**Jolere | Images Come To Life**

A collaboration between artists of three distinct disciplines.

Jolere is a multi-movement work for modern dance with original music for strings and voice based on evocative visual art work. Award-winning composer Lee Kesselman and emerging choreographer Joanna Lees will explore emotional and structural content inspired by the paintings and sculptures of prolific fine artist René Romero Schuler. Performed by Minneapolis Dance Company Alternative Motion Project (AMP), Jolere will consist of five musicians, five dancers, and five vignettes that will grow into an arcing story out of the visual and conceptual components of Romero Schuler's work. This nearly two-year process will culminate in performances March 27-29, 2015 at The Lab Theater in Minneapolis, MN as part of AMP's 4th Season.

**Jolere** is the work resulting from the collaboration by three artists of different mediums (dance, music, and fine arts); each artist will reach beyond their secluded art forms to create an intimate, stunning and powerful piece that will resonate with audiences by bringing art to life visually, audibly, and kinesthetically.

To support this project, visit [http://givemn.razoo.com/story/Alternative-Motion-Project](http://givemn.razoo.com/story/Alternative-Motion-Project). For more information on the artists involved, visit [www.reneschuler.com](http://www.reneschuler.com), [www.kesselmanpress.com](http://www.kesselmanpress.com), and [www.alternativemotionproject.com](http://www.alternativemotionproject.com).

**Contact Information**

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Lee Kesselman (composer)
Lee R. Kesselman has been Director of Choral Activities at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, a suburb of Chicago, since 1981. He is Founder and Music Director of the New Classic Singers, a professional choral ensemble. He also directs the DuPage Chorale and College of DuPage Chamber Singers. A native of Milwaukee, he holds undergraduate degrees in piano and composition from Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minnesota, and a master’s degree in conducting from the University of Southern California. In addition to teaching and composing, Kesselman is active as a conductor, pianist, clinician and lecturer. He is music director for a variety of opera and musical theatre productions and serves as Music Director of the Opera Workshop at Northern Illinois University. Kesselman was chosen the Outstanding Faculty Member at the College of DuPage for 1994-95.

He has taught at Doreen Rao’s Choral Music Experience Institute since its inception, co-founding the institution in 1986. He has also taught in France for two summers on the faculty of the Académie International de Chant Choral in Parthenay. He has addressed state and divisional conventions of ACDA in sessions on repertoire and performance. Kesselman has accompanied many of Chicago’s finest singers in recital, including Maria Lagios, Robert Smith, Cynthia Anderson, David Govertsen and Donna Bruno. He has performed on the Talman Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts, the Live! From Studio One series on WFMT-FM in Chicago and conducted Argento’s Postcard from Morocco for OperaWorks! in Madison, Wisconsin. He has served as Music Director / Conductor for the Opera Workshop at Northern Illinois University. Kesselman is a member of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (A.S.C.A.P.). He has received annual ASCAP awards for his works since 1994.

Kesselman has been honored as a composer with prizes in the Melodious Accord (New York) Composition Search, Chautauqua Chamber Singers Composition Contest, the Chautauqua Children’s Chorale Composition Contest and the Illinois Choral Directors’ Association Contest.

Kesselman is the composer or arranger of over 90 published choral works and an equal number of unpublished works in the genres of choral, opera, symphonic, solo voice and chamber music.

Kesselman’s works for children have brought him national attention and he has been commissioned to write for children’s choirs, middle school, junior school, high school, college, community, church, and professional ensembles. Boosey & Hawkes, Roger Dean Music, Lawson-Gould Music Publishers, Colla Voce and G. Schirmer have published Kesselman’s works.
Joanna Lees
(choreographer)
Originally from the Washington, D.C. area, Joanna Lees graduated cum laude with distinction in 2007 with a BFA in Dance and a minor in Business from The Ohio State University (Columbus, OH). While at OSU, she was an Arts Scholar and the recipient of the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum Scholarship. Lees also studied with various artists including Bebe Miller and performed Doug Varone’s Le Sacre du Printemps (The Rite of Spring) in collaboration with BalletMet Columbus. Since moving to the Twin Cities in 2008, Lees has performed with several dance artists including Labor Force Dances, Strange and Liebhard New Music and Dance Ensemble, Rainy Day Cabaret, Erin Drummond, Laura Holway, Jennifer Mack, Erinn Liebhard, Kelly Radermacher, and Kristin Howe. Lees has also shown her own choreography in Minneapolis, MN. In 2011, she co-founded Alternative Motion Project alongside Kristin Howe. In 2013, Lees’ work was shown in Louisville, KY as part of The Moving Collective’s Spring Showcase. Lees’ work was also accepted and performed as part of the 2013 Midwest Regional Alternative Dance Festival in Kalamazoo, MI.

Lees’ movement is physical, fun, dynamic, and musical. Her choreography explores ideas of organized chaos as well as aspects of cause and effect through transferring of energy throughout the entire space using structure and patterns. Lees believes music is an integral way of connecting these concepts together.

René Romero Schuler (fine artist)
Internationally recognized for her unique style and method, René Romero Schuler has never limited herself to any particular dimension in the scope of her work. Her paintings of abstracted figures or constructed spaces, executed in thick impastos, resonate in richly layered and deep tones in multiple dimensions. Her paintings are literally “sculpted” out of oil with a palette knife. In fact, every piece she creates, whether on canvas or paper, or even three-dimensional sculpture, has great texture, surface-tension and depth. The content, human figures or their landscapes, are deconstructed of their specificity and speak to more universal and visceral reality. These figures truly are “everyone, and no one.”
Schuler has taught painting at the Illinois Institute of Art, and Chicago City Colleges, and has lectured at Northwestern University. She is a current board member of the Loyola University Museum of Art (LUMA) in Chicago, and her work is in the permanent archives of the Art Institute of Chicago.

**Alternative Motion Project (dance company)**

Alternative Motion Project (AMP) aspires to become a self-sustaining professional dance company that serves communities in the Twin Cities area and elsewhere lacking in arts education and performance exposure. AMP is committed to bridging the gap between the pre-professional and accomplished professional dancer by giving quality performance opportunities where each artist can further develop their skills. AMP also sets out to transform education systems to include kinesthetic learning while channeling and nurturing creative thinking. The AMP model can ultimately be used as a template for other cities that have similar dance performance and education needs.

Alternative Motion Project is a professional dance company passionately striving to create accessible, entertaining, and meaningful dance work throughout the Twin Cities area. Driven by the creative process, AMP gives an alternative dance performance experience to both audience and performer alike by creating a welcoming and inclusive environment. AMP increases communications between performer and audience member through an array of materials and discussions. AMP also encourages its company members to continually grow in their levels of training through quality dance performance of the choreography by its founders as well as collaborations by other up-and-coming artists. Committed to increasing dance exposure and education for people of all artistic backgrounds, AMP provides workshops, residencies, and performances based on the community’s specific needs.

AMP was founded in 2011 by local dance artists, Kristin Howe and Joanna Lees when they recognized a need for more performance and educational opportunities for talented dance artists in the Twin Cities. In less than three years, AMP has produced five different shows, performed twice in the Minnesota Fringe Festival, toured to Louisville, KY and Kalamazoo, MI, successfully raised two separate Kickstarter campaigns, worked with 25 different artists, and began its Outreach program by hosting Creative Arts High School (St. Paul, MN) for an Educational Performance.