

# Elephant Swan Space Grace: The Dancer as Décor

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Daniel Albright is a professor of English at Harvard University. He teaches courses on integrating literature, music, and the visual arts, and has written a number of books to this end, including *Untwisting the Serpent*, *Modernism and Music: An Anthology of Sources*, and *Musicking Shakespeare*.

*In the world of ballet and modern dance it is not always easy to tell dancer and décor apart. Inanimate objects have startling powers of locomotion: not only do statues come to life and twirl about, but hat-racks and newspapers have turned out to be excellent dancing partners. (Beethoven and Kleist both defended the balletic power of the puppet and the statue.) The converse is also true: a dancer, even a solitary dancer, has a way of turning into an environment, creating what Carol Brown calls a kinesphere. We will study how this spatialization works in the worlds of Minkus, Loie Fuller, José Limón, and Walt Disney.*



Loie Fuller [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loie\\_Fuller](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loie_Fuller)



**Thurs., March 13, 2008, 4:30 p.m.  
Karl Geiringer Hall, Free Admission**

Information: (805) 893-7001, or visit: <http://www.music.ucsb.edu>

The Karl Geiringer Lectures were established in 1994 in honor of Professor Karl Geiringer, world renowned musicologist, who taught at UCSB from 1962 until his retirement in 1972. He continued to teach at UCSB each spring quarter until his death in 1989. The Karl Geiringer Lectures program at UCSB commemorates that precedent.