

GET TO KNOW

WENDY JEHLLEN

VISITING ARTIST



More than a choreographer, I am a storyteller whose telling is through movement and space. I am interested in archetypal stories – stories that exist outside of time and place. Archetypal stories describe what happens in the unknown between knowns. They tell of the journey. They take place in the time and space between – the wilderness, twilight, dreams. In performance, the dancer's body inhabits this liminal space, allowing the audience a glimpse of these eternal stories, for a moment.

My work has been evolving since 1998 in India, Italy, Japan, Brazil, Mali and the US. My performances weave together music, dance and storytelling, secular and sacred, aural and visual. With each synthesis, a language is created.

I believe in learning new forms and new ideas deeply, internalizing them and then allowing them to reemerge as part of my own vocabulary. This is what makes my work what it is – unplaceable and yet familiar. It is essential to my work that it not be tied to one place, one tradition, one genre. It is the weaving of disparate traditions, different ways of understanding that creates the fabric of my dance.

*Left: Wendy Jehlen performing "Lilith" - a performance inspired by Kiki Smith's sculpture of the same name.
Right: Kiki Smith, "Lilith," 1994.*

GET INVOLVED

WENDY JEHLLEN

VISITING ARTIST

PUBLIC WORKSHOPS + EVENTS

Performance: "Uncommon Butterfly," in partnership with [Artpace] at Untitled

Saturday, 9/23. 7 pm

21 C Museum Hotel, 900 W Main St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73106

Performance: "Lilith"

Wednesday, 9/27 7:30 pm

Davis Theater, Gunderson Hall, OSU campus, Stillwater, OK

An interpretive dance inspired by Kiki Smith's work by the same name.

drawingLAB, featuring Wendy Jehlen

Thursday, 9/28. 6 - 8:30 pm

Stillwater Center for the Arts, 1001 S Duck St, Stillwater, OK 74074

Explore the use of body as a vehicle for drawing in space (dress to make a mess, possible materials include powdered graphite or tempera).

ACADEMIC WORKSHOPS + CLASS VISITS

ART 4813: Museum Education - Interpretive Movement Workshop. Students will learn techniques for interpreting visual art through physical movement.

GWST 2123: Intro to Gender Studies - Embodied Struggle. Students will explore gendered movement and the ways in which oppression is anchored in the body.

ART 4693/5693: Gender and Visual Culture. Wendy Jehlen will discuss her interpretive process for interpreting works of art, such as "Lilith."



Would you like to have a visiting artist participate with your class? Contact Carrie.Kim@okstate.edu for details.