

## The Asian Arts & Culture Program at UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center

### NEWS RELEASE

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#### For Immediate Release

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**WHAT:** Time Lapse Dance & Luminarium Dance: In Concert

**WHEN:** Thursday, October 3, 2013 at 7:30 PM

**WHERE:** Fine Arts Center Concert Hall

**TICKETS:** Fine Arts Center Box Office 545-2511/ 1-800-999-UMAS

*“Sperling’s magical Fuller-inspired pieces do have the look of natural phenomena—blossoming, evolving, and changing shape.” –Deborah Jowitt, The Village Voice*

*“You think equally of nature and art: Georgia O’Keeffe’s flower paintings, the luminous trajectories of jelly fish, George Balanchine’s ‘Vienna Waltzes,’ a chrysalis morphing rapidly into a butterfly.” –Claudia La Rocco, The New York Times*

The Asian Arts and Culture Program is thrilled to present two highly innovative dance companies whose work reflects dance, theater and light design technology at its best. On October 3 at 7:30PM in the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall, the two dance companies—Time Lapse Dance from New York and Luminarium Dance from Boston will illuminate the stage with their work. Tickets are available by calling 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511. More information and tickets are also available on line at [www.fineartscenter.com](http://www.fineartscenter.com).

Time Lapse Dance, founded by dancer/ scholar and artistic director Jody Sperling, presents choreography that is a blend of visually arresting kinetic theater fused with dance and mesmerizing fabric-and-light spectacles in the style of modern-dance pioneer Loïe Fuller (1862-1928). Sperling earned international acclaim for choreography that creatively re-imagines Fuller’s genre in a 21st-century context. For her company of six women dancers, Sperling creates timeless and captivating work integrating movement, costuming, lighting and shadow play with a sensuous musicality. Sandra Aberkalns from Dance Insider states- “the audience ooh’s and ah’s as time really does seem to wrinkle . . . as beguiling today as it must have been in Fuller’s era.” Time Lapse Dance engages audiences across generations and the globe and has performed across the USA, Bahrain, Canada, India, The Netherlands, Nigeria, Russia and Scotland. Sperling’s choreography is described as “utterly beguiling. As the material catches the colored lights, the wings transform from flowers to a rippling pool to a tornado or whatever our imagination wants it to be.” (*Apter, for The Scotsman*). “David Ferri’s stunning lighting—in 44 colors—

transformed [Sperling] into a bird, an orchid and a slowly burning candle.” –Gia Kourlas, (*The New York Times*) . “Sperling’s expansive musicality and expert manipulation of her enormous costume were perfectly analogous to the solution today’s technological sophisticates are still searching for—not just a merger of dancing and media but a transfiguration of both.” –Marcia Siegel, (*The Boston Phoenix*)

Opening the evening concert on October 3 will be the Boston based Luminarium Dance, a young company getting rave reviews for their work and whose roots lie in the Five College Dance program. Fusing innovative lighting and film with diverse movement styles, the Company sees itself as a “new outlet for performing arts, Luminarium is a think tank, a museum, a gallery for contemporary dance and for contemporary ideas. ..(it) is a space to merge dance with projection, video, film, lighting design and music.”

The two co-artistic directors Merli V. Guerra and Kimberleigh A. Holman (both graduates of Mount Holyoke College and alumna of the Five College Dance Department) bring their individual strengths and interests to create work that is contemporary, yet hauntingly beautiful and accessible. Guerra, a professional dancer and interdisciplinary artist, has a background in ballet, modern, and classical Indian Odissi style. Her interests lie in the layering of video projection and untraditional lighting with live performance, which sets the visual arts into motion. As an award-winning artistic filmmaker and graphic designer her films, art installations, and choreographic works have been selected and showcased in venues across New England, New York, and the West Coast. Holman is a choreographer and lighting designer who has studied with several prominent lighting and sound designers. She merges her interest with lighting into her choreography and takes satisfaction in using traditional lighting elements in the most untraditional ways.

Ticket holders are invited to a pre-performance talk at 6:45PM in Fine Arts Center Concert Hall by BillBob Brown, UMass professor of Dance.

The Fine Arts Center’s Asian Arts & Culture and Center Series is sponsored by Baystate Health & Health New England. Asian Arts & Culture Program Season sponsor is the Pioneer Valley Hotel Group. Media sponsors include the Valley Advocate, Preview Magazine and WGBY 57. Time Lapse Dance is presented in partnership with the Five College Dance Department. High resolution images are available at [www.fineartscenter.com](http://www.fineartscenter.com). Select Press Room.

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