



World renowned butoh dance comes to Tokyo's underground spaces

Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL Special 13

**「TOKYO REAL UNDERGROUND」
April–August 2021
Online Performance & Exhibition Program**



NPO Dance Archive Network is pleased to announce that TOKYO REAL UNDERGROUND (TRU), part of Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL Special 13 organised by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture), will be showcased from 1 April to 15 August 2021. This press release reveals the main event lineup for the online performance and exhibition programs.

TRU is a dance festival of online performances and exhibitions featuring “Butoh”, a world-renowned dance form originating in Japan in the 1960s. The festival will open with *GINZA 1961—Starring: The City*, a William KLEIN photography exhibition held in the Ginza Station underpass. New York-based dance legend Eiko OTAKE will be filmed performing her solo dance in various locations around the city. A special online Takao KAWAGUCHI Selection program will invite artists who work in a range of performing arts to showcase 10 new works, including KAWAGUCHI’s own *Minotaur Disco*, filmed in the Former Hakubutsukan Dobutsuen Station—a now-derelict underground station built in the 1930s.

Through these events, the allure of Butoh, which grew out of the rapidly transforming city in the run-up to the Tokyo 1964 Olympic and Paralympic Games, will be shared from Tokyo 2021 to the world. Due to the impact of COVID-19, the performances will be filmed without live audiences and broadcast online entirely free of charge. As a unique, COVID-era dance festival, it aims to bring new ways of appreciating and enjoying the performing arts to all.

1. About TOKYO REAL UNDERGROUND

TOKYO REAL UNDERGROUND (TRU) takes the word “underground” both literally and figuratively, referencing the free spirited “underground culture” and showcasing an exciting new program of events influenced by Japanese Butoh dance in underground locations throughout Tokyo. Audiences will have the chance to witness a great variety of performing arts while discovering the hidden spaces of modern Tokyo.

TRU’s focus is to take a contemporary view of “Butoh”, a performing art that started in Japan in the 1960s and has since spread worldwide. Moving beyond the stereotypes of white-painted bodies and slow movements, this festival project brings together both experienced Butoh dancers and contemporary artists to develop experimental works that capture the essence of Butoh through free

interpretation. The aim is to reach a broader audience by highlighting this dance form that has not received sufficient recognition.

This year’s online program has been developed in collaboration with filmmakers in order to create a new, COVID-era dance festival. Filmed in numerous locations, an inspiring array of online performances and artist talks will be presented online. The diverse and astonishing nature of Butoh is brought to life through the following colourful lineup.

2. Festival Outline

Dates 1 April–15 August 2021

Venues Online, various locations in Tokyo

Admission Free (registration required for the online program)

Online Program Registration

Registration opens on 1 April 2021. Please see the official website for more details.

Featured Artists

Kim ITOH, Eiko OTAKE, Takao KAWAGUCHI, William KLEIN, Yuki KOBAYASHI, Naoyuki SAKAI, Pechika SATOH, Tomomi TANABE, HAUS, Daisuke YOSHIMOTO and more.

Curatorial Team

Artistic Director: Takao KAWAGUCHI (Performer)
Curators: Naoto IINA (Film Maker, Director - Dance and Media Japan)
Dai MATSUOKA (Butoh Dancer - LAND FES)
Producer: Toshio MIZOHATA (Director - NPO Dance Archive Network)

Staff

Managing Director: Yurika KUREMIYA
Project Assistant: Mai HONDA
Public Relations: Yuko NISHIYAMA (Dance Press Tokyo)
Technical Team: Roshi (Sunagumi), Noriyuki MORI (balance,inc.DESIGN), Takashi KAWACHI, Noriaki CODA, Naohiro YOSHIDA
Film Production: NPO LAND FES
Video Editing: Tamaki Harada, Mari Nakayama (Kawaii Factory)
Graphic Design: Nobutaka KITAKAZE (Young Soul)
Website Design: Miku MATSUOKA (Young Soul)
Translation: Mai HONDA, ZHANG Ying, LEE Jane
Photography: Tatsuhiko NAKAGAWA, Tzvasa WADA

Organisers

Tokyo Metropolitan Government
Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)



Planning and Production

NPO Dance Archive Network

Sponsored by:

BNP Paribas Group

In cooperation with:

