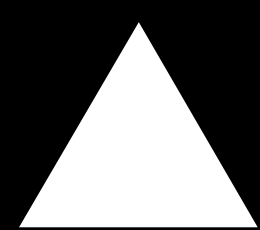


Presented by Arts House for  
Festival of Live Art

6-8pm, Wed 14 – Sat 17 Mar  
2-4pm, Sun 18 Mar  
One-on-one for 10 mins  
**Accessibility:**  
Auslan Interpreted –  
6-8pm, Fri 16 Mar

Caroline Garcia  
**Creator & Performer**



# Twerkshop

## Caroline Garcia



The word twerk was added to the Oxford Dictionary of English in late 2013, meaning to “*dance to popular music in a sexually provocative manner involving thrusting hip movements and a low, squatting stance.*”

My objective of *Twerkshop* is to culturally critique twerking’s exponential growth in usage frequency and popularity in mainstream media over the last handful of years. By interrogating the definition offered by Oxford Dictionary, a dialogue opens up. This dialogue questions whether this definition serves the community from which twerking originates, rather than with whom it has become associated with in a contemporary context, within the scheme of gimmickry and cultural appropriation that often occurs in popular culture.

I have chosen to adopt a similar format to Adrian Piper’s work, *Funk Lessons* (1983). However, *Twerkshop* provides an instructional

lesson through the basic fundamentals of twerking as a one-on-one experience, highlighting the skill and finesse needed to twerk, whilst exploring pedagogy as a form of performance. In providing a historical and cultural framework for this dance phenomenon, situating it within the African Diaspora, I am enquiring into the colonisation of twerking, specifically by addressing the erasure of its authorship and ownership from marginalised, coloured, and ‘othered’ bodies.

As a practitioner of dance, my twerking trajectory for over a decade now has developed and been specifically engaged within the genres of Reggaeton and Jamaican Dancehall. Combining this practice with my responsibilities as a cultural bearer, and being a woman of colour, my approach in the creation of *Twerkshop* is one of anticolonial resistance, but also one that is celebratory of culture and joyous.