

PROJECT OUTREACH / LECTURES & EVENTS:

WAVES OF MU is a natural platform for a wide range of outreach, formal lecture, and special event opportunities that provide informed public discourse about contemporary art and science.

Amy Caron is an experienced teacher and lecturer with equal experience working with children, teens, artists, and in higher education. Although education is not the basis of WAVES OF MU (the work is driven from a contemporary art aesthetic and remains foremost a visual and performative statement by the artist), it does however, mimic, embrace, dispute, and exploit traditional and non-traditional learning practices in creative exploration of educational systems, scientific process, cognitive behavior, and tacit knowledge. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of this work as a true weave of formal studies that include the arts, science, philosophy, and psychology and its goal to relay learning through alternative experience - it is entirely appropriate to incorporate a range of educationally based events around WAVES OF MU. Amy's collaborating neuroscientists (Ramachandran, Gallese, Oberman) can also be invited to speak at events connected to the work – a warning they must be scheduled well in advance. Informed professionals from your area are also welcomed as co-panelists and/or speakers.

Past WAVES OF MU events and engagements, which have ranged from formal lectures to medical professionals to installation visits from elementary school groups, are listed below. Also included: a quick list of popcorn ideas for public relations events, connected subjects, and potential communities of interest, and Amy's teaching resume.

In regard to social events, WAVES OF MU has proved to be one heck of a party. Amy adds to the fun, she can work a room like no one else – years of bartending, teaching, sports television interviews, and running film festival events is the best foundation for social fluency a person can have. Knowing a lot about mirror neurons (our mechanism for social attunement) doesn't hurt either. Hire a DJ and let the installation works its magic with friends, board members, sponsors, patrons, the art crowd, science types and more. The reggae booms as people kick off their shoes, loosen up and gorge on intense visuals while enjoying endless pieces of conversation as they travel through the space. It's a night to remember. We've even done a private screening of the Steve Martin comedy "The Man With Two Brains" and had the audience sit inside the installation. Amy is a refreshing artist who is serious about her work, but eschews self-importance and humorless attitudes. She wants her work to be experienced and enjoyed – not just admired. A main theme of this work is social connectivity and the newfound neural mechanism behind it, so gather a group for any reason and let's have the work not just comment on the phenomena of interpersonal connection, but actually transform *into* it!

PAST Waves of Mu ENGAGEMENTS:

February 2008 **Current theories and developments in Autism Spectrum Disorders and alternate modes for communicating new research**, Neuroscience Grand Rounds, Davis Auditorium, University of Vermont Medical College. Delivered by collaborator Lindsay M. Oberman, PhD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Amy Caron.

March 2008 **Artist Talk**, Firehouse Gallery, Burlington, Vermont
Delivered inside the installation by Amy Caron with collaborators Margaret Willis and Peter Sciscioli.

April 2008 **Understanding the complexity of mirror neurons through art: Waves of Mu**, UAA Complex Systems Theory & Practice Group, Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage
Delivered by Amy Caron

Abstract: April 18, 2008 Ms. Amy Caron, Visiting Artist, Utah "Waves of Mu" UAA/APU Consortium Library 307, 12 noon. Amy Caron is a visiting artist from Utah who has discussed psychology and mirror neurons at length with prominent neurology faculty at the University of Parma Italy (Vittorio Gallese) and at the California San Diego's Center for Brain and Cognition (Dr. Vilayanur Ramachandran and Dr. Lindsay Oberman). Her sculptural work is entitled "Waves of Mu," is named after the electromagnetic oscillations that reflect mirror neuron activity in the brain and is designed to help individuals better understand brains and our behavior.

