

## Maya Odim

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School of the Art Institute of Chicago (Chicago, IL), 2024 — MFA, Writing  
Wesleyan University (Middletown, CT), 2010 — BA, American Studies

### Languages

English & Spanish fluency: speaking, reading & writing

### Work

<b>Lecturer</b> <i>English 101</i>	Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL	2025-present
	<i>Fall Semester 2025: English 101: Composition</i> <i>Spring Semester 2026: English 102: Research</i>	
<b>Lecturer</b> <i>Theater &amp; Performance Studies</i>	The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL	2024-present
	<i>Autumn Quarter 2024: Moving &amp; Thinking/Thinking &amp; Moving</i> <i>Spring Quarter 2025: Contemporary Dance Practices</i> <i>Autumn Quarter 2025: Moving &amp; Thinking/Thinking &amp; Moving</i> <i>Winter Quarter 2025: Moving &amp; Thinking/Thinking &amp; Moving</i> <i>Spring Quarter 2026: Moving &amp; Thinking/Thinking &amp; Moving (forthcoming)</i>	
<b>Judge/Reader</b>	Illinois Humanities Council Gwendolyn Brooks Youth Poetry Awards	2024-present
<b>Poet in Residence</b>	Chicago Poetry Center Chicago, IL	2023-present
<b>Copy Editor</b>	F News magazine, SAIC, Chicago, IL	2023-2024
<b>Intern</b> <i>Partnerships &amp; Learning</i>	Ingenuity-INC, Chicago, IL	2022-2023
<b>Dancer in Residence</b>	Wellness for Everyone, Chicago, IL	2021-2022
<b>Dancer in Residence</b>	Art Start, Oak Park Education Foundation Oak Park, IL	2019-2021
<b>Teaching Artist</b> <i>Dance &amp; Poetry</i>	Changing Worlds, Chicago, IL	2016-2022

*Dance & Poetry* Oak Park Education Foundation, 2017- 2022  
BASE Camp, Oak Park, IL

*Teaching Artist* Design Dance, Chicago IL 2013-2017  
Breaking & Contemporary

### Publications

Odim, Maya. Look Both Ways, The Performance Response Journal, September 2025  
<https://performanceresponsejournal.com/2025/reflections-on-bangali-meye-in-its-fourth-iteration-look-both-ways-by-maya-odim>

Odim, Maya. Bet on the Muse, fnews magazine, April, 2024

Odim, Maya. The Occidental Jet Stream: tellin' stories, a response to the article: "Chicago dance has had a long love affair with process. Doubling down, are their audiences on board?"  
Performance Response Journal, 2021 <https://performanceresponsejournal.com/2021/occidentaljet-stream-response-by-maya-odim>

Odim, Maya. Settling, Rocking, Riding the Air. Performance Response Journal, 2019 <https://performanceresponsejournal.com/2019/06/21/settling-rocking-riding-the-air-a-response-by-maya-odim/>

Odim, Maya. Places Where We Can Imagine. Self published, Udala Press, 2014.

Odim, Maya. Planets, Gourds and Traveling Staffs, Self published, Udala Press, 2011

Odim, Maya. Poem "Redefining Return". Black Arts Quarterly (now the International Review of African American Art) a publication of Stanford University, Spring 2008.

## Exhibitions & Invitations

### *Exhibitions*

2025 | December 12: Where the Compass Breaks Open, *dance ensemble*  
Inverse Performance Festival, Bentonville, AR

2025 | November 1: Move Out Loud, *poetry & movement (composition), workshop host*  
TAPS Autumn Quarter Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

2025 | October: Home (a poem) [a short film], by Rashid Johnson, *ensemble*  
Debut at The Guggenheim Museum, New York, New York

2025 | October 16: What is Contemporary Dance Symposium, *workshop host (composition)*  
Columbia College Dance Center, Chicago, IL

2025 | May 17: Freedom From & Freedom To, *dance performance*  
Links Hall, Chicago, IL

2025 | *AHHHHHHHHHH!*, Rhino Fest, *dramaturgy & performance*  
Facility Theatre, Chicago, IL

2025 | The Infinity Play, by Paul Brennan, *dramaturgy & performance*  
Jarvis Square Theater, Chicago, IL

2025 | Word Is Rhythm Poetry Festival, *poetry keynote*  
Invited by The Poetry Foundation & University of Chicago Education and Family Programs  
Community Arts Engagement, Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, University of Chicago,  
Chicago, IL

2025 | *Performance Lecture*: “Like an Arrow: Movement’s Trajectory to Dance”  
Theater and Performance Studies Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

