

My name is Belén Maya, I am a Spanish flamenco dancer, choreographer, teacher and lecturer for more than thirty- five years.

The pandemic has given us artists the incredible chance to work with one another, defying time and distance. I met Tamara Adira when I decided to teach online for the first time in my life. She wanted to work on areas which students rarely put energy into, like the relation between inherited memories and movement, or the deep meaning of flamenco elements, and this unique approach, from the very beginning, set her aside as an extremely intuitive, personal and brave dancer.

When we met she had broad experience as performer, teacher and choreographer and had already developed her own style, but was eager to go deeper, to really understand what she was doing and why, and for that, she was also willing to put aside a whole past of learning and performing experience to find a more connected, coherent, more fully present dancer.

I respect her for her hard work and total commitment to flamenco as a body and soul experience, for her humbleness and openness to change and improvement, for her courage and adventurous spirit to take paths less trodden, for her innovative vision and the gift to connect artists from different disciplines and backgrounds.

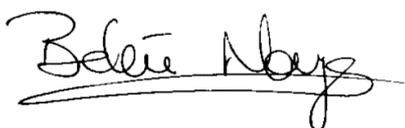
This grant would allow Tamara Adira to travel to Spain, under the strict discipline of a research retreat, which would give her the opportunity to physically receive the teaching in presence and not through a screen. It would make shared space and time possible; and would provide the focus to manifest in her body information she has worked on online, making this leap in her learning process an embodied one, not to mention the possibility to improve greatly in technique, structure and composition . Being flamenco an identity-based art form, strongly rooted in the collective rituals and the preservation of memory, living in Spain would also enrich and broaden Tamara's perspective of flamenco as artist and researcher.

Finally, I am completely sure she will generously pass on to her art community the knowledge gained by this experience, allowing flamenco and dance to grow and expand in the United States.

I highly recommend Tamara Adira, a talented, hard-working, innovative and honest artist, for this grant. She deserves all the support for her never- ending commitment to opening new paths for dance and flamenco in her country.

If you may need any additional information about Tamara Adira's grant application, please feel free to request at my email address marotitamarota@gmail.com. I will be happy to support in any way possible.

Sincerely,
Belén Maya

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Belén Maya". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.