

**Mike Kelley, Anita Pace, and Stephen Prina**  
**Beat of the Traps**  
**Artist and performer bios**

The work of artist **Mike Kelley** (1954–2012) embraced performance, installation, drawing, painting, video, sound works, and sculpture. Kelley began his career in the late 1970s with solo performances, image/text works, and gallery and site-specific installations. He came to prominence in the 1980s with a series of sculptures composed of common craft materials. Throughout his career Kelley also worked on curatorial projects, collaborated with many artists and musicians, and produced a formidable body of critical and creative writing. Regarded as one of the most influential artists of our time, Kelley produced a body of deeply innovative work in dialogue with American popular culture as well as both modernist and alternative traditions. Recent exhibitions of Kelley's work include a major touring survey *Mike Kelley: Ghost and Spirit* (2023–25), organized by Tate Modern in London in collaboration with the Pinault Collection, Paris, K21 Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf, and the Moderna Museet, Stockholm. The Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts advances the artist's spirit of critical thinking, risk-taking, and provocation in the arts. Established by Kelley in 2007, the foundation furthers his philanthropy through grants to arts organizations and artists.

**Anita Pace** is a choreographer, videographer, and performer who has presented works in Europe, Asia, Mexico, and the US. She has collaborated with numerous visual artists, composers, and writers, including Mike Kelley, Jim Shaw, Christian Marclay, Tony Oursler, Stephen Prina, Carl Stone, Kevin Stultz, Mayo Thompson, Benjamin Weissman, and others. She studied at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and CalArts. Pace was a member of the Marinaccio Ballet Company, a cofounder of Dance Theater of Hollywood, and director of Dance/LA and the Kinetikos foundation. She has performed with Donald Byrd, Albert Reid, Kelly Holt, d'Warf, Bill Evans, Ruth Solomon, Tandy Beal, David Gordon, Bill Coleman, and Kate Foley. Major influences on the development of her work include musician/composers Betty Walberg and John Cage, and the choreographers Donald Byrd, Trisha Brown, Merce Cunningham, Lois Fuller, and Yvonne Rainer. Her work ranges from the examination of popular culture and countercultures; to closely focused dialogues with specific texts, drawings, or other visual forms and deep engagement with different musical idioms; to the use of the materials and forms of technologies as creative support.

**Stephen Prina** is an artist, musician, and composer who was born in 1954 in Galesburg, Illinois, and is based in Los Angeles, California. His solo exhibitions include *English for Foreigners*, Museo Tamayo, Mexico City (2020) and Museo Madre, Naples (2017); *galesburg, illinois+*, Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen, St. Gallen (2015); *As He Remembered It*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles (2013) and *Secession*, Vienna (2011); *He was but a bad translation.*, Kölnischer Kunstverein (2011); *Stephen Prina: Modern Movie Pop*, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (2010); *The Second Sentence of Everything I Read Is You*, Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden and Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo (CAAC), Seville (both 2008); *To the People of Frankfurt am Main: At Least Three Types of Inaccessibility*, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt am Main (2000); and *It was the best he could do at the moment*, Museum Boijmans-van Beuningen, Rotterdam (1992). Group exhibitions include the 2008 Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; *Departures: 11 Artists at the Getty*, The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles (2000); *Allegories of Modernism: Contemporary Drawing*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York (1992); *documenta IX*, Kassel (1992); the 51st Carnegie International, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh (1991); *Aperto*, Venice Biennale (1990); *A Forest of Signs: Art in the Crisis of Representation*, MOCA, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (1989); and the 74th American Exhibition, The Art Institute of Chicago (1982).

**Abbott Alexander**, an Actors Studio member, began acting in the New York daytime dramas *Lovers and Friends* and *For Richer, For Poorer*. Alexander starred in Theatre West's 40th-anniversary revival of *Spoon River Anthology*. He also starred in Hugh Leonard's *Irish legacy, A Life* at Theatre 40. The Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle nominated him Best Actor in Tennessee Williams's *Kingdom of Earth*. His acclaimed one-person show *Sonata for Rimbaud* ran for six months in Hollywood, played at the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland, and received the *LA Weekly* award for Best Creation. Alexander played Doone, the "Anthem Sprinter" in Ray Bradbury's Irish comedy hit *Falling Upward* at Garry Marshall's Falcon Theatre and the landmark El Portal. He played Vincent Van Gogh in Universal Pictures' *Starry Night*, which premiered at the Montreal Film Festival. His *One Night Beyond*, a fearless journey into the dark, mystical world of the supernatural, and *The Long Gravel Road*, a reimagining of the Parsifal myth, were nominated for Best Solo Performance by the Valley Theatre Awards. His latest play, *Watermarks*, was produced earlier this year.

