

Maya Odim

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

Languages

English & Spanish

Work

Instructor
Performance Theory
& Practice
Writing & Dance

Prison + Neighborhood Arts Education (PNAP) 2026-*present*
fall 2026 (forthcoming)
Logan Correctional Center, Lincoln, IL

Lecturer
English

Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL 2025-*present*
Fall Semester 2025: English 101: Composition
Spring Semester 2026: English 102: Research
Fall Semester 2026: English (forthcoming)

Lecturer
Theater & Performance
Studies

The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL 2024-*present*
Autumn Quarter 2024: Moving & Thinking/Thinking & Moving
Spring Quarter 2025: Contemporary Dance Practices
Autumn Quarter 2025: Moving & Thinking/Thinking & Moving
Winter Quarter 2025: Moving & Thinking/Thinking & Moving
Spring Quarter 2026: Moving & Thinking/Thinking & Moving

Judge/Reader

Illinois Humanities Council 2024-*present*
Gwendolyn Brooks Youth Poetry Awards

Poet in Residence

Chicago Poetry Center 2023-*present*
Chicago, IL

Copy Editor

F News magazine, SAIC, Chicago, IL 2023-2024

Intern
Partnerships & Learning

Ingenuity-INC, Chicago, IL 2022-2023

Teaching Artist
Dancer in Residence

Wellness for Everyone, Chicago, IL 2021-2022

<i>Teaching Artist</i>	Art Start, Oak Park Education Foundation	2019-2021
<i>Dancer in Residence</i>	Oak Park, IL	
<i>Teaching Artist</i>	Changing Worlds, Chicago, IL	2016-2022
<i>Dancer & Poet in Residence</i>		
<i>Dancer in Residence</i>	Oak Park Education Foundation,	2017- 2022
<i>Dancer & Poet in Residence</i>	BASE Camp, Oak Park, IL	
<i>Teaching Artist</i>	Design Dance, Chicago IL	2013-2017
<i>Dancer in Residence</i>		

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-responseby-maya-odim/>

Exhibitions & Invitations

Exhibitions

2026 | Mind & Body Instruction *movement workshop*
 Student Wellness Mind and Movement: Shake Off the Stress
 University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

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

2025 | Move Out Loud, *poetry & movement composition workshop co-host*

Theater And Performance Studies Autumn Quarter Workshop,
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

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

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

2025 | 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

Invitations

Judge | NAACP ACT-SO National Competition:
Summer 2026 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

Honoree | 2026
35 Writers to Watch
Guild Literary Complex, Chicago, IL

Recipient | 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