

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JANUARY 8, 2015**

## **PICA IS AWARDED FUNDS FROM THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION TO LAUNCH NEW “CREATIVE EXCHANGE LAB” ARTIST RESIDENCY PROGRAM**

**Press Contact:** Noelle Stiles, Communications and Marketing Manager  
503.242.1419 x19, [noelle@pica.org](mailto:noelle@pica.org) | [www.pica.org/about/press/](http://www.pica.org/about/press/)

PICA is pleased to announce a new residency program established with \$500,000 of lead support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and additional support through Oregon Community Foundation’s Creative Heights initiative. The labs will promote artistic exchange, instigate peer to peer dialogue, and foster the development of new works with a focus on serving artists working at the intersection of different genres. PICA’s new residency program will be comprised of two labs annually taking place each Spring and Fall. Reflecting a field wide need for in-depth cross-disciplinary research opportunities for artists, the labs will offer essential generative time for research and experimentation, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and self-directed interaction between the participating local, national, and international artists.

**PICA**

Creative Exchange Lab artists will be collaboratively selected by PICA’s curatorial team who will invite a diverse intergenerational cohort of artists from a spectrum of disciplines and cultural perspectives. The first cohort of CEL artists include: choreographer Wally Cardona (New York) and dancer Myint Mo, (Myanmar), visual artists Jibade-Khalil Huffman (Los Angeles) and Dawn Kasper (New York), composer and musician Holcombe Waller (Portland), and performance artist Lucy Lee Yim (Portland).

“This innovative residency program is timely for our region, and furthers PICA’s long-standing commitment to responding to the needs of contemporary artists”, says Angela Mattox, PICA’s Artistic Director. “The labs will place a diverse range of visionary artists in Portland’s cultural landscape—ensuring participating artists, and region are part of a broader conversation that investigates and shapes how contemporary artists are working across disciplines.”

As PICA boldly enters its 20th year, The new Creative Exchange Lab residency program is both emblematic of PICA’s forward-thinking direction combined with its organizational legacy of serving artists, emerging and established, working across all mediums and demonstrates PICA as a vibrant center for artistic innovation, support, and dialogue.

## SPRING 2015 CREATIVE EXCHANGE LAB ARTISTS BIOS

### WALLY CARDONA (NEW YORK-BASED CHOREOGRAPHER) & MYINT MO (MYANMAR-BASED DANCER)

For several years, Wally Cardona created group works that demanded highly controlled working conditions in order to be made. His current cycle of work cultivates a practice of undoing, creating intimate yet crowded collaborative conditions. Honors: Bessie award, Guggenheim Fellowship, NYFA Fellowship, Asian Cultural Council Fellowship and Doris Duke Artist Award. Works: *The Set Up*, an 8-part series with Jennifer Lacey and 8 masters of traditional dance forms; *Ponder Nothing*, with composer Ned Rothenberg and an existent score by Ben Johnston; *TOOL IS LOOT*, with Lacey and composer Jonathan Bepler, resulting from games of aesthetic disorientation with “non-dance experts,” including a sommelier, astrophysicist, architect, social activist; *Movements within Stream*, an outdoor mini-myth made for a hillside sculpture; *Really Real*, a people piece for 100 individuals, including the Brooklyn Youth Chorus with music by Phil Kline; and *A Light Conversation*, a physical dialogue on aesthetics vs. ethics, love, commitment and sacrifice, with Swiss choreographer Rahel Vonmoos.

Myint Mo currently lives in Yangon, Myanmar, working as a freelance dancer (a rarity in Myanmar traditional dance). He is currently working with Wally Cardona as assistant to Saya Lei, who is unable to travel outside of Myanmar.

