

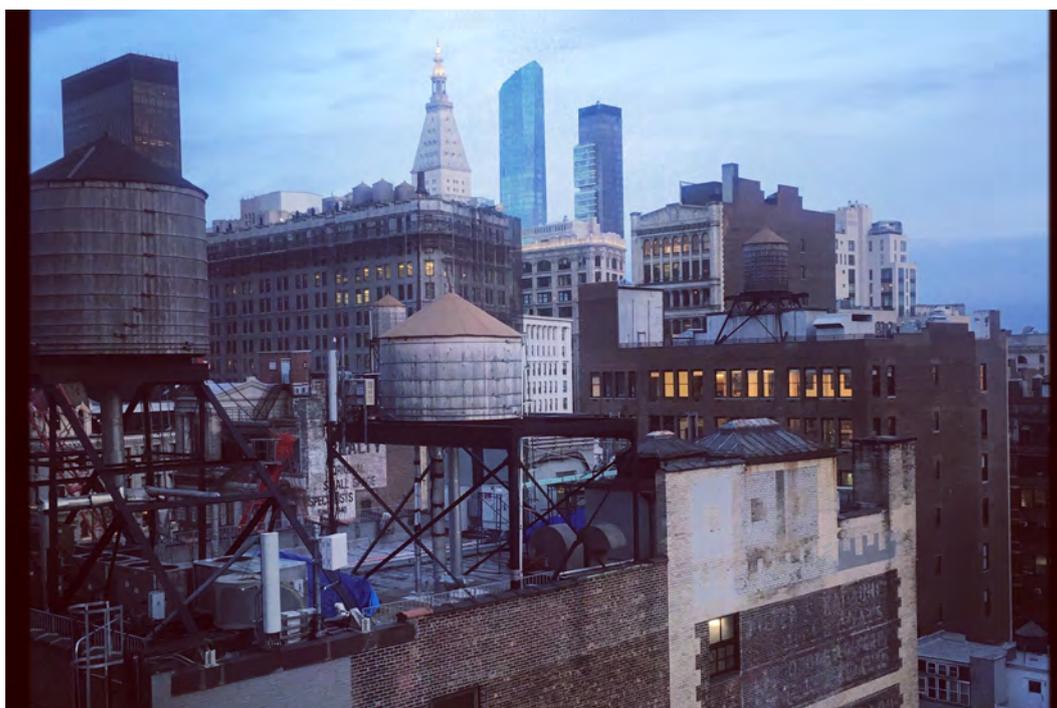
Lisa Ullmann Travelling Scholarship Fund

Report by Adrienne Hart

Travel dates: 12th - 18th April 2019

Place: New York (USA)

Thanks to Lisa Ullmann Travelling Scholarship Fund, I spent 6 days in New York in April 2019 where I met with programmers and curators interested in presenting my latest work 'Puzzle Creature', an hour long performance work inspired by the artist / architect duo Arakawa and Madeline Gins. I also gained access to Arakawa and Gins archive, which will



MANHATTAN, NEW YORK

inform future projects and learnt more about the performing arts scene in the city. Having spent 2 years researching and developing *Puzzle Creature*, it was wonderful to spend time in New York, the city that Arakawa and Gins called home for 40+ years and discover more about their lives and the work they created together.

On my first day, I was able to attend the Arakawa exhibition 'Diagrams for the Imagination' at the Gagosian Gallery, which is around the corner from Central Park. I then took a short walk to Castelli Gallery to see some of Arakawa's very early work, which is rarely on display. I had read so much about his coffin series and have collected books and digital images of his later work included in the *Diagrams for the Imagination* exhibition. However, on encountering the artworks in person, I thought about the power of experiencing objects in person; material and maker intertwined through a process, and as such how artworks can acquire a viscous nature. The paint on canvas or cement fashioned into forms, cushioned by padded material and set within a wooden box, sticking and having a more lasting impact than their digital counterpart.

The next day, I attended a screening of Arakawa's experimental film from 1971 "For Example (A Critique of Never)" at the Emily Harvey Foundation. This film was originally premiered at the Whitney Museum in 1972. Along with the Reversible Destiny team and composer Sebastian Reynolds I then headed over to [Pioneer Works](#) in Red Hook for the venues *Second Sunday* event. Pioneer Works is an artist-run cultural centre, which opened in 2012. Imagined by its founder, artist Dustin Yellin, as a place in which artist, scientists, and thinkers converge. The three-story redbrick building was built in 1866 for what was then Pioneer Iron Works. We walked around the gallery and watched a local band play, upstairs open studios housed a tech lab with 3-D printer, virtual environment lab, recording studios and so much more.



PIONEER WORKS

Having been invited to talk at Columbia University in 2018 at the opening of the exhibition 'Arakawa and Madeline Gins: Eternal Gradient', I was able to catch up with the curator Irene Sunwoo. I also had the pleasure to catch up with the renowned American choreographer and media artist Jonah Bokaer who mentored me 10 years ago! I met with a diverse range of venues, organisations and institutions during the 6 day trip including MASS MoCA, Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, CUNY Graduate Center, Japan Society (where I attended a performance titled 'You Took Part of Me' based on Noh performance), Harkness Dance Center and Danspace Project.

I spent time with the Reversible Destiny Foundation team at their offices in Manhattan, where archival materials including poetry, paintings and architectural plans by Arakawa and Madeline Gins reside. There's so much more than I could possibly have explored on this short trip however the team helped me refine my search and find materials that relate to my current project; developing a site specific version of Puzzle Creature for Setouchi Art Triennale. The site we've chosen for the performance is Kou beach on Teshima Island (Japan). I'm especially grateful to ST who picked out some experiments and proposals that

were never realised and reminded me of a chapter in one of Madeline Gins' published books titled Critical Beach. These works demonstrate the sheer breadth of A&G's legacy and its ability to transcend genre, medium and time.

For more information on Neon Dance:
neondance.org

To find out more about the work of Arakawa and Madeline Gins:
<http://www.reversibledestiny.org/>