



Dear Artist,

Congratulations! You have been awarded a National Performance Network Residency. Attached is your copy of the NPN Residency Agreement.

All Artists who conduct NPN Residencies are required to submit a Final Report upon completion of their residency. Please go to the NPN website at www.npnweb.org and download the **Fiscal Year 2006** Artist's Final Report Form under the "Publications" section. The form is designed to be filled out on your computer.

The report covers all types of Residencies: Standard Residencies, Creation Fund Residencies and Community Fund Residencies (i.e. Residencies that are connected to Community Fund projects).

The Agreement ID on the Residency Agreement should correspond with the Agreement ID on your final report. If you have questions, concerns please contact me at (504) 595-8008.

Thank you and good luck with the Residency!

Best regards,

Stanlyn Brevé
Program Coordinator
National Performance Network
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New Orleans, LA 70112
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Co-commissioning of Susan Sgorbati through the NPN's Creation Fund

Project Update to Accompany Commissioning Letter of Agreement

a) Project Title: The Emergent Improvisation Project

b) Description of Artistic Project: Susan Sgorbati will present a series of new performance works which explore the emergent and complex natures of movement and sound improvisation. Through a grant from The Creation Fund of the National Performance Network, this performance arose out of research into how groundbreaking theories of brain organization and natural systems are currently providing new insights into the basic processes of structuring and organization. Known as emergent improvisation, this work reveals the interrelationship between natural, complex systems and dance and music improvisation, exposing scientific theories of self-organization, emergence, and complexity. Identifying natural phenomena informs this particular creative process, where the matching of form and content reveals ideal conditions for a particular system or composition. The body of work will result in pieces built for ensembles (up to five dancers), duets and solos for dance and live music.

c) Company Background Information: Susan Sgorbati created the performing arts ensemble, "Materia Prima" in 1998. The focus of the ensemble was the performance of improvisation. Early members of the group were Hope Clark, Maureen Ellenhorn, Jonathan Kinzel, Paul Matteson, and Lionel Popkin. Performances were part of The Improvisation Festival in NYC and in New England. Since then, her dialogues with scientists have informed her work with Bennington College students, professional dancers, and collaborations with other artists such as photographer Jonathan Kline and lighting designer, Michael Giannitti. Her current project, "Emergent Improvisation" is a collaboration with composer, Jake Meginsky, visual artist, Jon Isherwood, costume designer, Amelia Powell and lighting designer, Garin Marschall. Dancers include: Carson Efird, Jaamil Anderson-Kosoko, Katie Martin, Cori Olinghouse, Lionel Popkin, Nicole Pope, Zornitsa Stoyonova, and Keith Thompson.

d) Artist Biographical Information: Susan Sgorbati has been on the dance faculty at Bennington College since 1983, where she created the improvisation ensemble *Materia Prima*. She was the Dean of Faculty at the College from 1991-94. She recently was honored with the Barbara and Lewis Jones Chair at Bennington College. In 1993, she received a commission from the Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival for her Housatonic River Project. She has performed with her group at several New York Improvisation festivals and venues, and co-directs and teaches every summer a residency, "Workshop in the Performance of Improvisation" with Penny Campbell, Terry Creach and Peter Schmitz. She has been in residence at the Neurosciences Institute in La Jolla, California under the tutelage of Dr. Gerald Edelman and attended The New England Complex Systems Institute workshops held at MIT. Sgorbati is creating The Institute for the Study of Emergent Improvisation, which is a forum for communication and exchange of ideas and information relating to the study, practice, and performance of emergent improvisation. The Institute pursues various initiatives that investigate improvisation as an agency of change, and a method for understanding the act of structuring in all principles of organization, from governance to art forms. Sgorbati is also a professional mediator, who mediates for The Vermont Attorney General's Office and The Vermont Human Rights Commission. In 1999, she created Quantum Leap, a mentoring program that reconnects at-risk students to their education, and has currently served over 150 children in Bennington County. In Fall 2004, she was named the 1st Annual David G. Rahr Community Service Award recipient from The Vermont Community Foundation. She is a regular guest teaching artist at the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts. Her current work is supported by Jerome Robbins Foundation, the Bumper Foundation, Bennington College and the National Performance Network.

e) Project Dates: August 1, 2005-February 3, 2006