

AYLA WOLF

Windsor, Ontario and Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada
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ARTIST STATEMENT

Ayla Wolf is an interdisciplinary artist working across painting, fine art photography and performance. Her practice explores embodiment, ritual and feminine ecology through intuitive, site-responsive processes. Through socially engaged projects such as *Wild Woman Photography*, she facilitates co-created experiences that center presence, agency and self-expression. Her work often situates bodies and materials in dialogue with the land, memory and seasonal cycles, fostering immersive, transformative experiences for participants and audiences.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Independent Studio Practice – Ongoing

Sustained development of painting, socially engaged photography, and ritual-based creative processes.

Workshops & Experiential Training

The Way of the Shaman – Two-Day Intensive

Foundation for Shamanic Studies | 2026 | Canada

Immersive training in core shamanic practices, including journeying, ritual frameworks and spiritual inquiry. Informs the transformational and co-creative dimensions of my interdisciplinary work.

Conscious Bodies® Methodology – Multi-Session Workshop

Dreamwalker Dance | 2022 - 2023 | Canada

Training in the trademarked Conscious Bodies® methodology, emphasizing somatic facilitation, body awareness, and collaborative embodiment practices, applied to socially engaged art and participatory projects.

Mentorship

Mentorship with Patricia Beatty

2004–2009 | Toronto, ON

Intensive guidance in dance technique, choreography, and performance. Mentorship emphasizes embodied practice, movement research, and creative exploration, directly informing my performative and photographic projects.

Formal Education

The School of Toronto Dance Theatre | 1997 | Toronto, ON

Professional dance training and performance studies.

Brock University – Bachelor of Education | 1995 | St. Catharines, ON

University of Waterloo – Honours Bachelor of Arts in Dance | 1994 | Waterloo, ON

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS (Painting, Photography & Film)

Pelee Project/Photography & Film - 2026

Soleau/Paintings - Artspeak Gallery - Windsor ON - 2024

She Walks Both Worlds/Film & Photography Installation - Mackenzie Hall - Windsor ON 2023

Wave/ Photography - Digital Release - Independent - 2019

RESIDENCIES

Artist in Residence - Stone & Sky - Pelee Island ON - 2026

Ocean Embodiment Residency – Independent / Miami FL – 2026

Artist in Residence - Stone & Sky - Pelee Island ON - 2025

Artist in Residence - Stone & Sky - Pelee Island ON - 2024

Forest Embodiment Residency – Independent / Vancouver, BC – 2023

Artist in Residence - Stone & Sky - Pelee Island ON - 2023

Artist in Residence - Stone & Sky - Pelee Island ON - 2022

Okanagan Photography Residency – Independent / Kelowna, BC – 2021

PERFORMANCE & MOVEMENT WORKS

Listed performances and works represent a selection of my work; additional performances and site-responsive projects may be provided upon request.

Magiquecal - Embodied Performance - Embodied Choreographer & Performer - The Quarry - Flutterfest - Stone & Sky - Pelee Island ON- 2024

Green Earth - Embodied Performance - Embodied Choreographer & Performer - Intimate Art - HNM Dance Company - Windsor ON - 2024

Green Earth - Film, Photography & Embodied Performance - Photographer, Embodied Choreographer & Performer - Online Release - Independent - 2024

Various Works - Dance - Choreographer & Performer - Multiple Venues - HNM Dance Company - Windsor ON - 2017 - 2024

She Walks Both Worlds - Photography, Film & Embodied Performance - Embodied Choreographer & Performer - Collaboration with Douglas MacLellan - Online Release - Independent - 2023

She Walks Both Worlds - Photography, Film & Embodied Performance - Embodied Choreographer & Performer - Collaboration with Douglas MacLellan - Windsor & Region Dance - Mackenzie Hall - Windsor ON - 2023

Peeks into Process - Photography - Embodied Performer - Collaboration with Douglas MacLellan - Windsor and Region Dance - Online Exhibition - 2022

Peeks into Process - Photography - Embodied Performer - Collaboration with Douglas MacLellan - Windsor and Region Dance - Urban Storefront, Walkerville, Windsor ON - 2022

Windows of Time - Film - Embodied Performer - Online Release - Dreamwalker Dance Company - 2022

The Telling Room - Film - Embodied Performer - Online Release - DDC Dances - 2020

Wave – Photography & Embodied Performance - Photographer, Embodied Choreographer & Performer – Online Release - Independent - 2019

Vintage Duet - Dance - Choreographer/Performer - Eldon House - London Dance Festival - London, ON - 2019

Elan/ Film - Embodied Performance - Embodied Choreographer & Performer - GPS Mobile Network Installation - Niagara Artists Centre - Niagara Falls ON - 2012 to 2015

LEADERSHIP & ARTISTIC DIRECTION

Dance Outreach Coordinator - Windsor and Region Dance - Windsor ON - 2021 - 2024

- Developed and implemented outreach programs to increase community participation in dance.
- Coordinated workshops, classes, and participatory events for diverse audiences.
- Built partnerships with schools, community centers, and local organizations to expand access to dance.
- Mentored emerging dancers and facilitators, supporting skill development and professional growth.
- Managed program logistics, budgets, and scheduling to ensure successful delivery of projects.
- Evaluated and documented program outcomes, using feedback to inform future initiatives.

