



eMartin
DANCE

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

"Their work deepens my connection
to the natural and human world
around me. Deep understanding
requires more than words."

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EMartin Dance

#emartindance #danceinaction
#dancemn #contemporarydance

ABOUT THE COMPANY

EMARTIN DANCE

Located in Mni Sota Makoce since 2019, eMartin Dance uses the universal language of dance to activate community discourse through our work. Led by founder and Artistic Director Erika Martin, we explore human experience and identity politics with innovative choreography that encourages audiences to engage social constructs in a new way.

eMD has performed throughout the United States, and regularly performs in museums, theaters and public spaces: notably at the Lyman Art Museum (CT), Schaefer Theatre Box, Bates Dance Festival (ME), Melrose Ballroom (NY), The Cowles Center, DanceBARN, and The Southern Theater (MN).

eMD's newest work, "Blood of the Earth" (tour details below/premieres fall 2025), is steeped in the textures of the Southern United States as experienced by the choreographer in childhood. Inspired in part by the work of North Carolina based visual artist Thomas Sayer, the dance unfolds in three distinct sections defined by the characteristics of mud, water, and finally blood. This work invites the audience to consider land and body in reference to their own lived experience.

Since 2017, eMD has engaged audiences nationwide. Alongside our creative process, our Empowered Movement program in partnership with community organizations has been an integral part of our company from its inception. Martin developed this trauma informed dance program while working as a survivor advocate for Safe Horizon in Queens, NY in 2016.

eMD's current touring and outreach offerings are detailed below.

BIOGRAPHY

ERIKA MARTIN



Choreographer and Dance Educator Erika Martin makes dances that investigate identity performance and how the human experience is manifested in movement. Born and raised in North Carolina, Erika holds a BA in Dance and American Studies from Connecticut College. In 2017, Erika founded eMartin Dance in New York with the intention of using dance as a form of action to impact the world through performance and community outreach. Their work has been shown in museums, theaters, and public spaces across the country in Connecticut, New York, Maine and Minnesota.

Their newest evening-length work "Blood of the Earth" inspired by the textures of the Southern United States, premieres in 2025. A graduate of the Wake County Public School System, Erika is committed to accessible arts education. Since moving to Minneapolis in 2019, Erika has taught at Zenon Dance School, The Cowles Center for Dance and Performing Arts, DanceBARN, and the Minnesota International Dance Festival. In the community, Erika serves as the School Coordinator for Zenon Dance School and Co-Director of Dance Projects by ME.



TOURING WORK - BEGINNING FALL 2025

BLOOD OF THE EARTH

"Blood of the Earth" exemplifies the strength of Erika Martin's style combining expansive floorwork and fluid movement inspired by the textures of the natural world. Through dance, projection, and music, it invites the audience to witness a new perspective on life outside of their own community - to resonate with the images of land and body. Inspired in part by the work of North Carolina based visual artist Thomas Sayer, the stage opens on a likeness of Sayer's work "White Gold" - one dancer emerges from a field of reclined bodies with movement developed in dialog with Sayre. "Blood of the Earth" is a collaboration between Erika Martin, eMD dancers, multimedia artist Nancy Julia Hicks, and visual designer Kai Deutsch. [CLICK HERE FOR TRAILER](#)

TOURING PARTY:

6 total

Performers: 5 dancers

Administrative Staff: 1

RUN TIME: 75 minutes

Choreographer and Director:

Erika Martin

Production Designer:

Kai Deutsch

Projection Collaborator:

Nancy Julia Hicks

A photograph of five dancers in a museum installation. They are wearing light-colored, flowing dresses and are captured in dynamic, expressive poses. Their arms are raised, and their bodies are arched, suggesting a powerful movement. The background is dark and textured, with some light reflecting off the floor and the dancers' clothing.

BLOOD OF THE EARTH

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

MUSEUM INSTALLATION

BOE was initially developed in conversation with North Carolina based visual artist Thomas Sayer's work *WHITE GOLD*. Over the years, BOE has expanded in new directions, but there still lives a deep connection between his work and the first section of the dance. As such, an opportunity exists to bring the two works together for a sight specific performance and museum installation. This collaboration between Sayer and Martin is a unique opportunity for community engagement around visual and performance art. Please reach out for more information.

EMPOWERED MOVEMENT WORKSHOP

This workshop is designed around our creative process to provide self-care tools, and empowers participants through movement. Dance has power to nurture and heal, and Martin designed this program while working as an IPV/SA survivor advocate in NY. These trauma informed workshops are open to movers of all abilities and levels of experience and can be customized for advocates, IPV/SA survivors, school groups, and more.

A full list of Community Engagement Activities Can be found [HERE](#)