

**Course Description for Delicious Movement, Winter 2011 at the New School
LDAN 2023 A crn 7171 Delicious Movement
Spring 2011**

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Delicious Movement is an experiential and experimental course taught by Eiko of Eiko & Koma, dancer/choreographers and interdisciplinary artists. The subject is Eiko & Koma's living installation *NAKED*, commissioned by the Walker Art Center and presented at the Baryshnikov Arts Center (BAC) March 29-April 9, as well as Eiko & Koma's Retrospective Project.

The course combines studio learning (movement studies), viewing (at BAC), in-class discussions, reading and writing. Students will have a rare opportunity to learn from artist(s) themselves and discover the essence of Eiko & Koma's art making (what constitutes Eiko & Koma's work). Students will study Eiko & Koma's history, inspirations, and background; students will also learn Eiko & Koma's movement vocabulary and engage in intense viewing experiences. Designed to help students develop a deeper and more personal understanding of these artists' work, this course also offers the opportunity to formulate individual and collective reflections on the theme of nakedness as well as artist methodology, art and context, and the way in which these particular artists build and sustain long-term community relationships.

The course reading and viewing lists include postwar Japanese literature and visual and performance art works that nurtured Eiko & Koma's aesthetic.

This is not a dance class, nor is it geared toward performers. We will learn some movement together, but we encourage you to think about movement as a method of accessing human experiences and building knowledge, a way to explore sensations, thoughts, and reactions to a particular space. Therefore, we expect you to come to class prepared to share personal reflections and keep an open mind. Please wear warm, comfortable clothes.

Attendance and Participation:

The success of this class depends on your participation and your attendance is required at **all** class meetings. Unexcused absences will result in a deduction in your participation grade. If you have a medical emergency or other event that forces you to miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain the missed assignments and you must let me know in advance.

Grading:

While grades are required by the university and will reflect how you are performing according to the 4-point scale, you should take the comments you receive in class and on written assignments as the primary indicator of your performance. This feedback is

qualitative and will help you take advantage of the value of an interdisciplinary course, regardless of your major.

Participation makes up 60% of your grade.

Written assignments make up 40% of your grade

Classroom Rules:

- You may not listen to iPods/CDs, etc., during class.
- No cell phones are allowed during the class session –turn them off.
- No food is allowed during class.
- Plagiarism is a serious offense when preparing research papers or critical essays. Plagiarism is a violation of university regulations and carries serious consequences.
- If you have special needs, please make advance arrangements with the appropriate office. Do not hesitate to contact me to discuss any individual needs or accommodations.

Course Assignments

There will be assigned readings, viewings and journal responses. Students will complete a final artistic project. Also, students will be required to visit the living installation *NAKED* at least three times between March 29-April 9 (Tue-Fri, 6-10pm and Sat 3-9pm) at Baryshnikov Arts Center (BAC) in preparation for the last class, to be held at BAC.

For more information about *NAKED*, please visit <http://www.bacnyc.org/> or <http://eikoandkoma.org>.

Course Journal

The purpose of the journal assignment is for you to engage with the assignments. Do not write summaries, but your impressions, questions, related thoughts, objections or tell how a certain section of content moves you. Please show you read and did the assignment. Otherwise I would not know. If you do some research and find out something new about the subject matter, you can also share that with us. Please be rigorous artistically and emotionally. Feel free to revisit or remember or return to something from a previous class or assignment.

- Before each class, write a journal entry reflecting on your readings and viewing assignments, as well as movement review.
- There is no specific format or page allowance, but I expect a thorough response to your experiences with the course materials.
- Please send your journal entries to me via email (eikootake@gmail.com) by the morning of the due date on the syllabus so that I can read them prior to our class.
- Please save your document with your whole name and journal # and the date of the submission i.e. first name last name Journal # date.doc. Do not send me a file that says Delicious or Eiko. Also start your journal with your name and journal # on the top of the page so I can see whose journal I am opening and reading.
- Be open. Write your own thoughts with your own words and discover something new. Go deeper with what you find in a particular work or explore questions that

come up. Go wild, be emotional, compare, contrast, argue, remember something (personal or what you learned elsewhere), relate, imagine... and see what happens in writing=thinking. This process will bring you to a place of your own, to thoughts of your own. Be articulate, explore and push yourself further. Linger on a thought or on a question. Get stuck or discover. By writing and editing your journal, go to a line or two that you did not intend to write or a thought you never knew you had. Journal entries are not short papers. It is self-exploration. Go far and deep.