2024 | Pop-Up Performance, sculpture unveiling: *To Sit a While*, Alison Saar, *movement & poetry*  
Invited by the Lorraine Hansberry Initiative, Navy Pier, Polk Bros Park, Chicago, IL

2024 | Rhino Fest: Breach, *dramaturgy & performance*  
Facility Theatre, Chicago, IL

2024 | Rhino Fest: The Impossible Knot, *writer & ensemble*  
Chicago Dramatists | Chicago, IL

2024 | Invited Artist: Soham Dance Space Sunset Artist Residency  
Dance & Paper Making, Soham Dance Space, Chicago, IL

2024 | And Another More, *poetry*  
Greystone Studio, Chicago, IL

2024 | Graduate Exhibition One, *exhibiting artist*  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago | Chicago, IL

2023 | Graduate Student Senate Exhibition, *exhibiting artist*  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago | Chicago, IL

2023 | but i cd only whisper, written by Kristiana Rae Colón, *choreographer & dance ensemble*  
Chicago Dramatists, Chicago, IL

2023 | Plinths of the People, *movement*  
Commissioned by 21c Museum Hotel Chicago, performed with the plinth from Kelly Kristin Jones' work, "Plinths of the People", with Luis "Logan Lu" Tubens | Chicago, IL

2023 | Poetry Reading with artist Carmen Neely  
Mariana Ibrahim Gallery, Chicago, IL

2022 | *Untitled*, in performance with Veronica Anne-Salinas and Flux Bikes, *dancer*  
Commissioned by Compound Yellow Oak Park, IL

2021 | *Untitled*, *movement & poetry*  
Commissioned by Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events, with Flux Bikes  
Performed in Millennium Park, Boeing Galley South, in the installation of Christine Tarkowski  
Installation | Chicago, IL

2020 | Virtual Exquisite Crawl, *movement*  
Commissioned by MAKE Literary Productions Virtually from Chicago, IL

2020 | Erosion, *dramaturgy & performance*  
Commissioned and Supported by Chicago Dancemakers Forum Virtually from Chicago, IL

2020 | Strong Wind, Deep Roots, *dramaturgy & performance*

Commissioned and Supported by Chicago Dancemakers Forum Virtually from Chicago, IL

2018 | I Heard 'em Say, *dramaturge, choreographer & ensemble*

Commissioned by the DePaul Art Museum, performed in the Brendan Fernandes installation The Living Mask, performed with Noelle Awadallah and Marceia L. Scruggs  
DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, IL

2018 | The Long Arc: Reach, Burry, Catch, Move, Hold, *movement & poetry*

Commissioned for Links Hall 40th Anniversary, Links Hall, Chicago, IL

2017 | The Heist, *dramaturge, choreographer & ensemble*

performed with Chelz Jordan and Kiana Cook | Elastic Arts, Chicago, IL

2017 | poetry displayed for: *Children of the Wall*, by Beloved

The Hyde Park Arts Center, Chicago, IL

2017 | *A Great Day in the Neighborhood*, by Marvin Tate, *dance ensemble*

Commissioned by The Jazz Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

2016 | *Sinestesia*, *movement & poetry*

Commissioned by Espiral Dance Company, Guatemala City, Guatemala

2014| *Yin Yang*, *multimedia work displayed*

Hand Job/99cents+ Gallery, New York, NY

### ***Invitations***

**Judge** | NAACP ACT-SO National Competition:  
Summer 2026S Contemporary Dance, Chicago, IL (*forthcoming*)  
Summer 2025 Contemporary Dance, Charlotte, NC

**Speaker**; Keynote Poet | 2025  
International Women's Day Celebration 2025  
Northwestern University Women's Center, Evanston, IL

**Poet** | 2024

*This is for You*, poetry workshop  
ECOS Festival, Hosted by The Poetry Foundation at Drake Gardens, Chicago, IL

### ***Residencies & Honors***

Recipient | Summer 2025  
Chicago Performance Lab, Performance Residency  
The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Honorable Mention | 2024  
Ruth Weiss Haiku Competition, Ruth Weiss Foundation

Nominee | 2024  
3Arts Artist Award, Chicago, IL

Recipient | 2023  
Ragdale Interdisciplinary Residency , The Ragdale Foundation Lake Forest, IL

Recipient | 2021  
Survive & Thrive, grant awarded by Changing Worlds, Chicago, IL

Finalist | 2020  
DanceMakers Forum Chicago Lab Artist Award , Chicago, IL

Finalist | 2014  
Guttenberg Arts Interdisciplinary Residency, Guttenberg, NJ