

Jennifer Nelson

Jennifer@studionelson.net

Jennifer Nelson: Born in the United States in the aftermath of the assassinations of Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr., during the year man landed on the moon, Nelson was immersed in the tensions and privilege of American cold war culture. Unfortunately a teenager during the Reagan era, she embraced the discipline and release of classical ballet. She danced with the Feld Ballet in New York and the Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève. In between these jobs she was in San Francisco for the major earthquake and in Berlin for the fall of the Wall. These movements, considered over time, slowly blew her mind. Nelson's work emerges from investigations into social choreography and kinaesthetic cognisance. Her inquiries into the relation of the body to social architecture and video eventually brought her back to the United States to study with Paul McCarthy, Chris Burden and John Baldessari. She received her MFA in New Genres at University of California, Los Angeles in 1999.

September 11th and the unfortunate reactions it unleashed clarified her need to engage in the questions of political choreography more explicitly with an urgency to find new forms of movement, interrelationship, and momentum.

She has exhibited in museums including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, and most recently at the Galeri Nasional in Jakarta Indonesia. A 3-week performance with her husband Dimitri Kotsaras for the Irish Biennial, ev+a 2006, resulted in *The Limerick Cookbook, Social Recipes and Alchemical Attempts*, published by futura. Other publications include her artist's book *Reality Needs Changing*, and inclusion in numerous art compendiums. In 2003, She was a Guggenheim Fellow for Visual Arts. With Michael Wilson and Natalie Zimmerman, Nelson founded *The Post-traumatic Institute for Social Satisfaction*, an on-line performance collective agitating for a more fluid social plastic. And in collaboration with artists Toby Short and Alexandros Georgiou, she created *The Guerilla Optimsts*, an Athens-based performance group dedicated to nearly invisible ephemeral acts for the subtle transformation of public space. Nelson currently lives in Athens, Greece. Her current work-in-progress, *The Chronicles of Despair (in paradise)*, is a chromo-musical study of lamentation and frustration distilled from video interviews with people living in Athens.