- Try to combine your movement study as you read, view and reflect upon the questions raised.
- Sometimes, I might give you a personal topic that is related to our class readings and discussions. Other times just make your own judgment about how to proceed.
- Please bring a print out of journal entries to class to quote from when we share and to give me at the end of class. Mark your hard copy so you can readily refer to it in the class. Keep in mind that your journal serves as your preparation for class discussion. Don't be shy: you are encouraged to reiterate points made in your journal with the class.

Readings

- Reciprocal topographies – “Eiko & Koma’s Dancesculptures” by André Lepecki (paper copy)
- Kyoko Hayashi (an atomic bomb survivor), “From Trinity to Trinity” (2000) (book)

Eiko Otake, “Sustained Mourning” (find at <http://tinyurl.com/sustainedmourning>)

- Walker Art Magazine interview (Find at www.eikoandkoma.org/interview)
- Kenzauro Oe, “Sheep” (pdf)
- Mathew Yokobosky, “Breath: A Living Installation” (1998)
- (Find at <http://eikoandkoma.org/breath>)
- Interview of Eiko & Koma by Doryun Chung (Find at www.eikoandkoma.org/interview)
- John Berger, “Ways of Seeing.” (excerpt) (paper copy)

Assignments Due 2/4

View: “My Parents” (at <http://eikoandkoma.org/myparent>)
“Eiko & Koma: the Retrospective Project” (at <http://eikoandkoma.org/videoofretrospectiveproject>)

Read: Eiko Otake, “Sustained Mourning” Find at <http://tinyurl.com/sustainedmourning>

“Interview of Eiko & Koma by Doryun Chong (find at www.eikoandkoma.org/interview)

Browse: Eiko & Koma’s web. Read as much as possible. Read articles and see videos

you find there. Avoid what is listed as in class viewing below.

Journal Entry #1: Introduce who you are and what you know of EK and how if any. Write about what you saw/read on our web and your response. Write questions that you think are relevant to Eiko & Koma, and to yourself. Pretend you are asking me that question. Then answer each of your own questions to the best of your ability. Use your imagination and knowledge.

Class 1: Friday 2/4, 4-6pm

location: studio 001 (66 W. 12th St)

Information and instructions

Talk about grading policies, journal entries, artistic projects

Introductions

Video showing

Media Dances- Lament, Husk, Undertow

Movement Study #1

Please wear comfortable clothing to move in.

Assignments Due 3/11

Review Movement learned in class 1

Read: “Reciprocal topographies – “Eiko & Koma’s Dancesculptures” by André Lepecki (paper copy will be given at the first class.)

“From Trinity to Trinity,” by Kyoko Hayashi, translated by Eiko Otake (book)

Attend: presentation on March 8 (6pm) - Wollman Hall (65 W. 11th St)

Journal Entry #2: Write your impressions of and discoveries in the movement session and your review. Respond to reading. Show me you read the assignment by responding fully and personally.

Activist Assignment: Tell your friends about the free performances of *NAKED* at BAC.

Encouraged but not obliged: Take two-day workshop at BAC on March 15 & 16 produced by BAC and Movement Research. Register at www.movementresearch.org

Class 2: Friday 3/11, 4-6pm

Location: studio 001 (66 W. 12th St)

Movement Study #2: Please wear comfortable clothing to move in.
Sharing of journal entries. Please bring hard copies of your journal entries.
Viewing of *Hiroshima and Nagasaki*

Assignments Due 4/8

Important:

Go see *Naked* at BAC on your time at least three times. Write a journal entry each time. It can be a poetic or creative response such as painting or drawing. Come alone, come with a friend or people whose reaction you cannot guess in advance. Stay as long as you can. Open hours are: March 29-April 9 (Tue-Fri, 6-10pm and Sat 3-9pm) at Baryshnikov Arts Center (BAC). For more information about *NAKED*, please visit <http://www.bacnyc.org/> or <http://eikoandkoma.org>.

Read: Kenzauro Oe, "Sheep" (pdf)

read the following after your first viewing of *Naked*

Mathew Yokobosky, "Breath: A Living Installation" (1998)

(Find at www.eikoandkoma.org/breath)

Walker Art Magazine interview (Find at www.eikoandkoma.org/interview)

John Berger, "Ways of Seeing." (hand out)

Create an art work in response to *Naked*

You can also choose another topic (a different artwork or reading discussed in class)

Journal Entry #3, #4, #5: Write about your experience of viewing *Naked* each time you come. Name the time, condition (with whom, how you were that day) and how that might have affected your viewing. Be creative. Make some artwork in response.

Class 3: Friday 4/8, 3-4:30pm

Location: Baryshnikov Arts Center, Studio 6A, 450 West 37th Street

Movement Study #3: Please wear comfortable clothing to move in.

Sharing of journal entries and artwork you created. Please bring hard copies of your journal entries.

Discussion of *Naked*.