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The Contribution of Merce Cunningham's Work in the Implementation of Technology on Contemporary Dance

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Abstract

Traditionally, the role of technology is to serve and improve human life. However, since the beginning of the 20 th century, there were artists who were inspired by technological advances and used creative discoveries and inventions. Their interest turned to alternative ways of optimizing and exploiting the potential of technology in relation to art and human expression. One of them was the choreographer Merce Cunningham (1919-2009), who was excelled for its pragmatistic ideas and promoted the art of contemporary dance. Cunningham delivered innovative ideas for dance and music, dancer's role on stage and the use of props. In addition, he was a visionary choreographer, and he early distinguished the possibilities offered by technology in promoting dance project. He adopted camera's techniques, as well as computer's possibilities and he used technological systems to create innovative works. The purpose of this paper is to highlight the work and contribution of Merce Cunningham on the application of technology in modern dance. The methodology used is bibliographical.

Key words: Contemporary dance, technology, Merce Cunningham, computer, camera