

## ABOUT SARAH ASHKIN + GROUND SERIES

Sarah Ashkin is a choreographer, educator, and facilitator, using dance as embodied political intervention. Her work responds to the following guiding questions: How can we interpersonally and institutionally confront and dismantle white supremacy within the dance field? What is intersectional, social justice-driven dance pedagogy? How does dance performance and education foster personal, communal, and historical connection and healing?

Ashkin co-directs the internationally recognized GROUND SERIES dance collective, is a published dance scholar on critical whiteness studies, and has been teaching dance technique and dance theory for 10 years. Ashkin has an MA in Dance, Politics, and Sociology from the University of Roehampton, London, and a BA in Dance and Environmental Studies from Wesleyan University.

## HOW WE WORK

Working across disciplines and with a commitment to equity and inclusion, Sarah Ashkin brings her work to various colleges and universities. She is available for performance, as a visiting artist or guest teacher, for workshops, and also for staff-wide facilitations, community round tables, and faculty and curatorial consultation. Ashkin and the GROUND SERIES team design proposals for varying levels of engagement, depending on context, resource, and scale. *Please inquire for a custom-tailored plan for your school or community group.*

## WHAT WE OFFER

### PERFORMANCE OFFERINGS

GROUND SERIES dance collective uses performance as embodied intervention.

Each GROUND SERIES production is rooted in ensemble collaboration, interdisciplinarity, inquiry-based content, and site-specific dance-making. GROUND SERIES understands the gathering of an audience as an opportunity to build connections, stir dialogue, and make space for self-reflection. If there is an older work from our repertoire that you are interested in presenting, please inquire.

***task*** (2018)

35 minutes

black box / studio venue / proscenium presentation

A dance theater duet using dance performance as a confrontation of white supremacy.

[sarahashkin.com/task](http://sarahashkin.com/task)

***Our Bodies Warm in the Sun, Unsettled*** (2019)

50 minutes

outdoor site / gallery / flexible presentation

This site-specific dance theater duet combines satire, personal narrative, and social practice to interrogate the colonial construct of the American Wilderness.

[sarahashkin.com/unsettled](http://sarahashkin.com/unsettled)

## **TOPICS FOR GUEST TEACHER CLASSES, WORKSHOPS OR INTENSIVES**

Whether Sarah is teaching Site Specific Dance Making, Dance and Critical Race Theory, or Improvisation, her teaching philosophy remains the same. Sarah believes the purpose of dance education is to: 1) Assist each student in cultivating the expressive powers of their dancing body through culturally responsive curriculum and teaching methods. 2) Foster critical thinking skills in relationship to one's own dancing body, as well as the relationship between movement practices and culture, and dance and choreographic politics. 3) Offer dance practices as forms of personal and communal awareness building, political resistance, and healing.

These values infuse lessons, workshops, or course offerings such as:

- Conceptual and Embodied Experiments in Composition
- Improvisation with Voice, Movement, and Touch
- Whiteness and Dance
- Politics of Site
- Inquiry Based Choreography
- Social Practice and Performance
- Radical Somatics
- Release Technique
- Arts Administration

## **FACILITATION : Confronting Structural, Pedagogical and Personal White Supremacy in Dance Studies**

Sarah is a trained and experienced facilitator in leading professional development sessions, dialogues, and workshops in arts schools, higher education settings, and arts organizations. .

These facilitated sessions focus on confronting white supremacy through:

- Embodied Praxis
- Identifying Short Term and Long Term Goal Setting and Accountability Structures
- Story Circles
- Student centered dialogues and workshops
- Faculty centered trainings and coaching
- Administration centered consulting

Depending on the goals of each facilitation, Sarah and GROUND SERIES members of color Adam McKinney, Kristine Haruna Lee, and Krista Kee will co-lead experiences designed for multi-racial coalition building.

## **WHY WE DO THIS**

Sarah and the GROUND SERIES team are committed to bringing their creative tools as choreographers, educators, and consultants to aid dance institutions in making meaningful change for justice. In a time when institutions are being bravely challenged to incorporate

diversity, equity, and inclusion into their organizational structure, demographics, and pedagogy, GROUND SERIES is honored to offer our skills to this critical reimagining. We deeply believe in the power of dance performance and education as a site for radical healing and transformation. Join us in leading the dance field forward.

## CONTACT INFO

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GROUND SERIES dance collective

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