

Laura Ellen Cohen (they/them)

Performances, Events, and Awards

2024

- Photo accepted into Soft Times Gallery final show, *Big Softie*
- Protest photography on display at Double Down Shop
- Exhibitor at Ikebana International showcase at Golden Gate Park County Fair Building
- Performed with SPOOKY BOOOGIE for Godwaffle Noise Pancakes show at The Center for New Music
- Front Window display at ATA proposal accepted for Summer programming

2023

- Constructed a wearable dress from flowers and plant material for the deYoung's annual Bouquets to Arts
- Art assistant for Salami Rose Joe Louis music video, "Dimcola Reprise"
- SELKIE FEST performance with SPOOKY BOOOGIE, an underground music festival on Angel Island
- Provided floral arrangements for fundraising events and gallery openings at Root Division
- Choreographed *Newsies Jr.* for middle school students at Brandeis School of San Francisco
- Performed poetry for various Bay Area Lights Mixer events at the Commonwealth Club

2022

- Co-organized fundraiser for Black Banjo Reclamation Project starring SF Poet Laureate Tongo Martin, at Secret Garden
- Poetry and portraits featured in Soft Times Gallery's magazine Soft Times Quarterly - Volume 3 (Magic)
- SELKIE FEST performance with SPOOKY BOOOGIE on Angel Island, inside Battery Wallace
- Performed with Church of Color and Light for Shapeshifter Cinema at Mosswood Chapel, Oakland
- Poetry and flower arrangements for several Bay Area Lights Mixer events at the Commonwealth Club
- Choreographed *Shrek The Musical* for middle school students at Brandeis School of San Francisco

2021

- YBCA Guaranteed Income Pilot Program recipient
- Speaker/mindfulness leader at several protests for CCSF Collective to promote funding for City College
- TA for Poetry to the People and Trauma and the Arts courses at CCSF
- Performer for Media Meltdown's installation on the roof of Oasis for their annual Halloween pageant
- Performed poetry and exhibited art with Confetti Arts Collective for Sogorea Te' Land Trust fundraiser

2020

- FORT NIGHT, performed and lead meditations for a sleepover gallery show at Beauty Supply, Oakland
- TRAP, lead a SPOOKY BOOOGIE set for A/V noise performance held in an artist-run warehouse space
- Directed, scored, and starred in *Hand2Hand*, an experimental dance film that was selected to be shown at The Hague Global Cinema Festival, Portland Dance Film Fest, and Third Coast Dance Film Festival
- Celebrating The Bayview, performed as SPOOKY BOOOGIE at fundraiser for the Bayview Newspaper

2019

- "January Klanghaus," played live music with SPOOKY BOOOGIE for absurdist variety show, Z Space
- Taught a free outdoor yoga class for Stern Grove Festival (opened for the Psychedelic Furs)
- IRKALLA, analog light show with the Church of Color and Light at Artist Television Access
- "Permission Slip Tour" with Dingbat Superminx and Dale, performed in several West Coast cities
- Choreographed *West Side Story* for neurodiverse elementary school students at the Laurel School
- International tour with Dingbat Superminx in the UK, France, Belgium, Germany, and Holland

2018

- Performance Primer, solo performance of "Party Trick" at the Periwinkle Palace, Oakland
- "Group Therapy," organizer of a day-long surrealist symposium on healing arts, Oakland
- International tour with Dingbat Superminx in the UK, France, Belgium, Germany, and Holland
- Choreographed *Newsies* for neurodiverse elementary school students at the Laurel School

2017

- Analog Light Show Festival, performance with Church of Color and Light at BAMPFA, Oakland

- WILD, performance art with Maneesh Raj Madahar at Root Division
- F I L F, dance performance for fashion and music extravaganza at Classic Cars West, Oakland
- Choreographed *Peter Pan* for neurodiverse elementary school students at the Laurel School
2016
- Season Finale: Tribute to the Abeceda (Alphabet), dance performance at StoreFrontLab
- The New Asterisks Magazine, spring issue, dance performance at SOMArts
- Madame Z, performed choreography with live band onstage at the Great American Music Hall
- Sound + Consciousness*, installation and programming for experimental noise festival at StoreFrontLab

