



# CENTER FOR PERFORMANCE RESEARCH

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## **CPR – CENTER FOR PERFORMANCE RESEARCH ANNOUNCES 2021 SPRING SEASON**

Brooklyn, NY—CPR – Center for Performance Research, which is dedicated to supporting artists in the development of new work in dance and performance, is thrilled to announce its **2021 Spring Season**. The season features **virtual and socially-distant performances; discussion; participatory dance party; film; physical and digital exhibitions; residencies;** and new **local and international partnerships**.

This season, we are taking our time, and we are listening. Extended residencies, opportunities to linger, and long-term projects are emerging. With a **focus on CPR's resident artists** to contextualize how artists are making (or not making) work right now, the 2021 Spring Season highlights **the importance of process and dialogue** – especially in these times – and creates spaces for artists to connect with each other the community around this common value. Creating a season of performance in a world that is changing so rapidly has been a challenging, rewarding, and collaborative experience. Ultimately, our work is a reminder that **we can create the future we want to see**. Event information with links to tickets can be found at [www.cprnyc.org](http://www.cprnyc.org).

CPR's 2021 Spring Season is organized by **Alexandra Rosenberg, Executive Director** and **Remi Harris, Programs Manager, CPR**, with **LD DeArmon, Technical Director, CPR**.

**All 2021 Spring Season events are free**, or have a free option with sliding scale ticket prices. All virtual programs on Zoom have closed captioning, and ASL interpretation is available, upon request, with 2 weeks' advance notice.

## **2021 SPRING SEASON CALENDAR**

**2021 Artists-in-Residence: J. Bouey, mayfield brooks, cruz control collective, Parijat Desai, Stuart B Meyers, Christopher "Unpezverde" Núñez, Londs Reuter, Nami Yamamoto, and Lu Yim**

January - December 2021

**Performance Philosophy Reading Group with Antonio Ramos**

February 17, 2021 | 6:00 - 7:15 PM

***Garba In The House:* Parijata Dance Company's 21st Anniversary Celebration**

**co-presented by Parijata Dance Company and CPR – Center for Performance Research**

February 27, 2021 | 8:00 - 10:30 PM

**Open Studios: *Deep Dive: The Creative Process*, Curated by cruz control collective**

March 23, 2021 | 7:00 - 8:30 PM

**Digital Gallery: Jordan Demetrius Lloyd and Daniel Kersch**

On view April 5-19, 2021

**Performance Philosophy Reading Group with Performance Philosophy**

April 21, 2021 | 6:00 - 7:15 PM

**Technical Residency: Ni'Ja Whitson**

April 26 - May 1, 2021

**Open Studios: Curated by J. Bouey**

April 27, 2021 | 7:00 - 8:30 PM

**mayfield brooks and Mary Pearson: *How To Be Afraid?***  
**in partnership with Independent Dance (London) and The Bluecoat (Liverpool)**  
May 2021 and ongoing

**Artist Talk: Leslie Cuyjet**

May 4, 2021 | 6:30 - 7:30 PM

**Sunday Salon: mayfield brooks, *Whale Fall (installation)***

Opening June 12, 2021

On view June 13-19, 2021 by appointment

**Sunday Salon: Stuart B Meyers, *Follow Me***

June 13, 2021

**Performance Philosophy Reading Group with Ni'Ja Whitson**

June 23, 2021 | 6:00 - 7:15 PM

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**PERFORMANCE PHILOSOPHY READING GROUP**

**Performance Philosophy Reading Group** is a regular reading group series developed in conjunction with international research network Performance Philosophy, hosted by select CPR resident artists and special guests. Each host proposes a text that is provocative and unique, and connected to their practice or research, guiding a generative discussion and thought-experimentation, and engaging participants with the material in whatever way seems most productive. Participants are encouraged to read and engage with the text in advance, and to bring their own questions, ideas, and experiences to the group.

**Performance Philosophy Reading Group with Antonio Ramos**

**February 17, 2021 | 6:00 - 7:15 PM (via Zoom)**

**Tickets:** FREE with registration | email [remi@cprnyc.org](mailto:remi@cprnyc.org)

The first installment in 2021 of CPR's ongoing reading group series is hosted by **2017 CPR Artist-in-Residence Antonio Ramos** and facilitated by CPR Programs Manager, Remi Harris. "*Intervention as Intoxication!*" (2020) explores Gemma Corradi Fiumara's 1985 notion of 'competing monologues' as it resonates again with 2020's polarised political climates around the world .

