



Photo: Sydney Swanson

## ARTIST BIO

Sharon Mansur is an Arab American experimental dance and visual artist based in Minnesota. Her creative work integrates somatic practices, improvisational techniques, and interdisciplinary collaborative approaches.

She has a keen interest in site-situated/responsive art that melds the visual and visceral, body and environment, as well as subtle internal and external landscapes and sensory perceptions. She loves creating experiences where active viewing and wild imaginations are welcome. Ongoing themes include her Lebanese heritage, the complex, fluid nature of identity, and the dialogue between private and public layers of self.

Her live performance/installations and dance on film projects have been presented throughout the United States, as well as in Argentina, Bulgaria, Canada, Ecuador, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway and the UK.

Recent support includes the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council, Springboard for the Arts, and the Minnesota State Arts Board.

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## REPERTOIRE AVAILABLE FOR TOURING

*Dreaming Under a Cedar Tree* (2017) is  
an experimental site dance performance  
a visual art installation  
an audience experience  
a shared meal  
a conversation

*DUCT* is an evening of dance, visual art, food, and discussion with a Middle Eastern flavor, reflecting on Sharon Mansur's Lebanese heritage, the complex and fluid nature of cultural identity, and the power of place in our dreams.

**Performers:** 1 dance artist (Sharon Mansur)

**Tech:**

- Flexible space and seating for audience to stand, sit, and walk as the performance shifts perspectives, such as a gallery space, warehouse or other open non-proscenium venue
- Theatrical or track lighting or other creative lighting
- Projector and projection surface (screen, monitor or wall surface)
- Props, 2D/3D visual art and projects provided by the artist
- Middle Eastern food catering needed for post-performance meal and conversation



Photo: Tim Rummelhoff

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

**The Cedar Tree Project** is an exploration of culture, heritage, perceptions and identity through the lens of Arab and Arab American artists curated by Sharon Mansur. An umbrella for ***Dreaming Under a Cedar Tree***, CTP's 2018-2019 season also includes Lebanese photographer Fadi BouKaram's ***Lebanon, USA*** project, and Palestinian American performing artists Leila Awadallah (Minneapolis, MN) and Leyya Mona Tawil (Oakland, CA) in a shared evening with Mansur titled ***Za'atar***. Curation for the 2019–2020 season is currently in progress.

***...in the space between*** is  
 a visual and movement gallery residency  
 a publicly open, hands on and evolving installation  
 a solo performance  
 a 30 minute dance film  
 introduction to dance filmmaking workshops

ISB embodies the in between spaces of ambiguous and often overlooked landscapes of self-awareness, identity and place. The disruption, transformation, and integration that can occur in those potent and essential thresholds of change.

### ***Untitled (solo)***

Sharon will have a new improvisationally based solo premiering fall 2020, commissioned through her 2018 McKnight Dancer Fellowship.

## 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.