

simone forti

BIOGRAPHY

Simone Forti was born in Florence (Italy) in 1935. She lives and works in Los Angeles.

Forti has been a leading figure in the development of contemporary performance over the last fifty years. Artist, choreographer, dancer, writer, Forti has dedicated herself to the research of a kinesthetic awareness, always engaging with experimentation and improvisation. Investigating the relationship between object and body, through animal studies, news animations and land portraits, she reconfigured the concept of performance and dance. Forti emigrated from Italy with her family via Switzerland to Los Angeles in 1938, where she subsequently studied for four years with choreographer Anna Halprin and has since spent most of her life. She joined the experimental downtown art scene in New York during the emergence of performance art, process-based work and Minimal Art and spent a fruitful time in Rome in the late '60s, where she used the spaces of L'Attico to study and perform. Her work is seen as a precursor of the famous Judson Dance Theater – a group of artists experimenting with dance, including Trisha Brown, Steve Paxton, and Yvonne Rainer – and Minimal Art, although she prefers to be referred simply as a “movement artist”.

Forti has worked with artists like Dan Graham and Robert Whitman and composers like Charlemagne Palestine, Peter Van Riper, and La Monte Young. In the past few years younger artists have reached out to collaborate with her, further indication of the great significance of Simone Forti's work for artists today.

Forti's selected exhibitions and performances include: MOCA, Los Angeles (2020); Centro Pecci, Prato (2020); ICA Milano, Milan (2019); Kunsthaus Baselland, Basel (2019); Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) New York (2018, 2014, 2013, 2009, 1979, 1978); Kunsthaus Zurich (2017); Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2015 and 2013); Centre Pompidou, Paris (2015); Louvre Museum, Paris (2014); Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid (2013); Guggenheim Museum, New York (2013); Haus der Kunst, Munich (2011); Hayward Gallery, London (2010); Galleria L'Attico, Rome (2008, 1972, 1969, 1968); Getty Museum, Los Angeles (2004); Musée d'art moderne et contemporain (MAMCO) Genève, (2003); Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris (2002); Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2001); Castello di Rivoli, Turin (1999); Fundacao Serralves Museum, Porto (1999); P.S.1, New York (1983, 1977 and 1976); Kunsthalle, Basel (1979); Sonnabend Gallery, New York (1978 and 1974); San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco (1977); Yoko Ono Studio, New York (1969 and 1961); Merce Cunningham Studio, New York (1961).