Exhibitions

- Soft Times Gallery, photo accepted in an open call for “Big Softie,” 2024
- Wolfe Pack Studios, Oakland, displayed photographic works as part of “Beyond Time,” 2023
- SFWA, sold 2 photos at Bay Area Artists Juried Exhibition “Melting: Climate Crisis - Water is Life” 2022
- Hand2Hand, produced dance film in response to COVID-19, edited and animated by Eric Brehm, 2020
- SKAST 8, showed dance film *Plant Magic* for pop-up group exhibition and fundraiser, Oakland, 2019
- Fleet Wood, showed mini zines and collages at group exhibitions, 2018 and 2019
- Kiosk Fest, showed zines with AVER and performed music solo for kick-off party, 2017 and 2018
- Honey Hive Gallery, collage work in group exhibition, 2017
- Fleet Wood, photographs and installation art with music performance for group exhibition, 2017
- StoreFrontLab, crafted installation and created public programming for *The Soundscaped Cocoon*, 2016
- Fleet Wood, photographs in group exhibition, 2016
- Blow Salon, photographs and collages in group exhibition, Oakland, 2016
- Participated in *Presents: Three Months of Mail Art* for Hyperallergic HQ, Brooklyn, NY, 2011
- EVERYTHINGISDISSAPOINTINGALWAYS, installation series created for group exhibition, Evanston IL, 2010

Relevant Artistic Training and Experience

Dance

- Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, 2006–10
 - Performed choreography by Molly Shanahan, Jeffery Hancock, Joseph Mills, and Billy Siegenfeld
- Alvin Ailey Summer Intensive Professional Division Dance Program, New York, NY, 2004 and 2005
 - Performed choreography by Hope Boykin
- Musical Theater Center, Rockville, MD, 2000–2008
- Joy of Motion Dance Center, Youth Dance Ensemble, 2002–2006
- Washington School of Ballet, Washington, DC, 1994–2002
 - Performed with The Washington Ballet, Bolshoi Ballet, and American Ballet Theatre

Taxidermy

- Artistic School of Taxidermy, Kooskia, ID
 - One-on-one instruction with Troy Rose, award-winning taxidermist and competition judge, 2017
- Paxton’s Gate
 - Workshop on insect spreading (golden orb-weaver and Madagascan sunset moth), 2017
 - Workshop on bunny taxidermy, led by Geoff Vassallo, 2016

Design

- Kink.com, on-call set dresser since 2013
- Nikolas Weinstein Studios, production artist, 2013–14

Other training

- Neon bending and frameworking, The Crucible, Oakland
- Woodworking and laser cutting, TechShop
- Stop motion animation, Root Division
- Silkscreening, MCCLA’s Mission Grafica
- Ikebana, with Thanh Nguyen, CCSF Horticulture Department
- Shibori, with Naoko Oomae in Nantan, Japan
- Traditional Japanese embroidery, with Lynda Shu

Relevant Work Experience

- Yoga asana instructor since 2015
- Musée Mécanique, on-call custodian responsible for upkeep of coin-operated mechanical musical instruments and antique arcade machines, since 2014
- Smallworks, fitter for custom conservation framing studio, 2017
- Prints Etc. and Cheap Pete's Framing Outlet, designer, fitter, mat cutter, and prepper, 2015–17
- Will Call, writer/music promoter, generated social media content and interest in performances, 2013–14
- Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, sales associate at de Young Museum and Legion of Honor, 2011–13
- Blue Sky Rental Studios, scheduled and assisted photo shoots, 2011–12

Education

BS, double major in Dance and Art Theory and Practice, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, 2010

Scenic artist for Department of Theater through work-study program, 2008–10

Goldsmiths College, University of London (studio art major, two quarters abroad), 2008–2009

Bethesda Chevy-Chase High School, Bethesda, MD, 2006

International Baccalaureate diploma in English and Theater

Received leadership award for work as choreographer for theater productions

* All locations are in San Francisco unless otherwise indicated.