Kazuo Ohno Dance Studio; Butoh Laboratory, Japan; Keio University Art Center; FILMS PARIS NEW YORK;
Dance and Media Japan; NPO LAND FES; Yusuke Suzuki Design Office Inc.; HAUS Co. Ltd.; Sasaki Architecture;
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Ikenohata Fujii; SAISON Foundation; Taiwan Contemporary Culture Lab; Sony Marketing Inc.; Sega Sammy Arts Foundation

Public Relations Cooperation:

dance press tokyo

Official Website: <http://www.tokyorealunderground.net/>
Facebook: @DanceArchiveNetwork
Twitter: @dance_archive
Instagram: @dancearchivenetwork

3. Exhibition Program

A number of special exhibitions will be held as part of the festival, including: a photography exhibition by William KLEIN, who captured the birth of Butoh on camera while boldly using the streets of Ginza; an online exhibition presenting the past, present and future of Butoh, and a virtual exhibition that can be admired on the streets in which they were taken.

*These exhibitions are held with thorough COVID-19 prevention measures in place. Visitors are requested to read and comply with the measures as listed on the official website. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

William Klein Exhibition: *GINZA 1961—Starring: The City*

Dates 1 April–13 June 2021

Venue Ginza Underpass
(underground passage between Ginza and Higashi-Ginza stations)

William KLEIN first came to Japan in 1961 and stayed for around two months, taking photographs all over Tokyo before publishing them in Tokyo in 1964. Of these, 10 of the photographs taken in Ginza have been selected for a large wall display. How did this world-famous photographer see Tokyo in the chaotic excitement leading up to the Tokyo 1964 Olympic and Paralympic Games? This urban exhibition thrusts scenes from 60 years ago upon the surrounding landscape.



William Klein Crab Dancer ©William Klein, Tokyo 1961

Walking AR Experience: *Dance Happening—Today*

Dates 1 April–15 August 2021

Venue On the streets of Ginza & Shimbashi, or online
(please see the official website for details)

Follow the footsteps of William KLEIN's 1961 photoshoot of the soon-to-be founders of Butoh—Tatsumi HIJIKATA, Kazuo OHNO and Yoshito OHNO—taken on the streets of Ginza and Shimbashi one rainy afternoon. See into the past using a smartphone to view some 350 photographs in the very spots they were originally taken. Find a new perspective on this metropolis by layering the landscape of 1961 over 2021, and turn the city into an exhibition with AR (augmented reality).

*This exhibition is also available online for those who cannot make it to the location.
AR production: HAUS

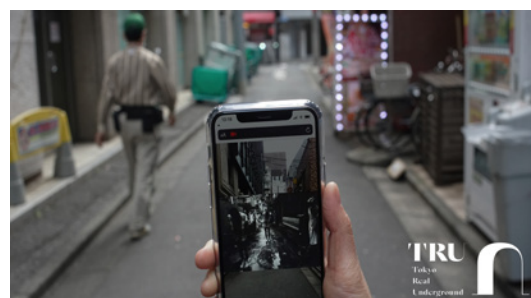


Photo by naoto ina

Online Timeline: *Butoh Incidents*

Dates 1 April–15 August 2021

Venue Online (via the official website)

Butoh was not just at the forefront of the avant-garde art movement, it has also had a number of connections with the entertainment and commercial worlds. Butoh dancers have historically appeared in a variety of fields, as performers in cabarets, commercials, a film for the 1970 Osaka World Expo, as backing dancers in music videos and, more recently, on popular TV dramas. This illustrated timeline looks at the various connections with media and other art styles that Butoh has had, even as it continued to inspire society.



Illustrations: Yo ISHIHARA

Content consultant & contributor: Takao NORIKOSHI (writer, dance critic)

Illustrations: Yo ISHIHARA (painter)

4. Online Performance Program

New works by popular artists who usually fly around the world creating dance, theatre, film and interdisciplinary works, are performed, filmed and shared online.

Dates 24 April*–15 August 2021 *New videos uploaded every weekend until the end of June.

Venue Online

Eiko Otake—*A Body in Places and A Body in Fukushima*

Since 2014, New York-based Eiko Otake has visited the areas of Fukushima prefecture most affected by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, building a photography series with photographer and historian William Johnston. A vast number of these have been exhibited around the US, compiled and projected as a film, and presented as part of her solo performances. This year marks 10 years since the quake, and in this version of *A Body in Places*, she is filmed performing with the images from Fukushima in various underground locations around Tokyo. Her past work, *A Body in Fukushima*, will also be featured online.



Eiko Otake—*A Body in Hong Kong* Photo by CPAK Studio

Takao Kawaguchi—*About Kazuo Ohno*

After touring 38 cities worldwide since it first premiered in 2013 and being nominated for a Bessie award, Takao Kawaguchi's *About Kazuo Ohno* (AKO) returns to Tokyo eight years later. This version of AKO, which is both a faithful reproduction and a bold reinterpretation of the legendary Butoh dancer Kazuo Ohno created by "totally copying" his movements, has been directed specially for film.



Takao Kawaguchi—*About Kazuo Ohno* Photo by Takuya Matsui

Takao Kawaguchi Selection: *Un Certain Regard*

A program of works selected by performer Takao Kawaguchi, this series considers Butoh from a critical perspective as "Butoh's mirror image". Inviting artists who work in a range of performing art styles, 10 new works will be showcased online, including KAWAGUCHI's own *Minotaur Disco*. More details about this program will be made available in the next press release.

Featuring:

Kim ITOH, Takao KAWAGUCHI, Yuki KOBAYASHI, Naoyuki SAKAI, Pechika SATOH, Tomomi TANABE, HAUS, Daisuke YOSHIMOTO and more.



Photo by Tatsuhiko Nagasawa

4. About the Artists

William KLEIN

Born and raised in New York, William KLEIN studied Fine Art under Fernand LÉGER in Paris. He began actively experimenting with photographic techniques in 1952, and his first photo book of his hometown New York was published in 1956. He is now known for his photographs of the world's largest cities. Breaking with convention of the time, he made use of wide-angle lenses, focussed on texture, intense contrast and unorthodox composition, and has made a great impact on subsequent generations of photographers.

Takao KAWAGUCHI

After joining the performance group Dumb Type in 1996, Takao KAWAGUCHI started creating his own solo works in 2000. His world-acclaimed *About Kazuo Ohno*, which premiered in 2013, was nominated for a Bessie Award. He has worked as a director for the Tokyo International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival (1996-99), translator for *Chroma*—a book by British experimental film director Derek GERMAN (2003), and appeared in the short film *KINGYO* directed by Edmund YEO (commissioned by the Venice Film Festival 2009).

HAUS (Hirozumi TAKEDA, Yosuke HAYASHI & Takanobu INAFUKU)

HAUS is a team with a wide range of skills, ranging from system development to design. Recent major projects include engineering for *Dessin Ah!* at the Design Ah! exhibition, specialised web design and development for chelfitsch & Teppei Kaneuji's *Eraser Mountain*, and planning and implementation of a live coding language for sound performance *P-Code*.

Eiko OTAKE

After studying with Tatsumi HIJIKATA and Kazuo OHNO in Japan in the 1970s, Eiko OTAKE studied with Manja CHMIEL in Germany and Lucas HOVING in the Netherlands. She moved to New York in 1976, where she pursued a unique style of body expression as part of Eiko & Koma. In 2014 she began her solo career with *A Body in Places*, which has attracted much attention and been presented at the Whitney Museum of American Art, MoMA and the Walker Art Center, among others. She was the first Asian artist to win the ADF Awards (2004) and Dance Magazine Awards (2006).

What is Butoh?

An avant-garde performance-based art originating in post-war Japan. Although it has roots in 1920s German modern dance, it was a groundbreaking form that shook Western dance concepts. *Kinjiki (Forbidden Colours)* by Tatsumi HIJIKATA in 1959 is often cited as the first Butoh performance, and since the 1970s it has become increasingly well known internationally. There are now Butoh festivals all over the world, and it has even become featured in school classes and textbooks.

About Dance Archive Network

Dance Archive Network (DAN) is a non-profit organisation that conserves the artistic assets and knowledge of Kazuo OHNO and Yoshito OHNO, and promotes the significance of dance archives and international networks. The aim is to contribute to the legacy and promotion of dance culture by collecting and saving documentation, and organising current works inspired by them. DAN is also currently working towards the development of a new, 3D technology-based archive.
Official website: <http://www.dance-archive.net/>

About Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL

Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL is an initiative that unfolds a variety of cultural programs in the run-up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games held in Tokyo, promoting its appeal as a city of arts and culture.
Official Website: <https://tokyotokyofestival.jp/en/>

About Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL Special 13

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Arts Council Tokyo sought a wide range of creative and innovative ideas from the public for projects that would become the core of the cultural programs for the Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL. From a total of 2,436 project proposals submitted from within Japan and overseas, 13 were selected for implementation. The 13 projects are collectively named "Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL Special 13", and are being implemented in sequence.
Official Website: <https://ttf-koubo.jp/en/>

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