**Performance Philosophy Reading Group with Performance Philosophy**

**April 21, 2021 | 6:00 - 7:15 PM (via Zoom)**

**Tickets:** FREE with registration | <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/141819609269>

The latest issue of the UK-based Performance Philosophy journal *how to think* was launched on February 12, 2021, and is the first issue to be fully comprised of podcasts. *how to think* is a series of slow conversations between humans who re-center the work of listening, healing, justice, and love, and feature Rajni Shah, Ria Righteous, Julietta Singh, Khairani Barokka, and Omikemi, with sound design by Fili of Studio Apothicaire. For this **special edition of Performance Philosophy Reading Group**, artist Rajni Shah and Performance Philosophy co-editor Laura Cull Ó Maoilearca will engage CPR in a discussion on a selected podcast episode from *how to think*.

## **Performance Philosophy Reading Group with Ni'Ja Whitson**

**June 23, 2021 | 6:00 - 7:15 PM (via Zoom)**

**Tickets:** FREE with registration | <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/141821109757>

The Reading Group will be led by **CPR 2021 Technical Resident Ni'Ja Whitson**, on the heels of their residency at CPR in April-May 2021. More details to be announced.

## **OPEN STUDIOS**

**Open Studios** is a series of work-in-progress showings held regularly throughout the year, and serves as an incubator for new work, inviting the public into the artistic process. Each installment is curated by an invited guest, usually someone close to the CPR family, and features a diverse group of artists, performance-makers, choreographers, and dancers. Each Open Studios culminates in a conversation with the artists and organizers, where audiences are invited and encouraged to share their feedback.

### **Open Studios: *Deep Dive: The Creative Process*, Curated by cruz control collective**

**March 23, 2021 | 7:00 - 8:30 PM (via Zoom)**

**Tickets:** \$0 - \$25 sliding scale | <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/141814806905>

*Deep Dive: The Creative Process* brings together artists to delve deep into their creative processes, curated by **2021 Artists-in-Residence cruz control collective** (Félix Cruz and Cody Pickens). Through this conversation, artists share selected works they think best represents their creative process, how the piece shown influences how they make, what they make, and why they make, and how this is still relevant, or not, with creating during a pandemic.

### **Open Studios: Curated by J. Bouey**

**April 27, 2021 | 7:00 - 8:30 PM (via Zoom)**

**Tickets:** \$0 - \$25 sliding scale | <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/141817484915>

**CPR 2021 Artist-in-Residence J. Bouey** organizes an evening of artists creating work for film, followed by discussion. Additional details to be announced.

## **SUNDAY SALON**

**Sunday Salon** is an extension of CPR's Artist-in-Residence (AiR) Program, and provides a platform for AiRs to share their current practice with the larger CPR and NYC performance community. Sunday Salon may take many forms, including presentations of live work, artist talks, and presentations of research, materials, and ephemera.

### **Sunday Salon: mayfield brooks, *Whale Fall (installation)***

**Opening June 12, 2021, time TBA**

**On view June 13-19, 2021 by appointment**

Occupying CPR's storefront gallery space, CPR 2021 Artist-in-Residence mayfield brooks will create an immersive installation as an extension of their latest performance work *Whale Fall*, commissioned by Abrons Arts Center and premiering April 15-17, 2021. A "whale fall" describes the process of a whale's decomposition after it dies and falls to the ocean floor, where it provides vital nutrients for deep sea creatures. Informed by decomposition processes, whale songs, echolocation, Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*, the Biblical story of Jonah and the Whale, and the sonic dissidence of Black grief, *Whale Fall* considers how grief can be processed and transformed.

### **Sunday Salon: Stuart B Meyers, *Follow Me***

**June 13, 2021 | Time and Location TBA**

**Tickets:** \$0 - \$25 sliding scale | <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/141828666359>

*Follow Me* celebrates pride through performance, care, and bringing our neighbors together. **2021 CPR Artist-in-Residence Stuart B Meyers** curates an afternoon of activation using a time-tested community model: the Block Party!

## PRESENTATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

CPR – Center for Performance Research partners with artists, organizations, and collectives to produce and co-present programming that cross-pollinates with various creative communities. Through ongoing partnerships, one-off performances, and special events, audiences are exposed to new ways of creating, producing, and thinking about work.

### **Garba In The House: Parijata Dance Company's 21st Anniversary Celebration** co-presented by Parijata Dance Company and CPR – Center for Performance Research February 27, 2021 | 8:00 - 10:30 PM (via Zoom)

Tickets: \$0 - \$50 sliding scale | <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/136878175307>

Co-presented by Parijata Dance Company and CPR – Center for Performance Research, *Garba In The House* is a celebration of choreographer Parijat Desai's 21 years of project-based dancemaking, and building a future rooted in community. Join CPR 2021 Artist-in-Residence Parijat Desai in celebrating this milestone with a digital space to gather, share plans, dance, reconnect with old friends, and make some new ones. The program features freestyle dance breaks, lessons for the "Garba Slide," hangout spaces, and guest speakers Anjal Chande (Artistic Director, Soham Dance Space, Chicago), BJ Evans (Senior Producer, Performing Arts, BRIC), and Remi Harris (Programs Manager, CPR).

