

Chancellor's Distinguished Fellows Program

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Selective Bibliography

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Meredith Monk

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All call numbers refer to Langson Library at the University of California, Irvine

Websites by and about Meredith Monk

Meredith Monk official website. 2008. 19 Mar. 2008. <http://www.meredithmonk.org>

At this website, the "Meredith Monk" link includes these subheadings:

- Bio – a brief biography that chronicles her career “[s]ince graduating Sarah Lawrence College in 1964” up through current projects in 2008
- Press – quotes from the Los Angeles Times, New York Times, and other publications on specific works
- Bibliography – annual listing for 2000-2007 of “Articles by or Interviews with MM,” “Articles about MM in Newspapers/Magazines,” “Reviews,” “Chapters in Books about MM,” “Mention, Photographs etc....in Newspapers/Magazines.”
- Chronology – annual listing back to 1967 of her creative output grouped by type (e.g., Musical Compositions/Recordings, Films/Videos, Opera/Musical Theater/Site Specific Works)

- FAQ – Monk’s answers to questions, such as How do you describe your work? How do you classify yourself as an artist? How did you discover your vocal style? What is your process for creating new work?
- Awards/Fellowships – annual listing back to 1971, including the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellowship in 1995.

The “Music” link has 3 subheadings:

- Compositions – listing of all her works back to 1966.
- Ensemble – list of the core and affiliate members of her Vocal Ensemble with a paragraph biography of each individual.
- Discography – listing back to 1967.

The “Interdisciplinary” link has 2 subheadings:

- Opera and Musical Theater Works – a listing with “Juice: A Theater Cantata” in 1969 at the bottom and the newest works at the top. The latter include thumbnails and links to video clips.
- Films & Video – listing beginning with the most recent DVD and back to 1967’s “Children” (9 min., 16mm).

The “Current Repertory” link displays a color photo and video excerpts of each work.

Additional links at this website include “Store,” “Calendar,” and “House Foundation.”

“Monk, Meredith.” Encyclopaedia Britannica. 2008. Encyclopaedia Britannica Online. 19 Mar. 2008. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-9125883/Meredith-Monk>

“Guide to the Meredith Monk Archive, 1959-2006” (LPA Mss 2006-001). New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. 19 Mar. 2008. Abstract: “The Meredith Monk Archive documents the art of Meredith Monk and the history of The House Foundation For The Arts, Monk’s management and production company. The Archive contains correspondence, media clippings, concert programs, publicity material, writings, piece and project files, scores, business and financial papers, photographs and drawings, posters, and books.”
<http://www.nypl.org/research/lpa/mus/pdf/musmonk.pdf>

“Meredith Monk.” Wikipedia. 2008. Wikipedia. 19 Mar. 2008.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meredith_Monk

“Meredith Monk.” MySpace music profile. 2008. MySpace. 19 Mar. 2008.
<http://www.myspace.com/meredithmonkmusic>

Books featuring Meredith Monk

Cunningham, Merce, Meredith Monk, and Bill T. Jones. Art Performs Life: Merce Cunningham, Meredith Monk, Bill T. Jones. Minneapolis; New York, N.Y: Walker Art Center; Available through D.A.P./Distributed Art Publishers, 1998. Call no. GV 1785 .A1 A78 1998

Kreemer, Connie. Further Steps: Fifteen Choreographers on Modern Dance. New York: Harper & Row, 1987. Call no. GV 1785 .A1 F87 1987

Morgenroth, Joyce. Speaking of Dance: Twelve Contemporary Choreographers on their Craft. New York: Routledge, 2004. Call no. GV 1782.5 .M67 2004

“...juxtaposes the choreographic processes of some of America's most engaging -- and revolutionary -- choreographers. Based on personal interviews, the book's narratives reveal, among others, Merce Cunningham's unquenchable fascination with movement, Meredith Monk's spiritual quest, Bill T. Jones's desire to change the world, Trisha Brown's engagement with structure, and Mark Morris' profound musicality. Morgenroth shows how the ideas, craft, and passion that go into their work have led these choreographers to disrupt set forms and expectations: dancing on the sides of buildings, in city streets, in rivers and lakes; moving to music, sounds, speech, and silence; costumed in ordinary clothes, shredded leotards, or nothing at all. The history of dance in the making is revealed through the stories of these intelligent, articulate, and witty dancemakers. Put away your old dance composition primers and see how these choreographers can open your eyes and minds to what dance can be.” – Publisher description

Book and Thesis about Meredith Monk

Jowitt, Deborah, ed. Meredith Monk. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1997. Call no. ML 410 .M72 M47 1997 c.2