Artistic Director - Niagara Dance Company - St. Catharines ON - 2006 - 2014

- Led artistic vision and programming
- Directed original dance productions and interdisciplinary collaborations
- Secured funding and managed budgets
- Mentored dancers and facilitated community engagement initiatives

Lead & Mentor Artist – Learning Through The Arts – Toronto ON – 2001 - 2010

- Designed and facilitated interdisciplinary arts programs integrating visual art, movement, and performance.

- Mentored emerging artists and students, supporting skill development and creative exploration.
- Collaborated with educators and community partners to foster inclusive, participatory learning experiences.
- Led project development, curriculum planning, and public presentations of student and collaborative work.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / SOCIAL PRACTICE

This section highlights selected community engagement and participatory projects; additional workshops, classes and co-created experiences may be provided upon request.

Wild Woman Photography Sessions

Facilitated participatory photography sessions that explored embodiment, self-expression, and movement. Guided participants in co-creating images that integrated body awareness, improvisation, and performative presence.

Embodied Workshops

Designed and facilitated embodied movement workshops that explored somatic awareness, improvisation, and body-centered practices. Guided participants in developing their own movement vocabulary, cultivating presence, and connecting with creative expression through the body. Workshops were tailored for diverse audiences and emphasized experimentation, self-discovery, and the integration of movement into everyday life.

Modern Dance Technique

Taught modern dance classes emphasizing alignment, strength, coordination, and expressive movement. Focused on developing students' technical proficiency, artistry, and performance skills within the modern dance vocabulary.

Wild Woman Photography Sessions / Embodied Photography Workshops - Photographer - Multiple Participants - Ontario & British Columbia - Ongoing from 2023

Embodiment Workshops / Studio Facilitator – London Dance Festival – London ON - 2026

Embodiment Workshops / Studio Facilitator – Sho Art Studios – Windsor ON - 2024

Embodiment Workshops / Studio Facilitator– Artspeak Gallery – Windsor ON - 2024

Embodiment Workshops / Studio Facilitator- Community Studio - Life After 50 - Windsor ON - 2023

Embodiment Workshops / Studio Facilitator – Mackenzie Hall – Windsor & Region Dance - Windsor ON - 2023

Modern Dance Technique / Dance Instructor - University of Windsor - Windsor & Region Dance - Windsor ON - 2023

Embodiment Workshops / Studio Facilitator – HNM Dance Company - Windsor & Region Dance – Windsor ON - 2022

Modern Dance Technique / Dance Instructor - HNM Dance Company - Windsor ON - 2017 - 2020

GRANTS, AWARDS, BURSARIES & SCHOLARSHIP

Listed grants and awards represent a selection of my funding and recognitions; a more comprehensive list is available upon request.

Arts, Culture and Heritage Fund Grant - City of Windsor - 2023

Arts, Culture and Heritage Fund Grant - City of Windsor - 2022

Established Artist Award - City of St. Catharines - 2013

Arts and Culture Award - City of Welland - 2013

Dance Initiatives Production & Presentation Grant - Ontario Arts Council -2013

Bursary - Brock University - 2013

St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program Grant - City of St. Catharines - 2012

Culture Capital of Canada Grant - Department of Canadian Heritage - 2012

St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program Grant - City of St. Catharines - 2011

Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant - - Ontario Trillium Foundation - 2011

Arts Education Projects Grant - Ontario Arts Council - 2011

Dance Initiatives - Community Initiatives Grant - Ontario Arts Council - 2011

Compass Project Grant - Ontario Arts Council - 2011

Dance Initiatives - Community Initiatives Grant - Ontario Arts Council - 2010

Bursary - Brock University - 2010

St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program Grant - City of St. Catharines - 2010

St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program Grant - City of St. Catharines - 2009

St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program Grant - City of St. Catharines - 2008

COLLECTIONS

Paintings

Held in private collections in Canada and internationally.

Wild Woman Photography

Selected works from collaborative portrait sessions are held in the personal collections of participants. These works reflect the socially engaged and co-creative foundation of the project, with collectors in Canada and internationally.