

thINKingDANCE

Upping the ante on dance coverage and conversation

Collection: tD Deepens Conversations around Decolonization

by Gregory King

In 2020, I sought out a way to interrogate the positionality of Black writers and Black dancing bodies in context to America's tempestuous history of racism, the role of colonization, racial violence, and white institutions and western dance. I taught Criticism and Aesthetics, a workshop hosted by 92nd Street Y, and edited written works from the participants. These writings asked, "What Should be Done?" in relations to decolonization, dance, and dance writing.

Part I

[Decolonizing Dance Writing: Who is Writing for? | Gregory King](#)

[Decolonizing Dance Writing: Body Stories and the Bedrock of Dreams | Gregory King](#)

[Decolonizing Dance Writing: The Necessity of Evolution! | Gregory King](#)

Part II is a continuation of the trilogy that emerged from the Criticism and Aesthetics course at 92nd Street Y.

In 2021, L. Graciella Maiolatesi, Dr. C. Kemal Nance, professor of dance and Africana studies at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and I, edited the writing project Decolonizing Dance Writing; International Exchange (DDW). Funded by a grant from Critical Minded, DDW was a year of content offering practical approaches, saying "here's what can be done!" The purpose was to publish interviews and short expository essays about selected artists whose artistic works resist the tropes of colonization. The series paired five international non-western dance and movement artists with Black writers and writers of color on the thINKingDANCE's roster, and included virtual, video-based events that opened dialogue around decolonizing dance practices and discourse. These events were available to the public free of charge and the writers responded to each workshop, offering language to each practitioner's process. The intended audiences were dance practitioners, dance educators, students, researchers, and enthusiasts interested in creating permanent cultural and institutional change and are archived permanently on tD's website and [YouTube channel](#).

Decoloniality and Ethics

["An Act of Care": A Conversation with Juan Felipe Miranda Medina | Leila Mire](#)

[Contrapunto: Dancing between Decolonization and Positive Ethics | Leila Mire](#)

Dismantling Whiteness Through Space and Time

[Dancing the Self In-Between*: A Dialogue with Umeshi Rajeendra | Rhonda Moore](#)

Ancestral Footprints and the Body

[What Are Your Waters? \(A k?rero with Jack Gray\) | nikolai mckenzie ben rema](#)

[We Are Their Bones | nikolai mckenzie ben rema](#)

Embodying Memory

[Somatic Techniques, Self- Reflection, and Transformation as Tools for Embodying Reconciliation - Cuerpos para la Reconciliación | Lauren Putty White](#)

[Triggering Empathy Through The Body | Lauren Putty White](#)

[Técnicas somáticas, autorreflexión y transformación como herramientas para Embodying Reconciliation - Cuerpos para la Reconciliación ?Por Lauren Putty White y traducido por Jorge Poveda Yáñez](#)

Salvaging History Through Decolonization

[Tearing the Snail Shells \(Based on the True Story of Emmanuel Cudjoe\) | Ani Gavino](#)

Decolonizing Dance Writing: Artist Workshop Playlist

Importantly, the topic of decolonization is also interrogated by tD writers outside of the DDW project.

[Unpacking the buzzword “Decolonization” | Anielille \(Ani\) Gavino](#)

[Dancers, Let's Talk Palestine Part 1: Honor the Dancestry | Leila Mire](#)

[Dancers, Let's Talk Palestine Part 2: Ignorance is Bliss Until It Isn't | Leila Mire](#)

[Finding Collective Genius between Earth and Ice | Nadia Khayrallah](#)

[A “Life in Dance” or a White Lie | Leila Mire](#)

[Resistance Through Performance and Pedagogy: What is Dance Activism? | Mariadela Belle Alvarez](#)

[Parsing the Significance of a New Archive | Emma Cohen](#)

Because conversations around decoloniality and decolonization are rapidly shifting and evolving, this work is only part of the dialogue that is meant to inspire conversations and encourage actions. The writings highlight practices, voices, and experiences still marginalized, due to class, gender, sexuality, and education in order to urge a continued intersection of many marginalized identities. They may offer a better understanding of how dance is impacted by the social, institutional, historical, educational, and cultural deficit of certain histories and practices in relation to current academic trends, popularly funded genres and predominantly white spaces. I hope the readers will find value in each piece, finding value in the words they inhale. My desire is for everyone who engages with works

around decolonization to continue questioning why we have centered Eurocentric forms, and to strive to connect their prior knowledge to rigorous inquiry and strategic actions.

By Gregory King
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