### JIBADE-KHALIL HUFFMAN (LOS ANGELES-BASED VISUAL ARTIST)

Jibade-Khalil Huffman is an artist and writer based in Los Angeles. He is the author of three books of poems, *19 Names For Our Band* (Fence, 2008), *James Brown is Dead* (Future Plan and Program, 2011), and *Sleeper Hold* (Fence, 2014). His art and writing projects, spanning photography, video, performance and poetry, have been exhibited and performed at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, MoMA/P.S.1, Long Island City, NY, and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, among others.

### DAWN KASPER (NEW YORK-BASED VISUAL ARTIST)

The work of performance artist Dawn Kasper emerges out of a fascination with the subjects of vulnerability, desire, and the construction of meaning. Kasper’s work often critiques the corporatized aspects of culture by examining the emotions most commonly manipulated by advertisers and media such as fear, panic, hate, envy, and lust. Creating a theatrical spaces that often double as a platform for living sculpture, Kasper performs in a structured yet spontaneous manner using props, costume, comedy, gesture, extreme physicality, repetition, and monologue. Her work has been exhibited widely; The Migros Museum, Zurich, Tramway, Glasgow, Human Resources, Los Angeles, 2012 Whitney Biennial, Honor Fraser, Los Angeles, and Art Basel Art Positions and David Castillo Gallery, Miami. She is represented by David Lewis, New York.

### HOLCOMBE WALLER (PORTLAND-BASED COMPOSER AND MUSICIAN)

Holcombe Waller is one of America’s most unique voices in music theater. He is a 2011 United States Artists Berresford Fellow in Music, an award which noted his mournful, folk-inflected style as well as his approach to music “as total theater.” He is a Creative Capital artist, a recipient of the MAP Fund Award, and a 2013 Joan Shipley Fellow of the Regional Arts and Culture Council. Waller has been presented and commissioned by Under the Radar Festival at The New York Public Theater, On the Boards, Portland Institute for Contemporary Art, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, the Centre Pompidou, the Fusebox Festival, PuSh International Performing Arts Festival, and many others. Waller’s collaboration with choreography includes work with Joe Goode Performance Group (SF), ZoelJuniper (Seattle), and Miguel Gutierrez, and his film score work includes music for the Sundance-premiered documentary, “We Were Here.” He is currently touring two interdisciplinary music theater works, *Wayfinders* and *Surfacing*, and he is currently partnering with PICA and Trinity Episcopal Cathedral to create a community-choir-based LGBT Requiem Mass for premiere in the Time-Based Arts Festival of 2015. This work references the historic period of activism coincident with the terms LGB and LGBT (roughly the mid eighties through the present), and seeks to invoke the peaceful repose of LGBT people who have suffered injustice.

### LUCY LEE YIM (PORTLAND-BASED PERFORMANCE ARTIST)

Choreographer, performer and dance artist Lucy Lee Yim creates work from her interests in identity politics, history and the mechanics of memory. Yim investigates the socio-cultural body through a combination of experimental art practices and somatic practices. Her work has been seen in various local venues as well as theatres across the United States, such as the Salvage Vanguard (TX), Chocolate Factory (NY) and Bedlam (MN). Yim has self-produced two evening length ensemble works, *Loose Hands Lunging* (2011) and *Light Noise* (2013). Her solo projects have been included in Portland’s Risk/Reward Festival (2014), Conduit’s Sea/Port and the Headwaters’ One Festival (2011).

PICA

415 SW 10th AVENUE  
(3rd FLOOR)  
PORTLAND OREGON 97205  
503 242 1419  
[pica.org](http://pica.org)

## ABOUT PORTLAND INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART (PICA)

Portland Institute for Contemporary Art acknowledges and advances new developments in contemporary art, fostering the explorations of artists and audiences. 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 artists from visual and performance backgrounds and embraces those individuals who exist at the borders of genres 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.

###

The logo for PICA, featuring the letters 'PICA' in a bold, black, serif font. The letters are positioned above a thick, horizontal yellow bar that extends to the left of the 'P'.

415 SW 10th AVENUE  
(3rd FLOOR)  
PORTLAND OREGON 97205  
503 242 1419  
*pica.org*