

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 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 turfing 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** ***Mẹ 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](https://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 *USArtists International Artist Award*, granted by Mid Atlantic 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' Ladies 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 District 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." KQED, 14 Nov. 2023. www.kqed.org/arts/13938001/](http://www.kqed.org/arts/13938001/)

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

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

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

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

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