

A photograph of a dancer in a white leotard performing in a field of purple flowers. The dancer is seen from the back, with one arm extended. The scene is bathed in a soft purple light, creating a dreamlike atmosphere. The background shows green trees and a clear sky.

BODYART DANCE

A CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY

WWW.BODYARTDANCE.COM

LESLIE SCOTT



Mission & Purpose

BODYART creates intimate dance-theater experiences for non-traditional spaces. BODYART projects feature multi-platform collaborations, unique audience participation, and an innovative blending of the digital and physical arts.

BODYART is a women-led organization dedicated to serving the global community and increasing accessibility in the physical arts through place-based programming. Always site-inspired and interdisciplinary, BODYART projects create new visual dialogues that invite conversation and community discourse.

BODYART believes multi-platform collaboration across geography, culture, and medium creates space for us to deconstruct hierarchical artmaking practices that have led to divisive narratives and limited accessibility in the arts.

History & Structure

The BODYART organization began with BODYART Dance Company in New York City, 2006. After enjoying much success, BODYART Dance moved to Los Angeles in 2016 and still remains. The BODYART organization expanded in 2017 with the establishment of its second non-profit, BODYART Connects. Both companies work together to leverage the most opportunities for their constituents across the country. At its core, BODYART Dance and BODYART Connects create highly collaborative visual stories where the audience, performer, and space act as co-authors. For more information please visit our website bodyartdance.com.

