

Dance / Performance / Gender Studies

The first major English-language study of a legendary dancer

One of the most famous dancers of the early 1900s, Loïe Fuller created an extraordinary sensation in Paris with her manipulations of hundreds of yards of silk, swirling high above her and lit dramatically from below. Her work inspired artists such as Toulouse-Lautrec, Auguste Rodin, and Stéphane Mallarmé, and she embodied many of the decorative themes of Art Nouveau. Because her work highlights important issues in dance such as the role of technology in defining a dancing signature, the emergence of a modern movement sensibility, and the role of popular entertainment in early modern dance, Fuller is a critical figure through whom to study the changing representations of women dancers in the early twentieth century. Author Ann Cooper Albright places Fuller in the context of fin-de-siècle culture and offers a compelling analysis of Fuller's innovations in lighting and movement that includes full-color reproductions of original posters, archival photos, and magazine and newspaper clippings. *Traces of Light* adds significantly to the literature on twentieth-century dance, illuminating a pioneer who helped to shape modern performance and stagecraft.

To learn more about the author's dancing and the embodied research for this book, visit the companion website at [www.wesleyan.edu/wespress/tracesoflight](http://www.wesleyan.edu/wespress/tracesoflight).



Damen Mroczek

A performer, choreographer, and feminist scholar, **Ann Cooper Albright** is a professor of dance and chair of the Gender and Women's Studies program at Oberlin College. She is also head of the editorial board of the Society of Dance History Scholars, which produces the series Studies in Dance History.

Cover illustration: Background: "Théâtre de Loïe Fuller." Poster for the 1900 Paris Exposition Universelle by Manuel Orazi. Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco, Gift of the Bay Area Graphic Arts Council. Foreground: "Loïe Fuller dansant." Photograph by Eugène Druet, © Musée Rodin.

*"Rich in meticulous scholarship, Albright's biography provides a feast of insights into Loïe Fuller's life and times and an exciting new model for dance scholarship."*

—Susan Leigh Foster,  
University of California,  
Los Angeles



*"Onstage, Loïe Fuller's dancing body metamorphosed into lilies and flames. Albright's words—forged both through extensive research and by physically experiencing Fuller's movement—bring the artist captured in the book's many illustrations to powerful, three-dimensional life."*

—Deborah Jowitt, dance critic,  
*The Village Voice*

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ALBRIGHT

TRACES of LIGHT

Absence and Presence in the Work of Loïe Fuller

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