

CURRICULUM VITA

SUSAN SGORBATI

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Barbara and Lewis Jones Chair, Dance Faculty, Bennington College
Artistic Director, The Emergent Improvisation Project

EDUCATION

Bennington College; Bennington, VT
Bachelor of Arts in Dance (1974)
Master of Fine Arts in Dance (1986)

Dr. Stuart Kauffman; University of Calgary, in residence at Bennington College
Complex Systems and Evolutionary Biology (2004 – 2005)

Dr. Gerald Edelman; The Neurosciences Institute; La Jolla, CA, in residence at NSI
Complex Systems and the Brain (2002-2005)

Edgar Holmes III, M.D.: *Principles of Orthopedics, tutorial* (2001)

Ann Hampton, Ph.D.: *Anatomy and Physiology, course at CSC* (2001)

MEDIATION TRAINING

The Vermont Human Rights Commission (1997- present)

The Vermont Attorney General's Office (1996-2001)

Vermont Law School
Environmental Dispute Resolution (1995)

Prime Family Resources
Family Mediation (1990)

Vermont Law School
Negotiation and Mediation (1990)

PennAccord
Advanced Work in Environmental Dispute Resolution (1989)

Friends Conflict Resolution Services (1988)

PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Barbara and Lewis Jones Chair; Bennington College (2002-present)

Dance Faculty; Bennington College (1985-present)

Creator and Director; Quantum Leap; a program that reconnects at-risk youth to their education (1999-present)

Mediator; The Vermont Attorney General's Office and The Vermont Human Rights Commission (1999-present)

Dean of Faculty; Bennington College (1991-1994)

Creator and Director; The Governor's Institute on the Arts; Vermont (1983-1987)

PROFESSIONAL ARTISTIC PROJECTS AND PERFORMANCES

Invitation to Susan Sgorbati, and Stuart Kauffman

An Investigation into the Intersection of Life Sciences and the Arts

Jointly sponsored by The National Science Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts

February 28-March 1, 2011

A select group of artists working in the fields of visual arts, dance and literature and scientists working in the fields of behavioral biology, neuroscience and evolution, for a convening in our nation's capital in early 2011. The purpose of this convening is to encourage innovative collaboration among practitioners across a diverse set of disciplines who share a common involvement in creativity and discovery.

Convergence: The Emergent Improvisation Film, a collaboration between Elliot Caplan, filmmaker (Beach Birds for Camera, Points in Space, Cage/Cunningham And Susan Sgorbati, director, The Emergent Improvisation Project

A series of experiments in working with emergent dance improvisation and film Funded by The Wyncote Foundation and private donors 2010-

The Emergent Improvisation Project; a national dance tour sponsored by The Creation Fund of The National Performance Network, The Jerome Robbins Foundation, The Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, The Neurosciences Institute, The International Conference on Complex Systems of The New England Complex Systems Institute, and Bennington College (2005-2006)

The Flynn Center for The Performing Arts; Burlington, VT
Led improvisation residencies and directed performances (2002-2005)

New York City Improvisation Festival; New York City, NY
Duet with Cori Olinghouse; curated by Miguel Gutierrez (2004)

Brooklyn Academy of Art; Brooklyn, NY

Duet with Cori Olinghouse for the exhibition; *Manufactured Landscapes: The Photographs of Edward Burtynsky* (2004)

Williamsburg Arts Nexus; Brooklyn, NY

Improvised and Otherwise Festival; duet with Eva Karczag (2003)

Judson Church; New York City, NY

Movement Research Improvisation Festival; ensemble piece, *In Visible Fields*; directed and performed in collaboration with photographer Jonathan Kline and lighting designer Michael Giannitti (2000-2001)

The Vision Festival; New York City, NY

Duet with musician/composer Arthur Brooks (1999)

Tiny Trips; Vermont

Founded and performed in collaboration with Tony Carruthers (1999)

Materia Prima; created and directed an improvisation ensemble with dancers Paul

Matteson, Hope Clark, Lionel Popkin, and Jonathan Kinzel; performed at the Movement Research Improvisation Festival (New York, NY) and Temple University (Philadelphia, PA) (1997-2002).

Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church; New York, NY

Choreographed and performed in *The Remember Project 98, Dancers Responding to AIDS* (1998)

Middlebury College; Middlebury, VT

Performed with Terry Creach, Penny Campbell, and Peter Schmitz (1998)

Work in the Performance of Improvisation; Bennington College

Co-created summer workshops and performances in improvisation (1996-2005)

The Vets; Vermont

Performed in improvisation ensemble (1996-1998)

Middlebury College; Middlebury, VT

Collaborated and performed with Penny Campbell (1995)

Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival; Becket, MA

The Housatonic River Project; commissioned and choreographed as a seven-site project along the Housatonic River (1992-1994)

David Ehrlich and Tom Farrell

Collaborated and performed with film animator and composer (1990)

The Warren Street Performance Space; New York City, NY

The Giants of Sciants; and improvisation ensemble (1990)

