

Twenty Two Year New York City Artist living in Tel Aviv with research interests in performative spirituality, sacred spaces and geographies, and the intersection of Space, Body, and Sound, particularly as relevant to the modern exploration of Ritual and Soul Identity. Internationally-recognized metamodern performance artist, lecturer, instructor, and stage entrepreneur specializing in physical theater/butoh, contortion, ceramics and nontraditional platforms.

ACADEMIC HISTORY

Education:

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY – Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies, 1992

- Major emphasis Japanese History, minor in Geography.
- Study abroad: Japanese Language Intensive
Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, 1989-90.

RITSUMEIKAN UNIVERSITY – Fulbright Research Scholar, 1992-1994 Kyoto, Japan

- Research study, *Design of Sacred Space of New Religious Movements*.
- Research advisor: Professor Otohiko Okugawa, Department of Sociology, Ritsumeikan University.
- Designed comprehensive, fieldwork-intensive research project utilizing various primary research methodologies, including Case Study, Interview, and Participant/Observer fieldwork and on-site photographic documentation.
- Conducted initial source-material research in both Japanese and English.
- Compiled monthly activity reports to Fulbright/JUSEC in Tokyo, developed final research report.

Lecturing, Symposia and Academic Consulting:

New York University. Visiting Fulbrighters to the Multinational Institute of American Studies: Postmodernism in America. Panelist, 2006-present (9 years)

“Lyotard v. Leotard v. Nosan: Postmodernism and Modern American Circus Theater.” Lecture and panel discussion with audiences consisting of visiting Fulbright Scholars, exploring applications of the ‘postmodernism’ label to various examples of performance art. Lecture uses my show *BAGABONES* as the base of context, as well as drawing from other examples from my performance work history, e.g. *Acroback*, and from North American Circus Theater from the past 20 years including *Cirque du Soleil*, *Seven Fingers of the Hand*, *The New Pickle Circus*, and others.

Whitney Museum of Art: Academic Consultant and On-Camera Commentator, 2011.

“Conserving Calder’s Circus.” Creation of film documentary, direct collaboration with Calder Foundation conservationist analyzing the kinesiological realism of *The Calder Circus* wire sculpture acrobats, handling both original and model pieces. Provided on-camera commentary as an expert in the field of circus and, from my performance company *Acroback*, cast additional acrobats to re-enact Calder’s moves for the documentary.

TedX Cincinnati 2010: Lecturer and Performance Artist, 2010.

“Bent into Shape: The Contortionist’s Way.” Staged performance of the renowned *Mirror Man* contortion act consisting of 5,000 head-to-toe mirrors sending beams of light at ever-changing angles throughout the lecture hall. Following performance, delivered lecture on themes relevant to postmodern performance art, physical theater, and intellectual/artistic creativity.

Language Skills:

Japanese – Spoken: Near Native. Reading: Advanced. Writing: Advanced.

Advanced Coursework The Japan Society, New York City, 1998-2012.

Hebrew – Intermediate, Intmed. Ulpan Graduate, Currently studying with private tutor

Artistic Training:

San Francisco School of Circus Arts – Contortion and Circus training under Mr. Lu Yi
San Francisco, 1995-1998

Ecole Philippe Gaulier – training in Physical Theater – London, 1994

Circus Space – training in various Circus arts and performance disciplines – London, 1994

Katsura Kan Butoh – training in Butoh, Japanese Dance – Kyoto, 1992-1994

THEATER, STAGE PERFORMANCE, AND TOURING (PARTIAL HISTORY)

COSI FAN TUTTE Contortionist/Actor – The Metropolitan Opera Lincoln Center 2018/2020.

LIMBO Contortionist/Performer 2-year international circus/theater show
370 international shows, 2012-2014

Prometheus Within Prometheus/Actor La Mama, NYC 2012; dir. Theodora Skipitares.

Monodramas Contortionist/Performer. New York City Opera Lincoln Center, 2011

BAGABONES Creator/Principal La Mama, NY Int’l Fringe Festival, 2010

The Times They Are a-Changin’ Original Cast Twyla Tharp, dir. Broadway/Brooks Atkinson
NY and Old Globe Theater,
2004-2006.

New Pickle Circus Aerialist/Contortionist San Francisco, 1998

Minor Performances (Partial)

Lincoln Center Out of Doors Festival (2011), Art Basel Miami (2011), Howl Festival (2011), Dzul Dance/Guest Artist (2012), Triskelion Arts (2012), The Secret City (2010-), Re:Vision Fest(2010), Joe’s Pub (2007-), TED Cincinnati (2011), Bindlestiff Circus (2009-), Citizens Band (2007-)

Film/Stuntwork: *The Georgetown Project (2021) The Greatest Showman, The Bounty, Surrogates, Cirque du Freak, Spiderman 2, Big Fish, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, The Cell* (partial list)

Commercial/Television: Philippe Starck, *Gossip Girl*, Audi, Lays, Dunkin Donuts, Chevrolet, Haggar, Mercedes Benz, Rabea Tea, Long John Silvers; Featured Guest *The Tonight Show, Conan, The Late Show*.