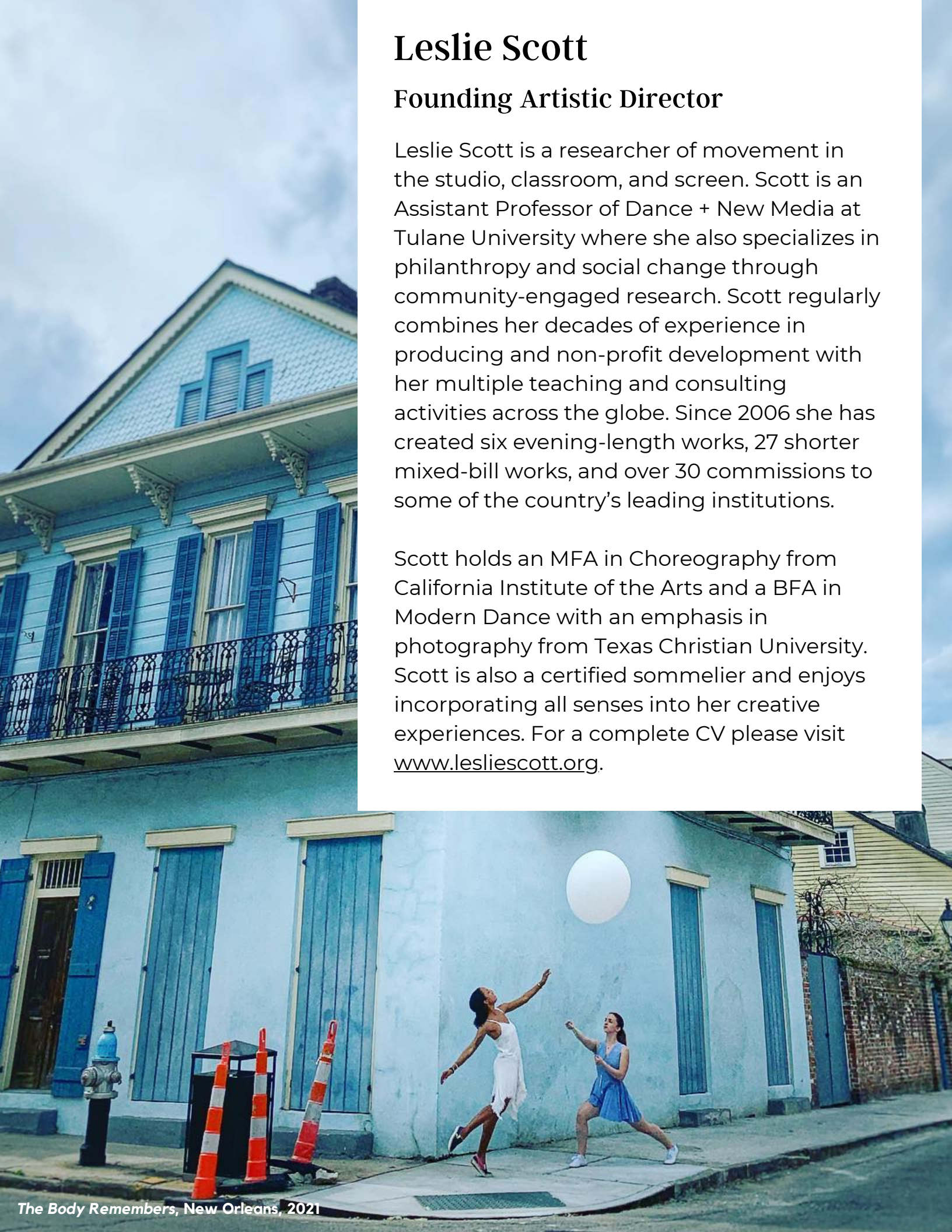


Leslie Scott

Founding Artistic Director

Leslie Scott is a researcher of movement in the studio, classroom, and screen. Scott is an Assistant Professor of Dance + New Media at Tulane University where she also specializes in philanthropy and social change through community-engaged research. Scott regularly combines her decades of experience in producing and non-profit development with her multiple teaching and consulting activities across the globe. Since 2006 she has created six evening-length works, 27 shorter mixed-bill works, and over 30 commissions to some of the country's leading institutions.

Scott holds an MFA in Choreography from California Institute of the Arts and a BFA in Modern Dance with an emphasis in photography from Texas Christian University. Scott is also a certified sommelier and enjoys incorporating all senses into her creative experiences. For a complete CV please visit www.lesliescott.org.



Programming

BODYART's core programming focuses on performance (via dance film and live dance) and community engagement services that blend dance and digital storytelling.



A photograph of a person in a bright yellow raincoat performing a dance move on a large, dark rock by the sea. The person is in a dynamic pose, with one leg raised and arms extended. The background shows a tree with sparse green leaves and a body of water under a clear sky.

The Decay Project

The Decay Project works with local communities to create short dance films inspired by their abandoned or decayed spaces. From natural disasters to years of neglect, The Decay Project collaborates with local artists and residents to process their relationship to these disused spaces.

PLACEHOLDER

Placeholder is an extension of The Decay Project, where communities of economic or natural disaster investigate the impact of long standing urban blight on cultural identity. Collaborators come together to create artistic reveries they pay homage to their lost community spaces. Placeholder is part ritual, performance, and gathering. It is a means of creating community while also interrogating local resilience/recovery policies.

MOVING TO HEAL

Due to COVID-19 domestic violence has skyrocketed. In response, BODYART has launched Moving to Heal (M2H) as a means to support survivors and their road to recovery. M2H partners with local women's shelters to provide movement-based programming that responds to the needs of its residents.

Performance History

Our performance program presents new work (both digitally and physically) that regularly investigates female-driven narratives or marginalized voices to the global community. BODYART has performed all over the world, on stage and on screen, in churches and barracks, in abandoned buildings and private residences, on the streets, and underwater. To date, the company has created ten site-inspired works, four site-specific works, and five dance films. For more information on specific works, please visit our website at bodyartdance.com



Past Sites, Venues & Spaces

USA

- Jazz @ Lincoln Center (NY)
- Joyce Soho (NY)
- City Center (NY)
- Ailey Citigroup Theatre (NY)
- Theatre for a New City (NY)
- 3LD Art & Technology Center (NY)
- Irondale Arts Center (NY)
- Dixon Place (NY)
- REDCAT (CA)
- St. Louis Dance Festival (MO)
- Bass Hall (TX)
- Haas Performing Arts Center (MI)
- Peter & Paul Performing Arts Center (LA)

International

- Summerhall @ The Edinburgh Fringe (Scotland)
- JOMBA! International Dance Festival (South Africa)
- Sibu International Dance Festival (Malaysia)
- The Body Festival (New Zealand)
- SuperCell International Dance Festival (Australia)
- FIIN Nómade Intercultural Festival (Chile)
- 53°70° Contemporary Dance Festival (Chile)
- Centro Cultural Los Andes, San Antonio, and Leopoldo Silva De Quillota (Chile)

Master Classes

BODYART offers single or multiple class options as stand alone offerings or in conjunction with performance. The following classes are available:

- Contemporary Dance Technique - pre-professional through professional levels
- Site-Specific Choreography - adapting work for any space - basic choreographic experience
- Storytelling through movement - open to actors who move, or dancers who act
- Dance for Camera - The Decay Project series - open to all levels
- Creating Site-Specific Work: open to all, a talk about the creative process
- Community Engagement Approaches: open to all levels



h y m n + t h e m





60 minutes / 2 performers

Site-Adaptive | Can be performed in a variety of spaces

US Premiere | Peter + Paul Performing Arts Center, 2018

International Premiere | JOMBA! International Dance Festival, 2019

hymn+them is a multi-media duet that juxtaposes iconography of American pop-culture with female identity. This evening-length, narrative dance piece, is set on a 30ft square of astro turf and uses 'The Wizard of Oz' as a lens to look at the role of gender in the American midwest. Often many people's only reference for Kansas, L. Frank Baum's book published in 1900 featured one of the first female protagonists in popular literature, introducing Dorothy as one of America's most beloved heroines of all time.

hymn+them is a visual representation of one's relationship to identity and culture; language barriers dissolve when evoking feelings of longing. It is BODYART's intention to create a common space to explore universal feels of home and belonging.



