



MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAS AND NOHRA HAIME GALLERY

Some of Arias's photographs  
female beauty and behavior.

### Making connections

Like Arias, dancer-choreographers Gloria Benedikt and Mimmo Miccolis are in the business of questioning received wisdom. The terpsichorean duo — who hail from Austria and Italy, respectively — are gearing up to present a world premiere dance-of-ideas at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage. The contemporary duet "Growth," which the choreographers will perform July 22, responds to our era's obsession with economic indicators like the GDP.

Set to original music by Italian composer Francesco Germini, the piece includes an approximately 10-minute sequence in which Benedikt and Miccolis execute movements that keep them constantly physically connected — a metaphor for the financial, cultural and social ties that unite the modern world. Coming up with choreography that preserved that physical link for such a long stretch was a challenge, Benedikt says; the movement they ultimately devised "de-

mands a lot of concentration" and "awareness of each other the entire time"—a reminder that in order to survive and thrive, the international community needs to develop a macrocosmic mindfulness, in lieu of a narrow country-by-country perspective.

"We need to collaborate with each other" in order to prosper, Miccolis says.

The dance points to "a new narrative on growth—[a subject that] is very much in debate right now — thinking about how can we share this planet among seven billion in the light of globalization and interconnectedness, and how can we grow together in the future in a sustainable" way, Benedikt says.

In case that weren't enough socially conscious hoofin' for one evening, the July 22 program also includes the American premiere of Miccolis's "Rights(?)," a choreographic meditation on human rights that premiered in London in 2012.

Benedikt and Miccolis had racked up substantial dance experience in Europe before finding themselves in the Washington area last year. (Their respective significant others had landed jobs here.) Among other credits, Miccolis has danced and choreographed for companies in the United Kingdom and Italy; he currently performs with the D.C. area's Bowen McCauley Dance. Benedikt has trod the boards with companies in several European countries. She also performed with Massachusetts's José Mateo Ballet Theatre while she was studying government at Harvard.

Miccolis and Benedikt yearn, in her words, to "make work that is relevant and that wrestles with the issues society is grappling with."

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### "Femininity Beyond Archetypes"

Through Oct. 5 at the Organization of American States's Art Museum of the Americas, 201 18th St. NW, Washington. Visit [amamuseum.org](http://amamuseum.org).

### "An Evening for Humanity"

including the dances "Growth" and "Rights(?)." July 22 at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage. Visit [kennedy-center.org](http://kennedy-center.org).