

## Artist Statement

*"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."*

*~Maya Angelou*

Dance has an unprecedented way of making people feel; feel inspired, feel exhilarated, feel empowered, feel alive. To be a dancer is to be a storyteller. Using gesture as poetry, and movement as prose, a dancer's voice can be stronger than words. As a dance artist, it is one's command to tell the audience a story through the body alone. These stories should evoke a visceral response and elicit curiosity where curiosity may not have existed before. Being a dancer involves the responsibility of connecting and relating to an audience, confounding and delighting them and taking them down a path that adds value and consciousness to their lives. Dance is a process, an exploration of sorts, and as the dancer goes through this undertaking, she better understands her value as a human. Nevertheless, the performance of dance should never be self-serving; the process is for the dancer, the performance is for the audience.

Today, much of what the Western world designates as entertainment is nihilistic, self-important and unimaginative. For the world to get better we must do better and we must demand better. Artists have the power to focus society, force the masses to ask tough questions and use art to bring about peaceful change. As an artist, I hold myself to creating work that is evocative, thought provoking and can potentially be an agent of social justice and social

Laura Ann Smyth  
lovelylaurasmyth@gmail.com

change. Dance is a gift of which I never take for granted and with that power in hand, I try to positively reach and influence as many people as I can.