

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

# MARY LYON AWARD 2019

PRESENTED TO



*Merli V. Guerra '09*

**MERLI V. GUERRA, CLASS OF 2009**, the Alumnae Association of Mount Holyoke College is pleased to honor you with the Mary Lyon Award. This award is presented to an alumna who graduated no more than fifteen years ago and who has demonstrated sustained achievements in her life and career consistent with the humane values that Mary Lyon exemplified and inspired in others.

Merli, as a professional dancer, choreographer and interdisciplinary artist, your work and creativity have established you as an innovator in the field of contemporary dance.

In 2010 you co-founded Luminarium Dance Company in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and serve as artistic director. You have performed lead roles on international tours to India (2007, 2012) and Japan (2009) and frequently serve as a panelist, guest choreographer, speaker and arts advocate for the Boston and greater New England dance community. Your “Night at the Tower” project was honored as one of three out of 5,000 to receive the Massachusetts Cultural Council’s prestigious Gold Star Award in 2015. You have also been active in arts journalism as an art director, writer and dance critic.

An award-winning artistic filmmaker, your films, art installations and choreographic works have been showcased in venues across the country, including American Repertory Theater’s OBERON, Boston Center for the Arts and Mobius Alternative Arts Space. As a teacher and choreographer, you combine the drive and fluidity of contemporary dance with the intricacies of Eastern hand gestures. With the layering of video projection and live performance, you set the visual arts into motion.

MERLI, in recognition of your exceptional early career achievements and in anticipation of your future contributions to contemporary dance, the Alumnae Association is honored to present you with the Mary Lyon Award.

MARIA Z. MOSSAIDES '73  
PRESIDENT  
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

NANCY BELLOWS PEREZ '76  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE