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**PICA LAUNCHES *FIELD GUIDE*, AN EDUCATIONAL SERIES EXPLORING
CONTEMPORARY DANCE, WITH A FIRST SESSION AT EMILY JOHNSON'S *NIICUGNI***

What: Field Guide:Dance, Session 1, *Getting Over Getting It* with Keith Hennessy
When: June 8, 6:00–7:45pm
Where: BodyVox Dance Center, 1201 NW 17th Ave, Portland, Oregon
Online: <http://pica.org/event/field-guide/>
Tickets: \$24 PICA Members/\$30 General (includes dinner & admission to Emily Johnson's *Niicugni*)

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PICA is proud to announce the award of \$47,400 from Dance USA's Engaging Dance Audiences Program. With the support of this grant, PICA will launch our first dance-specific audience engagement initiative, Field Guide. Through conversations, movement exercises, lectures, talk-backs, and group performance-going, the program will frame dance pieces within a larger conversation about body, culture, and identity. Field Guide activities will create context around contemporary dance and build curiosity for the form among new audiences. The series will establish a friendly, convivial environment where audiences can unpack some of the assumptions we bring with us into the theater, learn more about an artist's practice, and discuss their experiences after a show.

Angela Mattox, Artistic Director of PICA, explains that, "This Engaging Dance Audience pilot is part of PICA's larger objective to revitalize and rethink our educational programs. We are committed to providing audiences with a range of ways to go deeper with artistic ideas, inquiries, and aesthetics." She continues on to say that, "I think it's imperative for a contemporary art center to provide access points to the work and to cultivate a curious, open-minded, engaged audience. The work isn't complete without a thoughtful audience response."

The inaugural session will take place in conjunction with Emily Johnson's performance of *Niicugni* on June 8th. Over the course of the evening, Field Guide participants will move through a pre-show workshop blending basic movement activities with critical conversation, led by visiting Bay Area choreographer Keith Hennessy. The session will explore questions of what dance "does" rather than what dance "means," while also illuminating the specifics of Johnson's piece. How does Johnson's native Yup'ik heritage influence her work? How does it influence the audience's experience of the performance? What happens in the exchange between artist and audience?

The logo for PICA, consisting of the letters "PICA" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letters are positioned above a horizontal yellow bar that extends to the left of the text.

June's session will be the first of five Field Guide events in our 2013-14 pilot year, along with a series of mini-sessions during the TBA Festival. Each Field Guide session will be connected to a specific performance in Portland, whether at PICA or being presented by a partner organization. Sessions will average 20 participants and include discussion, movement exercises, presentations by visiting experts, and social moments around shared meals, and drinks. Core faculty throughout the program will include Keith Hennessy (TBA:12); Tonya Lockyer (Executive/Artistic Director at Velocity Dance Center, Seattle); Zoe Scofield (TBA:07, TBA:11); and Robert Tyree, Tahni Holt, Danielle Ross, and Noelle Stiles (FRONT Newspaper). All sessions are open to the public; participants are welcome to enroll for individual or multiple events in the series.

"I've had some of the most informative revelations from talking with attendees after a performance," reflects Mattox. "I'm hoping this program opens up new conversations and connections for PICA's dance audiences."

Engaging Dance Audiences is administered by Dance/USA and made possible with generous funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

About Keith Hennessy, Field Guide Faculty

Hennessy is a San Francisco-based performer, choreographer, teacher, organizer, and current PhD candidate in Performance Studies at UC Davis. He directs Circo Zero and co-founded 848 Community Space/CounterPULSE in San Francisco. Hennessy has performed at Queer Zagreb in Croatia, Dance Theater Workshop and American Realness Festival in New York, ImPulsTanz in Vienna, and YBCA in San Francisco, among others. He has received two Isadora Duncan Awards and a New York Dance and Performance Award (Bessie).

About Emily Johnson, *Niicugni*

In the Yup'ik language, "niicugni" is a directive to pay attention, to listen. Emily Johnson's performance quietly compels such attentiveness through its layering of multiple dances, live music, and stories, housed within a light and sound installation of handmade, functional fish-skin lanterns. *Niicugni* asks, "Can we pay attention to the ways we do and do not listen to our bodies, histories, impulses, and environments?"

Emily Johnson/Catalyst is the Minneapolis-based performance project company of Alaska-born choreographer Emily Johnson. Since 1998, Johnson has created dance works that function as installations, engaging audiences within an environment of multiple senses. Johnson received a 2012 Bessie (New York Dance and Performance) Award for Outstanding Production and has been a 2012 Headlands and MacDowell Artist in Residence, a 2011 Native Arts and Cultures Fellow, a 2009 McKnight Fellow, and a 2012, 2010, and 2009 MAP Fund Grant recipient. She has performed in Montreal, Russia, and across the US at venues including New York Live Arts, Walker Art Center, PS122, DiverseWorks, and The Que'Ana Bar in Clam Gulch, Alaska.

The logo for PICA (Portland International Center for Art) features the word "PICA" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letters are positioned above a thick, horizontal yellow bar that spans the width of the text.

About Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA)

Since 1995, PICA has championed the practice of contemporary artists from around the world, driving vital conversations about the art and issues of today. PICA presents visual and performing artists and embraces those individuals who exist at the borders of mediums and ideas. Through artist residencies and exhibitions, lectures and workshops, and the annual Time-Based Art Festival, PICA constructs a broad platform for contemporary art.

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