



## Fall 2009: Arts & Bodies A Call for Work

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Each year since 2007 Arts on Earth ([www.artsonearth.org](http://www.artsonearth.org)) has chosen a theme to explore through interdisciplinary, arts-driven projects. In March of 2007, we sponsored two nights of programming around Arts & War; in November 2007, we devoted two full, intensive days to the experiential study of Arts & Minds; in 2008, from November to April, we explored Arts & the Environment. For Fall of 2009, we invite the U-M community to join us in a multifaceted examination of **Arts & Bodies**.

### THE CONCEPT IN BRIEF

We often speak of our experience of the arts as “transcendent” - transcendently beautiful, transcending normal human limits of performance and perception, speaking directly to the transcendent “soul.”

Yet art is inescapably made by corporeal beings, whose very corporeality indeed determines the media, methods, instruments, forms, colors, tones, and materials through which we create. Furthermore, the very experience of transcendence is a corporeal one, determined by the state of the sensory and cognitive apparatus of the co-creating perceiver of art.

The purpose of Arts & Bodies is to explore the dynamic, tortured, joyful, complex relationship between our arts and our bodies across epochs and cultures. We’ll examine how we use our arts to affect and reflect our thinking about, and our relationship with, our bodies. We will participate in and study art that is a direct extension of the body, such as dance and vocal music; art that celebrates the body; and art that probes, explores, challenges, plays in, teases about, and sometimes closes (or attempts to close), the gap we often experience between “I” and “my body.”

We’ll investigate how disciplines such as engineering, law, medicine, and business have affected the ways in which arts and bodies interact, and how anthropology, art history, philosophy, psychology, and other disciplines have interpreted the impulses and effects of art/body interactions.

### SOME ELEMENTS

A broad outline and some details for the project are in place. Among them:

#### **October (prospectively):**

**Lectures:** Suzanne Farrell, “Whose Body Is It, Anyway?” - on her collaboration with George Balanchine (in collaboration with UMS); Nicholas Delbanco, “Lastingness: The Art of Old Age”

**Performances:** Chamber music by Jon Deak, “Lady Chatterly’s Dream,” performed by SMTD faculty and students; Operetta by John Davis, “The Night Harry Stopped Smoking,” performed by SMTD students, directed by Robert Swedberg; reading of selections of poetry on the body and mortality

## November

**Residency:** "Body Music." A 7- to 10-day residency, the first week of November, by San Francisco Bay area body musician Keith Terry and his Slammin' All-Body Band. Terry and his fellow musicians will teach classes and workshops with U-M students, faculty and staff, Detroit Public School students, teachers, and staff, and UMHS patients, staff, and medical students.

**ArtsLab:** November 5 & 6, a two-day, intensive, interdisciplinary, experiential lab in the Video Studio in the Duderstadt Center

**Lecture and demonstration:** Thursday, November 5, Jaques D'Amboise, founder, National Dance Institute (part of the School of Art & Design's Penny Stamps Distinguished Visitor Series).

**Concert:** Friday, November 6, Keith Terry and his Slammin' All-Body Band (in collaboration with UMS).

## WORK SOUGHT

We want to create a mini-festival of varied, unexpected work exploring the relationships between our arts and our bodies.

**Type of work sought:** We welcome lectures, performances, panel presentations, exhibits, round table conversations, demonstrations, courses, workshops, film screenings and discussion, original video, and work in any other medium that elaborates the theme of Arts & Bodies, preferably in illuminating interdisciplinary combinations..

In addition to work from the artistic disciplines, we invite work from, say, Materials Science Engineering on the development of materials that affect our sensory perceptions of art; from Computer Science on the interaction of animation techniques and our vision; from Law on how definitions of pornography have affected (and been affected by) art and artists; from Business on the commercial force of artistically rendered bodies; from Art History, Women's Studies, Anthropology, Philosophy, Psychology, area studies programs: from across the entire university, we seek a wide range of perspectives on Arts & Bodies.

**Source of work:** We welcome work from faculty, students, and staff.

**Support for work:** Arts on Earth will promote your contribution internally and externally as part of the "Arts & Bodies" festival, and will provide up to \$500 to support development and presentation of the work. (Total support to be \$4,000.)

**Deadline:** October 1 is the last date we'll review submissions for Fall 2009 work.

**Submission:** To add your work to the Arts & Bodies festival website, e-mail a description no more than two pages in length, to include a title and description of the work; contact information; names and departments of people involved in producing it; and dates, location, and time (if known and applicable). If you're requesting financial support, include a budget demonstrating need. Send your submissions and questions to Arts on Earth director Theresa Reid, [tareid@umich.edu](mailto:tareid@umich.edu).

## COMING IN FALL 2010:

Arts on Earth's theme for FY 2010, for which we will also be seeking work, is Arts = Health.