Pym, Rebekah. “The Voice as Gesture in Meredith Monk's ATLAS.” Diss. McGill U, 2002. 20 Mar. 2008. Abstract and full text available online in Dissertations and Theses by searching <http://uclibs.org/PID/11984>

Videos featuring Meredith Monk - all in the Langson Library Multimedia Resources Center

Making Dances: Seven Postmodern Choreographers. Dir. Michael Blackwood. Perf. Trisha Brown, Lucinda Childs, David Gordon, Douglas Dunn, Kenneth King, Meredith Monk, and Sara Rudner. New York: Blackwood Productions, 1980. Call no. GV 1783 .M28 1980

Summary: Explores the contemporary dance scene through the work of seven New York-based post-modern choreographers. Includes discussion of the nature of dance and the evolution of their work. Filmed at rehearsals, performances and during interviews.

Meredith Monk (American Dance Festival). Dir. Douglas Rosenberg. Perf. Meredith Monk and Robert Eén. Madison WI: ADF Video, 1996. Call no. GV 1785 .A1 S64 v.22

Summary: “Meredith Monk is a composer, singer, filmmaker and director/choreographer. This tape includes interviews and excerpts from performance. A pioneer in what is now called "extended vocal technique" and "interdisciplinary performance", Ms. Monk has created more than 80 music/theater/dance and film works. A recipient of the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, she has been acclaimed by audiences and critics as a major force in the performing arts. "When the time comes, perhaps a hundred years from now, to tally up the achievements in the performing arts during the last third of the present century, one name that seems sure to loom large is that of Meredith Monk. In originality, in scope, in depth there are few to rival her" (Alan M. Kriegsman, Washington Post)

The Sensual Nature of Sound: Four Composers. Dir. Michael Blackwood. Perf. Laurie Anderson, Tania León, Meredith Monk, Pauline Oliveros. New York NY: Michael Blackwood Productions, 1993. Call no. ML 390 .S467 1993

Summary: Video portrays New York based composer/performers in terms of their musical lives. Although all four women are pioneers in American music, each composer pursues a distinct direction of her own. Since the early 1980s, Laurie Anderson has used music and performance as the foundation for her multi-media stage shows which have since become her trademark. Cuban born Tania León composes orchestral music that is an intricate weave of Afro-Cuban and Latin jazz elements embedded within a classical Western concerto format. Meredith Monk experiments with new ideas in music theater and has developed a genre of opera very much her own. Pauline Oliveros draws upon the rich resources of ritual, myth, meditation, and improvisation to create a body of work that is truly visionary. Filmed at rehearsals and performances in the United States and abroad, "The Sensual Nature of Sound" examines the contributions of these diverse composers to contemporary American music.

Journal Articles about Meredith Monk

Blanch, Robert J. "From the Black Death to AIDS: Cinematic Visions and Community in Book of Days." Extrapolation 48.2 (2007): 398-407. 20 Mar. 2008. Literature Online (LION)
http://lion.chadwyck.com/searchFulltext.do?id=R03949194&divLevel=0&area=abell&forward=critref_ft

Marranca, Bonnie. "Art as Spiritual Practice: Panel Discussion with Alison Knowles, Eleanor Heartney, Meredith Monk, Linda Montano, and Erik Ehn." PAJ: A Journal of Performance and Art 72 (2002): 18-34. 20 Mar. 2008. Project Muse.
http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/performing_arts_journal/v024/24.3marranca.html

---. "Meredith Monk's 'Recent Ruins': The Archaeology of Consciousness: Essaying Images." Performing Arts Journal 4.3 (1980): 39-49. 20 Mar. 2008. JSTOR.
<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0735-8393%281980%294%3A3%3C39%3AMM%22RTA%3E2.0.CO%3B2-Y>

Robinson, Marc. "New Frequencies: Meredith Monk." Theater [Duke University Press] 30.2 (2000): 45-57. 20 Mar. 2008. Project Muse. <http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/theater/v030/30.2monk.html>

Samuel, Yael. "Meredith Monk: Between Time and Timelessness in Book of Days." Nashim: A Journal of Jewish Women's Studies and Gender Issues 14.1 (2007): 9-29. 20 Mar. 2008. Project Muse.
<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/nashim/v014/14.1samuel.html>

Smithner, Nancy P. "Meredith Monk: Four Decades by Design and by Invention." TDR: The Drama Review 49.2 (2005): 93-118. 20 Mar. 2008. Project Muse.
http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/the_drama_review/v049/49.2smithner.pdf Correction: TDR 50.2 (2006): 4. 20 Mar. 2008. Project Muse.
http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/the_drama_review/v050/50.2corrections.pdf