### **Digital Gallery: Jordan Demetrius Lloyd and Daniel Kersch** On view online April 5-19, 2021

*Digital Gallery* is a two week long digital offering stemming from the collaborative process of dance maker and CPR 2019 Artist-in-Residence Jordan Demetrius Lloyd and lighting designer Daniel Kersch.

### **Mary Pearson and mayfield brooks: *How to Be Afraid?*** in partnership with Independent Dance (London) and The Bluecoat (Liverpool) May 2021 and ongoing

*How to Be Afraid?* is an ongoing performance project led by mayfield brooks and Mary Pearson which explores fear as an antidote to counteract the trauma of their different but connected links to the transatlantic slave trade. An iteration of *How to Be Afraid?* on February 12, 2021, *Improvisations with interference: haunted by histories, guided by ghosts*, featured a collaborative online performance by mayfield brooks, Mary Pearson, and Seke Chimutengwende. The next phase in May 2021 will include collaborative work between mayfield brooks, Mary Pearson, Seke Chimutengwende, Akeim Toussaint Buck, Anne-Gaëlle Thiriot, and Amy Voris.

This wider body of research is co-produced by Mary Pearson, mayfield brooks, and Independent Dance, in partnership with The Bluecoat (Liverpool) and CPR – Center for Performance Research (New York), supported through public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England, with support from Creative Land Trust and in-kind support from Metal (Liverpool), and through CPR's Artist-in-Residence Program. Earlier iterations of *How to Be Afraid?* were supported by Chisenhale Dance Space, Metal (Liverpool) and Improspections Festival at the Museum for Contemporary Art, Zagreb. Information and updates about *How to Be Afraid?* can be found at:

<https://www.independentdance.co.uk/programmepage/activities/how-to-be-afraid-mary-pearson-and-mayfield-brooks/>

For more information on Independent Dance, visit <https://www.independentdance.co.uk>.

For more information on The Bluecoat, visit <http://www.thebluecoat.org.uk/>.

### **Artist Talk: Leslie Cuyjet** May 4, 2021 | 6:30 - 7:30 PM (via Zoom)

Tickets: \$0 - \$25 sliding scale | <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/141827382519>

CPR 2019 Artist-in-Residence Leslie Cuyjet gives an artist talk on their current practice, including adapting their live performance *Talented* (which premiered at CPR in January 2020) for film.

## RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

### 2021 Artists-in-Residence

January - December 2021

CPR's **Artist-in-Residence (AiR) Program** seeks to support a wide range of artists, from emerging choreographers to established companies, working within various perspectives of contemporary dance and performance. After careful consideration, given the impacts of COVID-19 on CPR and our 2020 AiRs, CPR has invited the full 2020 AiR cohort to continue their residency for an additional year into 2021. The 2021 CPR Artists-in-Residence are **J. Bouey, mayfield brooks, cruz control collective, Parijat Desai, Stuart B Meyers, Christopher "Unpezverde" Núñez, Londs Reuter, Nami Yamamoto, and Lu Yim.**

### Technical Residency: Ni'Ja Whitson

April 26 - May 1, 2021

CPR – Center for Performance Research's Technical Residency focuses on experimentation and collaboration during mid- and late-stages of the development of new work. **Ni'Ja Whitson will have an uninterrupted week-long residency at CPR** to work on technical production elements for a new work, which is set to premiere in NYC in fall 2021. Ni'Ja is a Queer Nonbinary Trans multidisciplinary artist and futurist. They engage transdisciplinarity through a critical intersection of the sacred and conceptual in Black, Queer, and Transembodiedness, site, body and spirit.

## ABOUT CPR – CENTER FOR PERFORMANCE RESEARCH

**CPR – Center for Performance Research** is dedicated to supporting artists in the development of new work in contemporary dance and performance. CPR focuses its activities in three key areas: creative and professional development support; providing affordable space for artists; and public programming. Curated and open-call programs focus on providing artists with rehearsal, residency, and performance support, which generates time and space for research and dialogue, and creates opportunities to share work in a variety of contexts. CPR's subsidized space rental program helps to ensure that artists can access CPR's flexible studios and performance space at affordable rates to create and share their work. By presenting work to the public through performances, work-in-progress showings, salon-style discussions, exhibitions, and festivals, CPR exposes local audiences and its community to contemporary artistic practice and process. **To learn more about CPR, please visit [www.cprnyc.org](http://www.cprnyc.org).**

CPR is grateful for the support of its funders, including **Brooklyn Arts Council, Dance/NYC's New York City Dance Rehearsal Space Subsidy Program made possible by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Ford Foundation, The Harkness Foundation for Dance, Howard Gilman Foundation, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council,** as well as generous individual donors and the CPR Board of Directors.

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