

SIMONE FORTI  
Harmonics  
May 2 – May 31, 2025

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Harmonics is the third part of a trilogy. The first two parts were shown at The Box LA Gallery in 2019 and 2022.

An element of the piece may have a certain look, or seem to carry a certain meaning. Each element can be enjoyable or thought provoking by itself or lend itself to the general field. The parts work together: larger than life projections of hands pulling weeds from among the corn stalks, a holographic study of time smear, a bolt of fabric with a poem written on it. Everything is different in a different context. As we were composing the space I suddenly felt that we needed something big but I didn't know what. We used a gong. Its sound gave us something big in the space.

Simone Forti (b. 1935) is a dancer/choreographer/artist/writer based in Los Angeles. Born in Florence, Italy, Forti emigrated with her family to Los Angeles in 1938. In 1955 she began dancing with Anna Halprin, who was doing pioneering work in dance improvisation. After four years of working with Halprin in Northern California, Forti moved to New York where she studied composition at the Merce Cunningham Studio with educator/musicologist Robert Dunn. In these classes, which focused on the work of John Cage, she met and began working informally with choreographers including Trisha Brown, Yvonne Rainer, and Steve Paxton. In the spring of 1961, Forti presented a full evening of pieces she called Dance Constructions at Yoko Ono's loft studio. These pieces proved to be influential in both the fields of dance and visual arts. Over the years Forti returned to improvisation, including extensive collaborations with musicians like Charlemagne Palestine and Peter Van Riper. Since the early 1980s, she has been practicing a form wherein movement and words spontaneously weave together. Taking the news as her subject matter, Forti calls these performances News Animations.

Select exhibitions include 60th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia (2024); Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2023); Galleria Raffaella Cortese, Milan (2024); The Box, Los Angeles (2022); Centro Pecci, Prato (2021); ICA Milano, Milan (2019); Kunsthaus Baselland, Basel (2019); Moderna Museet, Stockholm (2015); Kunstmuseum, Bonn (2016); Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2015); as well as her first major retrospective at the Museum der Moderne, Salzburg, Austria in 2014. Forti has received various awards including a Guggenheim Fellowship in dance in 2005 and a Yoko Ono Lennon Courage Award for the Arts in 2011. Simone Forti is the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement of the Biennale Danza 2023.