April 2008 **Guest Speaker**, Seminar on Contemporary Art History, University of Alaska Anchorage, Art Department
Delivered by Amy Caron with collaborators Margaret Willis and Stephanie Sleeper

April 2008 **Workshop Teacher**, McLaughlin Youth Center, Anchorage, Alaska.
Facility description: A secure detention center. MYC offers specialized programs for sex offenders, girls, older teens, those who have participated in gangs, and youth posing significant risk to themselves and others.
Workshop: 2-hour workshop for 50 males/females connected to brain science in regard to behavior rehabilitation, self-expression via creative outlets, and developing empathic understanding of other people. Follow-up roundtable discussions took place with workshop participants in early May 2008.
Delivered by Amy Caron with collaborators Margaret Willis, Stephanie Sleeper, and Sara Kuhn.

PAST *Waves of Mu* ENGAGEMENTS continued:

- April 2008 **Workshop Teacher**, Fireweed Academy, Homer, Alaska
Installation visits from over eighty 3rd to 6th grade elementary school students. Topics addressed: brain health, anatomy, perception, metaphor, and discussions about various forms of art mediums and genres.
Delivered by Amy Caron with collaborators Margaret Willis and Sara Kuhn.
- April 2008 **Artist Talk with Parents of Autism Group in conjunction with Autism Awareness Month:** An in-gallery discussion about mirror neuron research in relation to Autism/Asperger Syndrome and WAVES OF MU's controversial anti-cure and neurodiversity perspective.

IDEAS / THEMES / COMMUNITIES / PROFESSIONS / CONNECTIONS

- Visual & Performing Art
- University departments: art, dance, science, psychology, philosophy (especially studies in Ontology and metaphysics), complex systems groups, neurology, music, film/video
- Elementary, middle, and high schools
- Medical colleges/hospitals: Grand Rounds
- Neuroscience centers/independent research institutions, neuroscience conferences
- Science magazines (Scientific American Mind, SEED, etc...)
- Music discussions/interviews related to the history of dub reggae, mutant dub reggae, and ties with other genres of music and audio aspects related to the work – opera, classical, indie rock, synchronizing sound waves, the roles of discord, harmony, and silence used in the work.
- Museums, galleries, theaters
- Autism and Asperger Syndrome communities
- National Autism Awareness month – April, National Brain Awareness month – March
- Gallery opening events, Artist Talks
- Field Workshop(s) *see teaching resume
- Involving the community through guest performers, volunteers, and collaborations with local artists. * See attached *Community Involvement* sheet
- **Offbeat? Movie nights, Easter egg hunts, middle-of-the-night séances, artist sleepovers, and hilarious mind-bending trivia challenges all held inside the installation. We're game.**

TEACHING / LECTURES / DISCUSSIONS

Amy is a well-versed teacher over a decade of experience working with students and groups of all ages. Her teaching repertoire ranges from teaching ski lessons to 4-year olds to University level art film critique. This broad scope of experience allows Amy to move with surprising ease between public presentations that can serve sophisticated academic groups, peer artists, and/or general populations. Lectures and talks can be geared toward the genesis of a particular work or focus more generally on her unique path as a multidisciplinary artist. Amy is very open with sharing details about her process. Her spunky personality, intelligent foundation, no frills honesty, and humdinger stories make for an entertaining and valuable learning experience. She is also enthusiastic about working with youth and teens and has a gift for creating disciplined and productive hands-on lessons delivered in an atmosphere that bubbles with energy.

Amy also keeps a few specialty teaching skills tucked in her pocket, she is a national facilitator for Fieldwork (a specialized method of art critique * see below), has years of experience moderating Q & A discussions between artists and audiences, developed a unique one-on-one artist consulting program *Sergeant Amy's Boot Camp for Art Wimps*, and can teach anyone to ski, snowboard, or mountain bike. Want to do a group art talk combined with a figure skating lesson followed by an après skate food and wine tasting? – she's your girl. Basically Amy can handle any speaking, teaching, or social engagement you throw her way with finesse. Don't be afraid to get creative.

With WAVES OF MU, Amy's teaching extends to science, neuroscience, and cognitive psychology communities. She especially enjoys lecturing jointly with her collaborators and other professionals in these disciplines to give a well-rounded view of the merging between art and science.

