EIKO OTAKE

Born and raised in Japan and a resident of New York since 1976, Eiko Otake is a movement-based, interdisciplinary artist. She worked for more than forty years as Eiko & Koma but since 2014 has been performing her own solo project *A Body in Places*.

After studying with Kazuo Ohno and Tatsumi Hijikata in Japan and Manja Chmiel in Germany, Eiko & Koma created 46 interdisciplinary performance works, two career exhibitions and numerous media works. Always performing their own choreography, Eiko & Koma usually designed and handcrafted all aspects of their works including sets, costumes and sound. They presented their works in theaters, universities, museums, galleries, outdoor sites and festivals worldwide, including many appearances at the American Dance Festival and the Walker Art Center and five seasons at BAM’s Next Wave Festival. Their “living installations” were commissioned by the Whitney Museum, the Walker Art Center, and MoMA.

The Walker Art Center published a comprehensive monograph of their works, *Eiko & Koma: Time is Not Even, Space is Not Empty*, as a part of their Retrospective Project (2009 to 2012), which included new performance works, restaging of old works, media works, installations, museum exhibitions, film showings, panels and lectures.

Eiko & Koma were honored with the first United States Artists Fellowship (2006) and Doris Duke Artist Awards (2012). They are the first collaborative pair to share a MacArthur Fellowship (1996) and the first Asian choreographers to receive the Samuel H. Scripps American Dance Festival Award (2004) and the *Dance Magazine Award* (2006).

Eiko’s Solo project began with a twelve-hour performance at the Philadelphia Amtrak station. Since then, Eiko has performed variations of the project at over forty sites. She also collaborates with photographer and historian William Johnston in visiting post-nuclear-meltdown Fukushima several times to create photo and video exhibitions which have been presented in many cities where she has toured. In the spring of 2016, she was the subject of the 10th annual Danspace Platform titled *A Body in Places*, a month-long curated program that included daily solos, weekly installations, a film series, a book club, discussions, group solo shows, *Talking Duets* and a 24-hour photo exhibition of *A Body in Fukushima*. These activities brought her a special Bessie citation, an Art Matters grant and the Anonymous was a Woman Award.

Eiko teaches *Delicious Movement* in communities, colleges and art schools. Using movement study as a means of inquiry along with readings and media studies, she also teaches interdisciplinary college courses about the atomic bombings and other environmental issues such as mountain top removal coal mining and nuclear power plants. In 2016 Eiko was named Artist-in- Residence for its Dignity Project at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York. During the 2017-2018 academic year, Eiko is a think tank fellow in Wesleyan’s College of the Environment on the theme of “From Disruptions to Disasters: A Lens on the Human-Environment Relationship.”

This November, co-presented by Performa 2017 and Met Live Arts, Eiko performed all day on each of three Sundays the three Metropolitan Museum of Art sites: The Cloisters uptown, the MET Breuer on Madison Avenue, and the main building on Fifth Avenue. For these performances, Eiko created a seven and a half hour video from thousands of still photographs taken in irradiated Fukushima by William Johnston.

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www.eikoandkoma.org