

July 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of reference on behalf of Sharon Hilleli-Assa. In summer 2013, I collaborated with Sharon and six other artists on the Migration Project, a two-month creative research laboratory I established for Berlin-based dance and visual artists. The project, which was funded by the U.S.-German Fulbright Commission, required all participants to lead intensive four-hour studio sessions based on their creative research questions.

Sharon led four sessions and actively contributed to the other twelve. Within this context, I became well-acquainted with her exceptional abilities as a teacher, performer and collaborator .

From the first day of the project, Sharon stood out for her openness to new ideas and commitment to honest engagement with the moment. As became evident, this combination of receptivity and attentional rigor inflects her teaching and performing, which, in turn, awakens for her students and audiences their own sensitivity to the moment. Sharon doesn't impose an agenda, instead allowing the students and audience members to arrive at their own discoveries and meanings. Yet she leads with clarity. Recently, in her introduction to an improvisation exercise, she clearly described the concept of the improvisation: initiation of movement; the fulfillment of the movement idea; the resolution – one, two, three. The structure was simple, yet she successfully communicated something elusive: a kind of pure spontaneity that comes from the realm of infinite possibility, yet manifests in clear form. I did some of my best dancing that day.

Sharon is generous, patient, and easy to collaborate with.

In another project session, which was open to the public and included a large number of students, she and I co-taught. Though we hadn't taught together before, the class required very little preparation, because we trusted each other to assume the leadership role, or yield it to the

other, as needed. Sharon did both seamlessly, based on her sensitivity to the class and to me as co-teacher. Sharon has a deep intelligence about the body and its capacity for communication. This resonates in her work as artist and teacher. I recommend her very highly as a teacher, director, performer, and collaborator in any of these areas. I would be happy to provide additional information upon request. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

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