History

hymn + them began in 2018 in New Orleans during the company's creative residency at Tulane University. The piece premiered later that year at the Peter + Paul Performing Arts Center, an 1861 gutted and renovated cathedral. hymn + them earned the company its first nomination for the 2019 Tribute to the Classical Arts Award for Outstanding Dance Presentation.

hymn+them was later presented at the international JOMBA! Dance Festival 2019 in Durban, South Africa, where the company received recognition for excellence in cultural diplomacy from Mayor

Zandile Ruth Thelma Gumede of the eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality. In 2020 BODYART was invited to present hymn+them at the Sibuh International Dance Festival in Malaysia (rescheduled for 2021 due to COVID-19) and received the US Artists International award from the MidAtlantic Arts Foundation to support the company's first Southeast Asian tour.

BODYART will present to South American audiences for the first time in 2022 with a four-city tour of hymn+them across Chile's Valparaiso region.



digital
magpies



Digital Magpies, Tulane University, New Orleans, 2021

60 minutes / 5 performers

Site-Specific | Best suited for community spaces with means of projection and shadow work.

Digital Magpies is a new work that explores the ways in which we collect, curate, and present ourselves in the digital landscape. Part interactive performance, part multi-media installation, Digital Magpies examines the choices we make online (intentional and otherwise.) How do we decide what to present to the digital world? What is our digital footprint? What do we like, comment, share, or post? Digital Magpies asks the audience to examine their online choices and how they engage in the digital landscape. Our digital identities have been granted immortality in exchange for making public every online interaction. Digital Magpies dissects the digital identities we've created, pulls them apart and asks: How does the you online stack up against the you IRL?



r e m n a n t s

AR Mobile App

Site-Interactive | Immersive

In the early days of the pandemic, BODYART began researching virtual and augmented reality programs. As our connection to one another moved beyond the physical and into the digital, we found ourselves itching to explore how art could respond. What came about was the beginning of a new phase for BODYART, one that challenges our current definitions of storytelling and audience.

BODYART is currently developing Remnants, a digital experience that uses AR (augmented reality) to reframe the user's home as a site for interrogating one's relationship to ephemerality, preservation, and loss. Remnants deploys the technology available through smartphones to turn the user's living space into a virtual world filled with images, sounds, and text that reexamines humans' beautiful (but futile) battle with Time.

Statement of Equity & Inclusion

BODYART strives to create a community where all people enjoy the many benefits of dance and storytelling. We believe that this is only possible through the creation of programs, audience experiences, and work environments that are diverse, equitable, and anti-racist.

We recognize and understand that a history of disparities, bias, and injustice has created a societal landscape of inequality and exclusion. We seek to address these issues directly with an intersectional understanding of, and strong commitment to diversity, inclusion, and equity – both internally and throughout our community.

BODYART continues to work towards reflecting our passion for creating community and connections by sharing important stories through the many faces, cultures, and walks of life that proudly make up our world.

A true community is one in which all people, of every gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, education, or ability, must feel welcomed, valued, and respected

We encourage our staff, board members, volunteers, contractors, and partners to embrace the following principles intended to promote diversity and equity:

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Principles

- Mutual Respect: We value and respect those persons, ideas, and experiences that are different from our own.
- Transparency: We have a responsibility to ourselves and our community to work towards mission and goals with honesty and transparency.
- Collaboration: We believe in creating space that welcomes and elevates a wide array of voices and talents.
- Accessibility: We believe that dance is for everyone: everybody and every body. We strive to make our programming available and accessible in a variety of ways.
- Creativity & Knowledge: Everyone has a story to tell, and we learn more about ourselves by listening to and learning from others. This cultivates and fosters creativity and helps Invertigo create works that reflect the ever-changing world around us and the new stories that are being shared every day.
- Intersectionality: We recognize that everyone carries multiple identities, and that there is a history of oppression and privilege tied to various identities.
- Accountability: We strive to create mechanisms for constant evaluation and feedback, and an open atmosphere of communication that values impact over intention.





LET'S CONNECT

Leslie Scott

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