Teaching areas of expertise:

Dance: modern – technique, improvisation, composition, performance

Visual art: process, methodology

Artist development: grant writing, creative process/art critique: Fieldwork *last page

Film: Dance/performance art film, editing/production, video art, experimental film, shorts

Teacher training

TEACHING / SPEAKING EXPERIENCE

*WAVES OF MU related teaching engagements listed previously are not included here

2007	Utah Museum of Fine Art, Video Art of Bill Viola: Teaching with Video Art, workshop teacher, Salt Lake City, UT
2007-08	University of Utah, The History and Evolution of Dance on Film, Associate Instructor/course creator, Salt Lake City, UT
2007-08	Salt Lake City Main Library, Grant Writing Workshop Series for Artists, co-teacher, Salt Lake City, UT

2006-07 Dance Theatre Coalition, A.D.E.P.T., modern dance technique teacher, Salt Lake City, UT

2006 Arizona Arts Council, guest field facilitator & facilitator trainer, Phoenix, AZ

2006 Taylorsville High School, guest lecturer/artist on performance art, Taylorsville, UT

2006 Locomotion Film Festival, guest lecturer/workshop teacher of experimental film & video, Salt Lake City, UT

2005 Repertory Dance Theatre School, guest teacher/performer - Dancers With Day Jobs Program, Salt Lake City, UT

2005-06 The Field Workshop, workshop facilitator, Rose Wagner Center for Performing Arts, SLC, UT

2004/05/07 University of Utah, guest lecturer – graduate and undergraduate students in Modern Dance Department, Salt Lake City, UT

2004 Pacific Geo-Pro, English teacher, Shanghai, China

2004 Rowland Hall – Saint Mark's High School, guest teacher/commissioned artist, Salt Lake City, UT

2001-03 Spy Hop Productions, video production/editing teacher and mentor for youth (ages 6 – 18) Salt Lake City, UT

2003/04 Aerial ski Jumping Coach (Level II certified) Utah Winter Sports Park, Park City, UT

2002-08 Private ski and snowboard instructor, Deer Valley/Canyons Resorts, Park City, UT

2001 East High School, modern dance student teacher, Salt Lake City, UT

2001 Lowell Elementary School, modern dance student teacher, Salt Lake City, UT

2000-01 University of Utah, Lifelong Learning Program, adult figure skating teacher, Salt Lake City, UT

1991-95 Gymnastics Instructor (safety certified), Champlain Valley Gymnastics, South Burlington, VT; USA Gymnastics World, Woods Cross, UT

FIELDWORK:

Fieldwork workshops support the development of new work. At each meeting, participants present their works-in-progress and exchange feedback artist to artist. Guided by a facilitator, discussions are incisive and stimulating. The Fieldwork structure reveals how each piece is perceived by others and provides detailed information that helps participants hone their vision. By focusing discussions on what's happening in the work and how those choices shape the work, the Fieldwork method supports the authorship of each artist.

- *Gain new insight into your artwork*
- *Be motivated by a deadline*
- *Hone your critical perception*

Amy is the Field Network representative for Salt Lake City and she regularly uses this method to develop her works. WAVES OF MU was built through four consecutive 6-week Field Workshops. She attends the annual Field Conference in New York City and has worked as a workshop coordinator, facilitator, and facilitator trainer in Salt Lake City, UT and Phoenix, AZ. Field workshops are open to artists of all levels and can be geared toward a specific discipline or open to include works by performance and visual artists working in any medium. In Field sessions, the facilitator also participates by sharing work and giving/receiving feedback from the group. Completed works, works-in-progress, and works in very early stages of development (experiments) are all welcome for presentation at sessions. Field sessions can be structured as a one-time session or a short series.

For more details about the Field visit:

www.thefield.org

www.dancetheatrecoalition.org/Fieldwork.html

Contact Amy with specific questions about organizing a Fieldwork session in your area during her residency.