**Jon Baldwin** is a Los Angeles-based dancer, choreographer, and educator originally from Philadelphia. He holds both a BFA and an MFA in dance from the University of the Arts. Currently on the faculty of Loyola Marymount University, Baldwin teaches jazz while continuing to inspire the next generation of artists. His teaching journey began early; at 22 he became a lecturer and mentor at his alma mater, where he developed undergraduate dance curricula and supported major performances. He also served as the first choreographic mentor for the Philadelphia School District and the Philadelphia Ballet's High School Fellowship Program, guiding students as they debuted original choreography across iconic city landmarks. Baldwin's performance career spans both concert dance and commercial stages. He has performed with artists such as Solange, J. Cole, Dixson, Adam Blackstone, and YUNA, collaborated with the fashion house Hermès, and assisted acclaimed choreographer JaQuel Knight on work for Zara Larsson and *The Wiz* on Broadway.

**Freda Electra** is a Los Angeles-based dancer, artist, and choreographer originally from Catskill, New York. Since earning a BFA in dance from CalArts, she has performed internationally and worked with renowned choreographers including Holly Blakey, Johannes Wieland, Wayne McGregor, and Saburo Teshigawara. She has been an artist-in-residence at Art Omi and the Watermill Center, and performed at the Venice Biennale. Electra spent two years as a soloist with Tabula Rasa Dance Theater in New York. Since moving to Los Angeles, she has toured with Australian music artist Zheani, appeared in the music video for Lady Gaga's "Abracadabra," and performed at the Grammy Awards with Charli XCX. Alongside her performance career, Electra creates independent, site-specific dance films that incorporate her voice and original visual artwork and explore the relationship between the body and the environment. This year, she debuted her first live choreographed piece, *Stick Spirit and Pink Clown*, as part of Pure Movement, a group show she helped produce, and later presented it at *The Happening Vol. 1*. Her work is influenced by artists such as Pina Bausch and Pipilotti Rist, and draws from butoh, ballet, and contemporary movement to tell physical stories through dance and multimedia performance art.

**M.B. Gordy** is a Los Angeles–based musician and producer. Over the last three decades he has worked as a performer, composer, professor, and recording musician. He earned his master’s degree in music from CalArts, with an emphasis on ethnic percussion. His work can be heard in hundreds of films, video games, TV shows, and recordings—most recently the scores for *Transformers: Rise of the Beasts*, *American Fiction*, *Marvels*, *Rings of Power*, and *Avatar: The Last Airbender*. He has toured the world with such artists as the Doobie Brothers, Josh Groban, Rita Coolidge, Three Dog Night, John Tesh, and Ann Hampton Callaway and was a featured performer on the *Game of Thrones Live* tour. His recording studio, Riot Drum, has worked on music by Andra Day, Michael Bublé, and Childish Gambino, among many others. His Band Opium Moon won a Grammy Award in 2019 for best New Age Album, and they received a second nomination in 2022.

**Jonathan “Butch” Norton** hails from the San Francisco Bay Area. In 1980 he relocated to Southern California to study with renowned percussionist John Bergamo at CalArts, where he met the woman he would marry in 1985. Norton’s recording and touring career started in 1989, when he hooked up with Lowen and Navarro before becoming a founding member of the Eels, which led to work with Rufus Wainwright, Tracy Chapman, Tracy Bonham, the Psychedelic Furs, and, for the last handful of years, Lucinda Williams. In the midst of all the touring and recording, Norton has supplemented his time by lending his abilities to modern dance projects, movie soundtracks, teaching, meditation, yoga, spiritual and healing rituals, and other various percussive endeavors.