Skills: Aerialist (Fabric, Rope/Corde-lisse, Trapeze, Harness), Slack-Rope Walking, Unicycle, Stilt Dancing, Stage Illusions, Juggling (5 ball, 4 club/fire torch), Sway Pole, Handstands, Kite Surfing, Ceramics.

CERAMIC PERFORMANCE/GALLERY/EXHIBITION (PARTIAL)

metatron

Tel Aviv, Benyamini Ceramic Center PotterySlam2, May 2019

Writer, Creator, Composer, Director

metatron is the physicalization of inner lights screaming for escape; wandering, dragging and carrying the weight of an impenetrable and incomprehensible world (ie personal mishkan), the axis mundi yearning within every person for a re/connection to our creator/mother; the over elevations of vessels seeking spiritual high/returns resolving in the shattering of pieces and the pieces demanding the kabalistica re-finding of each other to reform the individual and reform the world. All starting from the crack in the body vessel to release its light and transfer: to the horn, to the sound, to the opening of the mishkan and the revelation of the forms uniting in body, voice, message.

- Six Precision thrown and razor blade trimmed Porcelain Forms constructing four Hebrew letters spelling one of the Jewish names of G-d; created in New York City.
- A 4 week residency at Benyamini provided the time and space for the fabrication of the “pierced vessel” wrist gauntlets and *trompette* (achieving the finest pitch bending and tonal spacing) and 2 days of in-gallery movement research.

rezort

Neve Tzedek Tel Aviv, Israel 2019-present

Gallery

All work is currently on display and exclusively available

- As a contortionist, form, balance, simplicity, strength, subtlety and surprise play into the plasticity and challenge of the clay medium. Drawn to the challenge of working porcelain tall and skinny on the potter’s wheel, sticks and chopsticks are utilized when hands and fingers no longer fit. His ceramics and performance both have what a London studio mate described as “a basis of stability and strength with a comforting sense of kinetic peril.”

Royal Academy of Art

London, 2014

Group Show: Art for Youth

- 4 Porcelain Groupings selected for exhibition.

PROFESSIONAL ENTREPRENEURIAL VENTURES

ACROBACK INC.

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 2001- PRESENT

Founder, Creator, and President

Acroback translates my personal passion for physical theater and stage performance into a purposeful, successful entrepreneurial venture, creating and delivering customized spectacles of acrobats and aerialists for international high-end galas, private events, and product launches.

- Initiated an industry transformation towards atmospheric performance installations through the creation and fabrication of a globally unique aerial apparatus (“The Human Mobile”), a precursor to the experiential model of performance marketing/corporate theater. Developed a unique form of Physical Branding utilizing movement, space, styling, choreography and music to successfully translate target messages into an alternative sensory experience in support of clients’ vision. Nominated for Bizbash Event Performance of the Year, “The Human Mobile,” 2011.
- Designed and launched custom productions for 250+ corporate and private events with 500+ artist/technician hires with budgets ranging from zero (charity/donation) to \$100,000+ in over 20 countries. Oversaw creation of entire business model including

finance, operations, marketing/branding, casting, client relations, rigger/technician hiring, insurances, visas, travel and accommodations.

- Clients Include: Louis Vuitton, Mercedes Benz, Johnson & Johnson, Christian Dior, Franck Muller, The Dallas Cowboys, BBC America, Diesel, W hotels, Van Cleef & Arpels, New York Knicks, Milus, P'oreal, Novo Nordisk, Vogue.

CONTORTURE LLC.

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 2015-PRESENT

President and Executive Producer

Contorture is a new method of conscious mobility and extreme flexibility training that encourages a total body connection through strength training, stretching, and physical inversions. 5-video training series utilizing new technologies (download, streaming, and apps).

- Designed and developed entire creative content, production, pedagogy, branding, and marketing initiatives for a target audience consisting of adults interested in extreme fitness routines; physical performers, dancers, and other industry specialists; and athletes and models. Innovative methodology and instructional video series developed as a result of over 10 years of international teaching experience, to lead the viewer safely from basic to professional levels.
- As Executive Producer, led 18-person crew over a two-day, three-camera shoot in Nashville, Tennessee, delegating to Director, Producer, and associated staff members.

BAGABONES, INC.

New York, New York 2010-2012

President

- Identified niche demand for import of recycled material line of bags from Thailand to New York City and various markets in the United States and Australia. Developed online and retail distribution channels in both market spaces. Used *LIMBO* international stage tour as platform for merchandise sales.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- The Whitby Cooperative, **Board Member and Owner** – 2010-present
- Dorot New York City, Chabad of The Coast **Volunteer**
- **Memberships:** Screen Actors Guild, Actors Equity Association, American Federation of Television and Radio Artists