The Farm Series; Vermont

Directed and choreographed performances on several regional farms (1989)

The Factory Series; New England

Directed and choreographed performances for five factories in New England (1988)

The Vermont Dance Festival; Burlington, VT
Choreographed in Juried Program for The Flynn Theater Original Choreography (1986)

The Governor's Institute on the Arts; Castleton State College, VT
Founded, directed, developed, and led summer residential program in the arts for adolescents (1983-1987)

David Moss and Tommy Guralnik
Collaborated and performed with composers (1975-80)

MEDIATION EXPERIENCE

Quantum Leap; Bennington College
Founded and co-directed an organization that mentors elementary, middle and high school students who are truant, at risk, or have dropped out of school to reconnect them with their education through mediation and the creation of individualized education plans; responsibilities include overseeing the program, participating in the program as a mentor, training other mentors in principles of mediation, and keeping the program's administrative records. (1999-present)

The Vermont Attorney General's Office; Montpelier, Vermont (1999-present)

Small Claims Court; Bennington, Vermont (1999-present)

The Vermont Human Rights Commission; Montpelier, Vermont (1999-present)

Bennington Community Justice Center; Bennington, Vermont
Vice-President (1999)

Green Heron Associates in Conflict Resolution and Collaborative Projects; Vermont
Founder and Director (1996-present)

BRIDGES: Bennington College Conflict Resolution Program; Bennington, VT.
Train high school students as peer mediators. (1996-present)

Vermont Mediator's Association; Vermont
President (1996-1998)

HONORS

Top 10 Performances of 2006; Emergent Improvisation Project at The Neurosciences Institute;
San Diego Union-Tribune (2006)

The 1st Annual David G. Rahr Award for Community Service; The Vermont Community Foundation (2003)

Barbara and Lewis Jones Chair for Social Activism; Bennington College (2002)

PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

Contact Quarterly; Emergent Improvisation Project: Embodying Complexity; vol.32, no.1; article (Susan Sgorbati). (Winter/Spring 2007)

San Diego Union-Tribune; Locals Go Global to Reach Out and Present Someone: 2006 Top 10 Performances; article (Janice Steinberg). (December 24, 2006)

National Performance Network 2007 Directory; NPN Partners; dance photo (Paul Kyle). (December 2006)

National Public Radio/KPBS; Dance and the Brain; The Dana Foundation's Gray Matters Radio Series; interview with Susan Sgorbati, Dr. Gerald Edelman (Director of The Neurosciences Institute), Katie Martin, and Jake Meginsky; interview (Marjorie Sun). (November 15, 2006)

Royal Academy of Dance/Dance Gazette; The Appliance of Science; issue 3; article (David Jays). (October 2006)

Dance Magazine; By Chance or Design?; article (Janice Steinberg). (June 2006)

Contredanse/Nouvelles de Danse 53: Scientifiquement Danse: Quand la danse puise aux sciences et réciproquement; L'improvisation émergente; editor (Florence Corin); article (Susan Sgorbati). (May 2006)

College Campus News; Dance Project Unites the Arts and Science at International Conference; article (Brie Della Rocca). (May 2006)

Bennington: the Alumni Magazine; Emergent Improvisation Takes Flight; article (Joan Taylor). (Spring/Summer 2006)

WCAX-TV / Burlington, VT; Emergent Improvisation Project at the Flynn Theater. (March 29, 2006)

Bennington Banner; Mad science, dance style; article (Hinda Mandell). (March 16, 2006)

The San Diego Union-Tribune; Improv marries dance and science; article (Janice Steinberg). (February 7, 2006)

The Dana Foundation: Brain in the News; Improv marries dance and science; The San Diego Union-Tribune; article (Janice Steinberg). (February 2006)

ESSAYS

How Deep and Broad are the Laws of Emergence?; co-authored with evolutionary biologist Bruce Weber; presentations include:

6th International Conference on Complex Systems; hosted by the New England Complex Systems Institute (Summer 2006)

Conference on Emergence; hosted by the Star Island Institute for Science in the Age of Religion (Summer 2006)

Essay on Emergent Improvisation; published in *Contredanse/Nouvelles de Danse* (2006) and *Contact Quarterly* (2007)

RESIDENCIES

Dartmouth College (2006)

The Neurosciences Institute (2002-2005)

The Flynn Center for the Performing Arts (2001-2005)

GRANTS

For Convergence: The Emergent Improvisation Film
The Wyncote Foundation and private donors

For The Emergent Improvisation Project:

The Creation Fund of The National Performance Network (2006)

The Bumper Foundation (2006)

The Jerome Robbins Foundation (2005-2006)

The Flynn Center for The Performing Arts (2004-2006)

New Works Grant of The Vermont Council of the Arts (1990)

For Quantum Leap:

The Vermont Agency of Human Services

The Leir Trust

The Velmans Foundation

The Henderson Foundation

The Vermont Community Foundation

Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union

REFERENCES; available upon request