

KIMERER L. LaMOTHE, Ph.D.
philosopher, dancer, scholar of religion

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www.vitalartsmedia.com

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EDUCATION

- 1996 Harvard University, Ph.D., Committee on the Study of Religion
Specialization: Theology in the Modern West
Dissertation: "With Dance in Mind: Reflections on Dance and Theology via Gerardus van der Leeuw and Martha Graham"
- 1989 Harvard Divinity School, M.T.S., Christianity and Culture
- 1985 Williams College, B.A. *cum laude*, Religion; substantial work in Political Economics
- 1984 Spring, Swarthmore College Semester Abroad, Grenoble, France

BOOKS

Family Planting: A farm-fed philosophy of human relations. UK: O Books, June 2011.

What a Body Knows: Finding Wisdom in Desire for Food, Sex, and Spirit. UK: O Books, April 2009.

Nietzsche's Dancers: Isadora Duncan, Martha Graham, and the Revaluation of Christian Values. Palgrave MacMillan, February 2006.

Between Dancing and Writing: The Practice of Religious Studies. Fordham University Press, November 2004.

ARTICLES & REVIEWS

"I am the Dance: Towards an Earthed Christianity," In *Theology, Aesthetics, and Culture: Conversations with the Work of David Brown.* Ed. Robert MacSwain & Tracey Worley. Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

"Ruth St. Denis," "Ted Shawn," Leonide Massine," "Jose Limon," and "Kurt Joos," in *New Catholic Encyclopedia*, Supplement 2011, volume 2.

Ongoing Blog, *Psychology Today*, www.psychogytoday.com, September 2009 to present.

"What Bodies Know About Religion and the Study of It," in *Journal of the American Academy of Religion.* September 2008, Vol. 76, No. 3, 573-601.

“Book Review: Frances Nesbitt Oppel’s *Nietzsche on Gender: Beyond Man and Woman*,” in *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy*. Vol. 22, No. 3, Summer 2007.

“Expressing Life: Dancing towards a Feminist Philosophy of Religion,” in *The Subjective Eye: Essays on Art, Religion and Gender*. Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2006.

“Book Review: Mark Franko’s *The Work of Dance: Labor, Movement, and Identity in the 1930s*,” *Dance Research Journal*. 37/1, Summer 2005, 128-132.

“Why Dance?: Towards a Theory of Religion as Practice and Performance.” *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion*. 17(2): 101-133.

“A God Dances Through Me: Isadora Duncan on Friedrich Nietzsche’s Revaluation of Values,” *The Journal of Religion*. April 2005, 241-266. WINNER 2006 Lippincott Award.

“Reason, Religion, and Sexual Difference: Resources for a Feminist Philosophy of Religion in Hegel’s *Phenomenology of Spirit*,” *Hypatia: Journal of Feminist Philosophy*. Vol. 20, No. 1, Winter 2005, 120-149.

“Giving Birth to a Dancing Star: Reading Nietzsche’s Maternal Rhetoric via Isadora Duncan’s Dance,” *Soundings* 86.3-4. Fall/Winter 2003, 501-23.

“Sacred Dance: A Glimpse Around the World,” *Dance Magazine*. December 2001.

“Why Dance Religion? The Case of Martha Graham,” *Radcliffe Quarterly*. Winter 2001.

“Play,” in the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Postmodernism: Disciplines, Terms and Figures*. Eds. Victor E. Taylor and Charles E. Winquist, London: Routledge, 2001.

“Passionate Madonna: The Christian Turn of American Dancer Ruth St. Denis,” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 66/4. Winter 1998, 747-769.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Co-founder and Director, July 2005-present
Vital Arts Media: www.vitalartsmedia.com

Lecturer in the Modern West, Fall 1997-Spring 2003

Committee on the Study of Religion, Harvard University

Designed and taught courses for graduate and undergraduate students in the Modern West, Christianity, and the comparative study of religion. Titles include:

*Acts of Imagination: Religion and Art in the Modern West**;

Nietzsche and Religion;

“Losing My Religion”?: Religious Experience in the Modern West;

Hegel, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche: Prophets of Postmodern Thought;

*Religion and the Performing Arts: The Case of Modern Dance**;

Martyrs, Mystics, Witches and Heretics: Alternative Christianities;

Sophomore Tutorial: Approaching the Comparative Study of Religion.

