



Photo: Steven Lang

## ARTIST BIO

Laurie Van Wieren has been a creative force in the Twin Cities for 30+ years. Her choreography has been shown in the Twin Cities, nationally, and in Europe. 9x22 Dance/Lab, her monthly showcase, is the pre-eminent performance platform for local and visiting choreographers. She's developed work for the Walker Art Center's Open Field performance, which highlighted 100 local choreographers. Van Wieren has curated performance for the Southern, Ritz, BLB Theater, and Soo Visual Art Center. She is a recipient of Fellowships & grants from McKnight, Jerome, Bush, NEA, Rockefeller Foundations and Minnesota State Arts Board. She has received a Special/Citation SAGE Award and a SAGE Award for Outstanding Performance. Van Wieren received a City Pages "Artists of the Year" in 2016 for her solo dance: *Temporary Action Theory*. She is currently making site-specific ensemble dance performances for large spaces, as well as a series of solo works for small spaces.

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## REPERTOIRE AVAILABLE FOR TOURING

### ***Leave Nothing Out***

A fast-and-furious dance duet, performed in non-traditional spaces, that explores what informs the improvised performance and what is left out. Takes place in an art gallery.

**Performers:** 2 dancers

***Our Uncertainty*** considers the dancer as archivist, the stage as a visual and social landscape and choreography as a lens to experience and distort art. This improvisational solo is developed from the materials that surround us: my receding memory, my Swedish and Welsh ancestors, the sounds of the buildings, fragments of past dances, found props, the architecture, jokes and the way that we are sitting.

**Performers:** 1 dancer

### **Tech:**

- Wood floor
- Theater lights

### ***North of Your Foot***

My work in public parks has sparked my interest in how our bodies move in a large landscape, how we move in groups, how we map our perception of the world, and how we carry our maps with us. This work takes place in a large gym.

**Performers:** 6 dancers

### **Tech:**

- Gym
- Access to gym lights, speakers, and movement of net and gym dividers



## WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS?

My impulse to create new work and perform has never felt more urgent. In this time of high anxiety and uncertainty about our freedoms, I feel that is vital to put our bodies out in the world creatively.

- Temporary Action Theory was the fourth iteration of an exploration between: the space, the audience, and improvised performance. I am very curious to continue my research in improvisation-as-performance, as well as expanding my solo into a duet or trio...and perform at non-traditional venues, e.g. art galleries.
- As I age, I am forgetting more and more myself, while contemporaneously watching my mother's memory fade. I am interested in questions of how the brain, and our bodies, forget, re-ignite memory and what remains. I am structuring this new piece into distinct segments that are interchangeable, so that I can perform the piece "out of order" when needed.

## MCKNIGHT ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS

The McKnight Fellowships for Dancers and Choreographers awards mid-career dance artists 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. Six 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 ten disciplines through eight 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.