



Trisha Brown

Choreography as Visual Art

Susan Rosenberg

First in-depth study of the ground-breaking work of artist/choreographer Trisha Brown

Trisha Brown re-shaped the landscape of modern dance with her game-changing and boundary-defying choreography and visual art. Art historian Susan Rosenberg draws on Brown's archives, as well as interviews with Brown and her colleagues, to track Brown's deliberate evolutionary trajectory through the first half of her decades-long career. Brown has created over 100 dances, six operas, one ballet, and a significant body of graphic works. This book discusses the formation of Brown's systemic artistic principles, and provides close readings of the works that Brown created for non-traditional and art world settings in relation to the first body of works she created for the proscenium stage. Highlighting the cognitive-kinesthetic complexity that defines the making, performing and watching of these dances, Rosenberg uncovers the importance of composer John Cage's ideas and methods to understand Brown's contributions. One of the most important and influential artists of our time, Brown was the first woman choreographer to receive the coveted MacArthur Foundation Fellowship "Genius Award."

Susan Rosenberg is consulting historical scholar at the Trisha Brown Dance Company. She directs the Master's Program in museum administration at St. John's University, New York, where she is also an associate professor of art history.

"This important book makes the essential point that Trisha Brown situated her choreography in relation to visual art not simply because of the community of artists

around her or her affinity for drawing—but because Brown's interests in the preservation and transmission of movement drew strength and inspiration from a proximity to the histories and institutions of art."

—Peter Eleey, Chief Curator, MoMA PS1

"In this overarching, finely detailed book, Susan Rosenberg situates Trisha Brown's evanescent choreography among the painters and sculptors who were her muses and colleagues. An insightful and enlightening translator, Rosenberg connects the mercurial body to the incisive mind, so that we can read Brown's work, and see her thought."

—Nancy Dalva, Merce Cunningham Trust scholar in residence

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