGE**

**2025** ***Funk Remainz***, Battle Guest Judge, presented by Foco Flava and Machinez Remainz in Fort Collins, Colorado

**Redbull Dance Your Style Vietnam**, Invited Guest, presented by Mfinity Team and MAR Dance and Yoga, 4.9, in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

**2024** **Digital Media Perspectives CT10**, Guest Lecturer, presented by the [Creative Technologies Program](#) at University of California, Santa Cruz

**2023** **Her Power Vol. 2**, Panel Speaker and Guest Performer, presented by Nightwalkers, 3.24 - 3.26, in Sacramento

**THE EXHIBITION**, Guest Performer, presented by Her Theory, 3.5, in Sacramento

**2022** **Okayama Art Summit Artist Talk**, Artist Panel Speaker, presented by [Okayama Art Summit 2022](#) 9.30 in Okayama, Japan

**JOAT Popping**, Battle Guest Judge, presented by JOAT Street Dance Festival 9.4 in Montreal, Quebec

**2021** **Content Magazine Podcast Interview**, Guest (Interviewee), presented by [Content Magazine](#) and broadcasted virtually 9.22

**Art of Conversation: Thao Nguyen and My-Linh Le**, Guest (Interviewee), presented by KQED broadcasted 4.30 via Facebook

**Queen of Turf Inc**, Battle Guest Judge, presented by Turf Inc, 10.16, in San Francisco

**We Does This: Popping Edition**, Battle Guest Judge, presented by 1UP Crew, 8.21, in Oakland

**The Deep III**, Battle Guest Judge, presented by Black Flag and Nightwalkers, 7.11, in Sacramento

**2019** **Hip-Hop, I Am Not: Street Credibility as a Prerequisite for Offering Formal Credentials**, Presenter, for [Dance Studies Association 2019 Annual Conference](#), 8.8 - 8.11, in Evanston, Illinois

**2017** **Popping Battle**, Battle Guest Judge, presented by Pitik Pinoy, 12.28 in Manila, Philippines

**Funky Town Vol 2**, Guest Exhibition Battle Invitee, presented by Dojo Studio 12.17 in Laguna, Philippines

**Zát Là Vui Vol 1**, Battle Guest Judge, presented by JoyFunk 12.9 in Hanoi, Vietnam

**The Mystery of the Snowflake**, Speaker, for [CreativeMornings San Francisco](#), 1.20 at the Roxie Theater in San Francisco

**2016** **7 to Smoke**, Battle Invitee, presented by What's Poppin' Ladiez 5.15 at Washington

Hall in Seattle, Washington

**Waackers of the Galaxy**, Battle Guest Judge, presented by Mix'd Ingrdnts 1.16 at Destiny Arts Center in Oakland

**2015** **The Blackprint**, Battle Guest Judge, presented by the Bellas 11.12 at The Washington Neighborhood Center in Sacramento

**Freestyle Sunday**, Battle Guest Judge, presented by District SF x TheCommune 5.24 at Distrct SF in San Francisco

**“Alright” by Kendrick Lamar**, Featured Music Video Dancer, directed by Colin Tilley and The Little Homies 5.22 on Treasure Island in San Francisco

## SELECTED PRESS

[Santos, Dorothy. "In an AI-Driven Future, Turf Dancers Share the Meaning of Their Movements."](https://www.kqed.org/arts/13938001/)  
[KQED, 14 Nov. 2023, www.kqed.org/arts/13938001/](https://www.kqed.org/arts/13938001/)

[Gentile, Dan. "What it's like to film a movie on BART."](https://www.sfgate.com/streaming/article/oakland-movie-highlights-bart-17185496.php) [SFGATE, 21 May 2022,](https://www.sfgate.com/streaming/article/oakland-movie-highlights-bart-17185496.php)  
[www.sfgate.com/streaming/article/oakland-movie-highlights-bart-17185496.php](https://www.sfgate.com/streaming/article/oakland-movie-highlights-bart-17185496.php)

[Singleton, Tunisha, host. "Episode 8: My-Linh Le."](https://www.ybca.org/honoree/my-linh-le/) [YBCA 10 Podcast, 2022.](https://www.ybca.org/honoree/my-linh-le/)  
<https://www.ybca.org/honoree/my-linh-le/>

[Garcia, Daniel, host. "#67 My-Linh Le Multidisciplinary Storyteller."](https://www.content-magazine.com/articles/podcast-my-linh-le/) [The Content Podcast, 2021,](https://www.content-magazine.com/articles/podcast-my-linh-le/)  
[www.content-magazine.com/articles/podcast-my-linh-le/](https://www.content-magazine.com/articles/podcast-my-linh-le/)

[Dembowsky, April. "Just Like My Mother: How We Inherit Our Parents' Traits and Tragedies."](https://www.kqed.org/news/11616586/)  
[The California Report, 6 Oct. 2017, www.kqed.org/news/11616586/](https://www.kqed.org/news/11616586/)

[Dembowsky, April. "From Streets To Stage, Two Dance Worlds See Harmonization And Chaos."](https://www.npr.org/2016/01/23/464090911/)  
[KQED, 23 Jan. 2016, https://www.npr.org/2016/01/23/464090911](https://www.npr.org/2016/01/23/464090911/)