

A photograph of two dancers in red leotards performing in front of a large, complex kinetic sculpture made of many small, triangular pieces. The dancers are in a dynamic pose, with one reaching towards the other. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the dancers against the dark background.

O.K.

A digital work by Shamel Pitts,
Tushrik Fredericks and Edson Pavoni

Produced by Shamel Pitts | TRIBE

Inspired by the intense psychology of a pre-fight boxing ritual, O.K. is a digital art work that captures two dancers moving in powerful relation to each other, without ever touching. Their energetic arc shifts from absolute stillness to raw intensity, mirrored in real time by a central kinetic sculpture. Powered by biometric data from heart rate sensors and body-mounted microphones worn by the performers, the sculpture's independent arms speed up as the dancers' pulses race and slow as they find calm, translating human adrenaline into mesmerizing mechanical motion.

CREDIT

Commissioned by Jacob's Pillow with support from YoungArts

O.K ARTISTIC TEAM

Artists: Shamel Pitts, Tushrik Fredericks, and Edson Pavoni

Curator: Pamela Tatge

DANCE

Choreography: Shamel Pitts | TRIBE

Curator: Shamel Pitts and Tushrik Fredricks

FILM

Director: Edson Pavoni

Assistant Director: Arjun Hassard

Director of Photography: Jamie Ellington

Editing, Audio, and Color: Edson Pavoni

SPECIAL THANKS

Jazia Hammoudi, Aaron Santiago, Matthew Niederhauser and Matt Toups, from Onassis ONX team.

David Imani, Jared Fine, Nick Kepley and Bonnie Spann, from Jacob's Pillow team.

Brittany Wilson, E Katrina Lewis, Eric Umble and Mirelle Martins from TRIBE's team.

ARTIST BIOS

Edson Pavoni (São Paulo, 1984) is an artist and technologist exploring technology and human transcendence. His work proposes sensitive imaginaries of connection, between bodies, machines, and the sacred, through the language of kinetic sculpture and live performance.

With a focus on the poetics of technology, Pavoni creates artworks where mechanical systems breathe, respond, and move in dialogue with human presence. His practice spans from real-time biometric installations to responsive environments, transforming data into choreography and machines into performers. By crafting interactive experiences that unfold in physical space, his work reclaims technology not as a tool of spectacle, but as a medium for presence, intimacy, and shared transformation.

Working across architectural-scale installations, generative algorithms, digital fabrications, and participatory platforms, Pavoni's art often invites audiences into immersive rituals. One such work, *Inumeráveis Memorial*, became a national site of mourning in Brazil, reaching one in every four Brazilians during the pandemic through collaborative storytelling. The project was featured widely, from CNN and Al Jazeera to El País and Globo.

In 2026, Pavoni led the launch of *Orbital Temple*, the first artistic satellite from the Global South, a poetic gesture connecting earth, memory, and cosmic space.

The project reflects his ongoing interest in how technology, when stripped of its utilitarian shell, can become a vessel for meaning and myth.

His installations have been shown at the Mercosul and Tashkent Biennials, and exhibited in cities including New York, Beijing, Dubai, Lisbon, and Rio de Janeiro. His works have appeared at institutions such as the Ludwig Museum (Budapest), Inhotim (Brazil), and the Design and Fashion Museum (Lisbon), and have been commissioned by the Rio 2016 Olympics.

Pavoni's projects have received international recognition, including the Lumen Prize (Futures Award, Longlist), the NTU Global Digital Art Prize (Finalist), the CubeDesign Prize (Winner, ArtSat Category), and multiple iF Design and DIA Awards.

He lives and works in New York.

Shamel Pitts | TRIBE (Brooklyn, NY), a 2024 MacArthur Fellow, is a performance artist, choreographer, conceptual artist, dancer, spoken word artist, director, and teacher. Born in Brooklyn, NY, Pitts began his dance training at LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts and, simultaneously, at The Ailey School. He is a first prize winner in The National Arts Competition from YoungArts. Pitts went on to receive his BFA in dance from The Juilliard School and was awarded the Martha Hill Award for excellence in dance. He began his dance career in Mikhail Baryshnikov's Hell's Kitchen Dance and BJM_Danse Montreal. Pitts danced with Batsheva Dance Company for seven years under the artistic direction of Ohad Naharin and is a certified teacher of Gaga movement language. Pitts has created a triptych of award-winning performances, with his multidisciplinary arts collective TRIBE, known as his "BLACK series," as well as their newly emerging "RED series," which has toured extensively to many festivals & performance spaces around the world since 2016. He is an adjunct professor at The Juilliard School, a guest faculty member at Princeton University, New York University, Wesleyan University and has been an artist in residence at Harvard University. He is the recipient of a Princess Grace Award in Choreography, a NYSCA/NYFA Fellow in Choreography, Doris Duke Artist Award Recipient, Knight Choreography Prize Winner, a Jacob's Pillow artist-in-residence, and a 2020 Guggenheim Fellow. Shamel Pitts | TRIBE has been artist in residence at 92Y Harkness Dance Center and at New York Live Arts' Live Feed Creative Residency.

Tushrik Fredericks (he/him), recipient of the Princess Grace Award (Chris Hellman dance honor), nominated by TRIBE (Founding artistic director, Shamel Pitts) in 2021 is originally from Johannesburg, South Africa. Growing up he found himself drawn toward the style 'KRUMP'. He graduated from the Peridance Certificate Program in NYC in June 2015 and has had the opportunity to work with Ate9 dANCEcOMPANY (Danielle Agami, Artistic Director), Sidra Bell Dance New York (Sidra Bell, Artistic Director),

and UNA Productions (Chuck Wilt). Fredericks was an assistant lecturer to Sidra Bell at The University of the Arts Philadelphia for Sophomore students (2016-2018). In May 2021 Fredericks received 3rd prize for dance at the SoloTanz Festival in Stuttgart for his first rendition of his self-choreographed solo '(territory) of the heart' and in May 2023 he showcased the completed rendition of the solo at the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts in Brooklyn, NY. Fredericks also received the Baryshnikov Arts Open Fall 2023 residency for a co-choreographed duet with Rebecca Margolick. Tushrik is currently one of TED 2026 fellows.

TUSHRIKFREDERICKS.COM

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