

Creative Minds Collaborative, Inc.

Creative Minds Collaborative creates meaningful interactions for the public through dance programming that bridges the educational, cultural, and artistic worlds. Reflecting upon how we create awareness and empower the communities around us, we seek to bring to attention relevant issues through artistic expressions, provide artists the platform to perform, cultivating the next generation of dancers, and making space for the community to connect with one another.

cmcollab.org

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Creative Minds Collaborative Presents

Essays in Motion

Celebrating the Women in our Community

August 23, 2025

2:30PM and 6:30PM

MATCH

Midtown Arts and Theater

Center of Houston

Tickets: **matchouston.org**

GET TICKETS HERE



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Essays in Motion

August 23, 2025 2:30pm & 6:30pm

Reset

Choreography – Shohei Iwahama, Hayden Stark

Music – Handel/Halvorsen – *Passacaglia*

Dancers – Seth Judice, Vivian Shock

Cello – Patrick Moore, Violin – Ingrid Gerling

Reset premiered in September 2021 at The Art of the World Gallery, after 1 ½ years of virtual concerts during the pandemic. While this piece doesn't follow a distinct narrative, *Reset* was created during a period of change for both choreographers. Themes of adjustment, adaptation, and compromise are woven throughout the piece, all while integrating with the score and musical composition.

Mandala

Choreography: Nao Kusuzaki

Music : *Mandala*, Yumi Kurosawa Trio

Dancers: Vivian Shock*, Niyah Pratt*, Annabelle Daniels*

Inspired by the life of Japanese American leader Donna Cole, *Mandala* honors women as cornerstones of community. This six-minute trio captures the spirit of empowerment, friendship, and shared identity that echoes across generations.

Tuning to Grace

Choreography: Jennifer Mabus

Music: “Nocturne” by Dobrinka Tabakova and “Light Ascending” by Luke Howard

Dancers: Tuesday Boswell, Lindsay Cortner, Jade Devault, Emily Roy

This work was originally created for 6 O’Clock Dance Company, this year, and will be reworked on accomplished Houston Dancers. It is about turning inward and listening/creating from your highest self.

She, Unfolding a Million Stars (World Premiere)

This work is funded in part by the City of Houston through Houston Arts Alliance

Choreography: Nao Kusuzaki

Artists: Mireille Patman Lisa Petrozzi, with Vivian Shock*, Seth Judice, Carmelita Ford
Cellist Patrick Moore, Violinist Ingrid Gerling

In a deeply personal premiere, 2 former dancers return to the stage—now mothers—to share their stories behind and beyond the stage. We explore how movement and women evolve across life stages, and the critical role of the support system around us.

“What if a work of ballet isn’t just about youth and perfection, but about crossing over the generations, dance genres, and reimagining the ways narratives are told? As I became a mother, as I age, as a dance educator, and in each milestone, this thought continued to deepen.

These are the seeds to “She, Unfolding...”, brought to life by the strength and resiliency of women and friends who continue to empower and guide me.

The attached writing, “Welcome to Holland” offers an insight into this work.”

–Nao Kusuzaki

*Dancers appear courtesy of Houston Contemporary Dance Company

Welcome To Holland

by Emily Perl Kingsley

I am often asked to describe the experience of raising a child with a disability - to try to help people who have not shared that unique experience to understand it, to imagine how it would feel. It's like this.....

When you're going to have a baby, it's like planning a fabulous vacation trip - to Italy. You buy a bunch of guide books and make your wonderful plans. The Coliseum. The Michelangelo David. The gondolas in Venice. You may learn some handy phrases in Italian. It's all very exciting.

After months of eager anticipation, the day finally arrives. You pack your bags and off you go. Several hours later, the plane lands. The flight attendant comes in and says, "Welcome to Holland."

"Holland?!?" you say. "What do you mean Holland?? I signed up for Italy! I'm supposed to be in Italy. All my life I've dreamed of going to Italy."

But there's been a change in the flight plan. They've landed in Holland and there you must stay.

The important thing is that they haven't taken you to a horrible, disgusting, filthy place, full of pestilence, famine and disease. It's just a different place.

So you must go out and buy new guide books. And you must learn a whole new language. And you will meet a whole new group of people you would never have met.

It's just a different place. It's slower-paced than Italy, less flashy than Italy. But after you've been there for a while and you catch your breath, you look around.... and you begin to notice that Holland has windmills....and Holland has tulips. Holland even has Rembrandts.

But everyone you know is busy coming and going from Italy... and they're all bragging about what a wonderful time they had there. And for the rest of your life, you will say "Yes, that's where I was supposed to go. That's what I had planned."

And the pain of that will never, ever, ever, ever go away... because the loss of that dream is a very very significant loss.

But... if you spend your life mourning the fact that you didn't get to Italy, you may never be free to enjoy the very special, the very lovely things ... about Holland.

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