* Included movement workshops

Lecturer, Spring 2003, Graduate Consortium of Women’s Studies

Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Study, Harvard University

Designed and taught *Feminist Inquiry: Strategies of Effective Scholarship* along with Christina Gilmartin (historian) and Debra Kaufman (sociologist).

Lecturer, Harvard Extension School, Fall 2002

Acts of Imagination: Religion and Art in the Modern West

Head Tutor, Fall 1997- Spring 2000, Spring 2002-Spring 2003

Comparative Study of Religion, Harvard University

Managed the undergraduate program in the Comparative Study of Religion: interviewed prospective concentrators; set-up and supervised Junior Tutorials; facilitated teaching workshops for graduate students; guided juniors in selection of senior thesis topics; advised and served as reader for numerous senior theses; served as academic advisor for concentrators in Modern West and Christianity; served on: Standing Committee on the Study of Religion (1997-2000, 2002-3); Doctoral Subcommittee (1999-2000, 2001-3); A.B. Subcommittee (1997-2000, 2001-3); Curriculum Committee (1997-2000, 2002-3).

Visiting Assistant Professor, 1996-7

Religious Studies Department, Brown University

Designed and taught courses in contemporary religious thought, including:

Approaches to the Study of Religion;

Religious Experience: A Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion;

Theological Approaches to Biomedical Ethics: Healing Bodies;

Religion and Political Order: In Search of Perfect Community.

DANCE RESEARCH AND PERFORMANCE

Choreographer & dancer, *Genesis*, An original concert of music and solo dance, with Geoffrey Gee, Fort Salem Theater, Salem, NY, February 27-8, 2009.

Singer & author, *All About Love*, Solo cabaret performance, Fort Salem Theater, Salem, NY, July 24, 2008.

Singer, Dancer, & producer, *LaMothe, Gee, & Family*, Fort Salem Theater, Salem, NY, November 3, 2007.

Choreographer & dancer, "Chair Dance," Fort Salem Theater, Salem, NY, July 20-22, 2007.

Choreographer & dancer for solo concert, *On Fire*, sponsored by the Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, May 21 & 22, 2004.

Choreographer & dancer for solo concert, *Genesis*, sponsored by the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University, May 11 & 12, 2001.

Choreographer & dancer: ARTS First, May 1999, Harvard University; Choreographers' Ink, May 2000, Harvard University

Classes in the Duncan Technique with Sylvia Gold, fall 1999.

Martha Graham Intensive Dance Project, New York City, December-January, 1994.

Classes in the Graham Technique, Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance, New York City, March 1993-January 1995; with Christine Dakin at Harvard University, January 2001.

Company Member:

- Rhythm in Motion*, artistic director Sharron Rose, 1990-2 (American modern dance combined with classical Indian, Middle Eastern and Caribbean dance forms)
- Rae Dance*, artistic director Stephanie Rae Parker, 1991-2 (Modern dance)
- Patric Lacroix Haitian-American Dance Company*, artistic director Patric Lacroix, 1990-1 (Haitian vodoun dance blended with modern dance forms)
- Omega Liturgical Dance Company*, "Earth Mass," Cathedral of St. John of the Divine, New York City, October 1989

Student of Hatha Yoga; Certified Danskinetics Instructor

PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

"I am a dancer.... and a philosopher," keynote lecture/performance for "Constructing Identity: Imagination and Memory," Oneonta State University, Oneonta, NY, May 5, 2011.

"Hebron Hollow Homestead: A Study in Agri/culture," lecture to class of students from Green Mountain College, Hebron, NY, April 14, 2011.

"Missing in Action: The Fate of Bodily Movement in an Age of Affect," keynote speaker for Humanities Center symposium, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, April 1, 2011.

"What Can a Body Know?" Across the Threshold: Creativity, Healing, and Being, Duke University, Durham, NC, March 19-22, 2009.

"I am the Movement that is Making Me," INVENTION-IN, Brockport, NY, June 20, 2008.

"The Religious Impulses of early American Modern Dance," Society for Dance History Scholars Annual Conference, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY, June 13, 2008.

"Finding Wisdom in Desire," Green Mountain College, February 12, 2008.

"My Life in Dance," Williams College Dance Retreat, August 31, 2007.

"The Practice of Art and the Study of Religion," session organizer, performer, and respondent, American Academy of Religion, Washington, D.C., November 2006.

"Dance and Spirituality," United Methodist Church, Granville, NY, February 25, 2006.

