



Photo: Ian Douglas

ARTIST BIO

Rosy Simas is a Haudenosaunee (Seneca, Heron Clan) artist based in Minneapolis. She is a Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, First Peoples Fund, Guggenheim, and McKnight Choreography Fellow.

Her work has been presented nationally at: ODC; Dance Place; Maui Arts & Cultural Center; The Autry; La Peña; EastSide Arts Alliance; Gimaajii-Mino-Bimaadizimin; Northwestern University; The Dance Center at Columbia College Chicago; SUNY Fredonia; and internationally at the Talking Stick Festival in Vancouver; the Living Ritual Festival in Toronto; the MAI (Montréal, arts interculturels); and by DANSEM in Marseille, France.

Her visual art work has been exhibited at All My Relations Arts (Minneapolis), The Edge Center (Big Fork), Gimaajii-Mino-Bimaadizimin, and the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian (Evanston).

“My work furthers an ancestral model of dialogic, peaceful, and cross-community-centered direction in my creative process. I develop projects that begin in, and return to, community as a way of giving back and remaining engaged with Native people. I am currently focused on making work from a Native cyclical model that generates work responsively and iteratively.”

AVAILABLE FOR TOURING

Skin(s) is a dance work, a visual arts exhibit, a film, and a web media project. The *Skin(s)* dance explores what we hold, reveal, and perceive through our skin. The dance is housed within a paper environment with a surround sound score and moving images. To create *Skin(s)*, director Rosy Simas was joined by French composer François Richomme, Ojibwe poet Heid E. Erdrich, lighting designer Valerie Oliverio, and a varying cast of performers. Simas has created moving images from her travels to urban and rural Native communities. These moving images also feature the cinematography of Ojibwe filmmaker Elizabeth Day, whose work is also featured in the *Skin(s)* exhibit.

People: 3-10 performers, 1 composer/musician, 1 lighting designer/production manager

Tech:

- Quadraphonic sound set up (4 speakers & subwoofer)
- Lighting
- Scenery and other A/V equipment provided by company

We Wait In The Darkness is a solo dance work to heal the DNA scars of Simas' grandmother, her mother, and their ancestors. Within an environment of images and sounds from Seneca lands, this new dance work engages past and future, DNA memory, and invisible presences, to create a personal artwork about loss, family, perseverance, and home.

People: 1 performer, 1 composer/musician, 1 lighting designer/production manager

Tech:

- Quadraphonic sound set up (4 speakers & subwoofer)
- Lighting
- Black legs/masking
- Scenery and other A/V equipment provided by company

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS?



Photo: Tim Rummelhoff

Weave honors the interwoven and interdependent nature of our world. Individual histories are woven into a performance that envelops the audience in an immersive experience of story, dance, moving image, and sound.

The *Weave* creative team includes: Ahimsa Timoteo Bodhrán, writer/artist; Heid E. Erdrich, writer; Zoë Klein, performer; Sam Mitchell, performer; Valerie Oliveira, performer; François Richomme, composer; Rosy Simas, choreographer; George Stamos, performer; and Pramila Vasudevan, dramaturg.

Weave is being created in residencies at The Cowles Center for Dance & the Performing Arts (Minneapolis), MANCC (Tallahassee), and O'Shaughnessy (St. Paul). Site-specific iterations of *Weave* will be created for The Ordway (St. Paul), The Alabama Dance Council (Birmingham), Dance Place (Washington D.C.), Maui Arts & Cultural Center, and All My Relations Arts (Minneapolis).

Weave is made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and additional funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. *Weave* is also funded in part by The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, as part of its Knight Arts Challenge, a community-wide contest funding ideas that engage and enrich Saint Paul through the arts.

MCKNIGHT ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS

The McKnight Fellowships for Choreographers awards Minnesota choreographers whose work is of exceptional artistic merit, who have created a substantial body of work over a period of time, and who are at a career stage that is beyond emerging. Three fellows are selected each year to receive a substantial unrestricted cash award, as well as additional support for career and artistic development.

The McKnight Fellowships for Choreographers is a program of The Cowles Center for Dance & the Performing Arts and is funded by the McKnight Foundation. Support for individual artists has been a cornerstone of The McKnight Foundation's Arts program since it began in 1981. The foundation recognizes that the arts cannot flourish or enhance community life without the ideas, energy, and drive of individual artists, and that artists cannot make these contributions without unfettered creative time. Awards are made in 10 disciplines through nine arts organizations and presenters.

THE COWLES CENTER

The Cowles Center for Dance & the Performing Arts is the flagship institution for dance in Minnesota. Centrally located in Downtown Minneapolis, The Cowles Center includes the 500-seat Goodale Theater, a historic Shubert building and the oldest theater in Downtown; the former Hennepin Center for the Arts, home to 20 leading dance and performing arts organizations; the state-of-the-art Target Education Studio, housing The Cowles Center's innovative distance learning program; the Illusion Theater; the James Sewell Ballet TEK Box; and the U.S. Bank Atrium. The Cowles Center is a catalyst for the creation, presentation, education, enjoyment, and celebration of dance and the performing arts in the Twin Cities.