Residence at Swarthmore College, including lectures in two courses and a public performance and discussion of my dance piece, *On Fire*. November 1-3, 2005.

"What We (Un)learn When We Learn How to Write: Reading Nietzsche's Images of Dance," Conference on the Ethics and Epistemologies of Ignorance, University of Pennsylvania, State College, PA, March 26-8, 2004.

"A Feminist Nietzsche," Humanities Center, Harvard University, February 12, 2004.

"Exercising Great Reason: Isadora Duncan on Friedrich Nietzsche's Ideas of Bodily Being," Society for Women in Philosophy, American Philosophical Association, December 30, 2003.

“Giving Birth to a Dancing Star: Friedrich Nietzsche and Isadora Duncan on Religion, Dance, and Motherhood,” Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Group, American Academy of Religion, November 22, 2003.

“Dance in Christian Culture: Towards a Theory of Religion as Practice and Performance,” Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, October 30, 2003.

“Dance: ‘A Theological and Ethical Necessity,’” Symposium on Worship and the Arts, Boston Theological Institute, September 29, 2002.

“On Fire: Dancing for Life,” Talk and performance, Winsor School, September 5, 2002.

“Dancing Religion: Word, Body, Sex, and Spirit in the Work of American Modern Dancer, Martha Graham,” Feminist Liberation Theology Luncheon Series, Episcopal Divinity School, October 21, 2001.

“Straight from the Source,” Video Interview for Radcliffe Institute Web site.

“Dancing Religion: The Technique and Choreography of Martha Graham,” Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University, May 9, 2001.

“Putting Reason in its Place: The Call to Ethical Action in Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*,” Workshop on Gender and Philosophy, MIT, March 8, 2001.

Session coordinator and respondent: “Ecstatic Dance,” the second of a two-year session for the Comparative Religious Studies Section, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN, November 21, 2000.

Session co-coordinator and presenter: “Dancing into the Liberal Arts,” Dancing in the Millennium Conference, Washington, D.C., July 19-23, 2000.

“Being Body,” a sermon accompanied by a dance offered alongside a class discussion and movement workshop, Hollins College, Roanoke, Virginia, February 19-21, 2000.

Session coordinator, presenter, and dancer: “Translucent Bodies, Radiant Souls: Isadora Duncan Renews Religion through Dance,” for the first of a two-year session on “Ecstatic Dance,” Comparative Religious Studies Section, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, November 1999.

“Where Christians Dance,” World Religions, Concord Carlisle High School, December 1998.

“Passionate Madonna: The Christian Turn of Ruth St. Denis via 'Stabat Mater' by Julia Kristeva,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, November 1996.

“Response to *Escape from Paradise: Evil and Tragedy in Feminist Theology* by Kathleen Sands,” New England American Academy of Religion, Worcester, MA, March 1994.

“Out from the Shadow of the Word: The Religious Significance of Dance in Works by Friedrich Nietzsche and Martha Graham,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., November 1993.

“*The Birth of Tragedy* by Friedrich Nietzsche and *Clytemnestra* by Martha Graham: The Tragic Dance of Eros,” New England American Academy of Religion, Boston, MA, April 1993.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Society for Dance History Scholars, Gertrude Lippincott Award, 2006
Fortieth Anniversary Fellowship, Religion & Arts Initiative, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard Divinity School, 2003-4
Radcliffe Fellowship, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University, 2000-1
Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, 2000
Mellon Foundation Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 1995-6
Center for the Study of World Religions Dissertation Fellowship, 1994-5
Excellence in Teaching Certificate, Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard, 1994
Mellon Foundation Dissertation Start-Up Fellowship, 1993
Harvard University Scholarship, 1990-1994
Phi Beta Kappa, 1985
Graves Essay Prize in Religion, Williams College, 1985
National Merit Scholar and Fellow, 1981-1985

COMMITTEES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Faculty Advisory Council for the Arts, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, Spring 1999 to 2001
Fellowships Selection Committee, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, 1998-9
Chair, Women and Religion Section of the New England Regional American Academy of Religion, 1993-1997
American Academy of Religion; American Philosophical Association; Congress on Research on Dance; Society of Dance History Scholars; Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy; Society for Women in Philosophy

ACTIVITIES

LaMothe lives with her life partner, their five children, one cat, two steers, two heifers, two milking cows, eleven chickens, and a horse named Marvin, on Hebron Hollow Farm in rural New York.