

Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL Special 13
TOKYO REAL UNDERGROUND Press Release #3
Exhibition with new work
by Ryudai TAKANO starting 3 August!
Passing Butoh's legacy on to the next generation

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) is a new, Covid-era online dance festival that has been approaching recent challenges from multiple directions. The online TOKYO REAL UNDERGROUND program includes over 20 videos of performances

and talks by artists who are connected to Butoh in various ways, as well as a *Butoh Incidents* timeline that presents the history of Butoh in an easy to understand manner. Registration is required, however the entire program is available to view for free. As of 25 June, there are 2533 registered viewers, and 9584 video views. All online content is available until 15 August. To mark the end of the festival, the *Butoh: New Archive Exhibition* will be held from 3 August.

The *Butoh: New Archive Exhibition* is an in-person event that will require advance reservation as part of the COVID-19 prevention measures that have been put in place for the festival. The exhibition will feature *RED & GREEN*, a video work by photographer Ryudai TAKANO created in collaboration with Butoh dancers, and a pseudo-hologram of modern-day dancers recreating legendary performances by Butoh founders Tatsumi HIJIKATA, Kazuo OHNO and Yoshito OHNO. Artists of numerous disciplines, from Butoh dancers and contemporary dancers to photographers, filmmakers and painters, approach Butoh through different perspectives. Experimenting with new ways to archive Butoh, this exhibition presents the legacy of Butoh to the next generation.



Exhibition Highlights

- *RED & GREEN*, a video installation by photographer Ryudai TAKANO in collaboration with 10 Butoh dancers explores the theme of “shadows”.
- Three masterworks by the founders of Butoh—Tatsumi HIJIKATA, Kazuo OHNO and Yoshito OHNO—are copied by modern-day dancers and presented as a pseudo-hologram.
- 49 original illustrations that have been published as part of an online timeline *Butoh Incidents*, are presented together in an installation.

TRU Exhibition

Butoh: New Archive Exhibition

Dates 3–15 August 2021

Times Mon–Fri: 14:00-20:00, Sat: 13:00-21:00, Sun: 11:00-18:00

Venue BUoY Basement Space (49-11, Senju-Nakacho, Adachi-ku, Tokyo | 10 min from Kita-Senju Station)

Admission Free

Details Reservation required (at least 1 hour in advance, max. 20 people at any time)

Reservation Online from 1 July via the official website

Exhibition Displays:

- **Ryudai TAKANO—RED & GREEN** New video installation
- **naoto IINA—THREE** Pseudo-hologram and film exhibition
- **Yo ISHIHARA—Butoh Incidents: Illustrated Ceiling** 49 original illustrations

Ryudai TAKANO—RED & GREEN

Archiving the transient body

New video installation by contemporary Japanese photographer Ryudai TAKANO.

RED & GREEN began with a question: how would a photographer approach a video work, and how would they make use of the body in their work? This piece has been created in collaboration with the finest Butoh dancers alive today: Norihito ISHII, Kae ISHIMOTO, Teita IWABUCHI, Mitsuyo UESUGI, Saga KOBAYASHI, Yukio SUZUKI, Semimaru, Yasuhiko TAKEUCHI, Kumotaro MUKAI, and Daisuke YOSHIMOTO.

In this work, a scarlet light is cast upon a wall covered in phosphorescent paint, in front of which Butoh dancers stand and dance, repeating quiet, individual movements. With the flash of a strobe light, the outline of the Butoh dancers are fixed upon the green phosphorescent wall, leaving their black shadows lingering for several minutes after the dancers depart.

A quiet video installation in which illusory bodies appear in the blink of red and green lights, creating an experience that feels like the moment in which a photograph is made, and asking the fundamental question of all dance archives: how do we archive the transient body?

Concept, Filming & Direction: Ryudai TAKANO

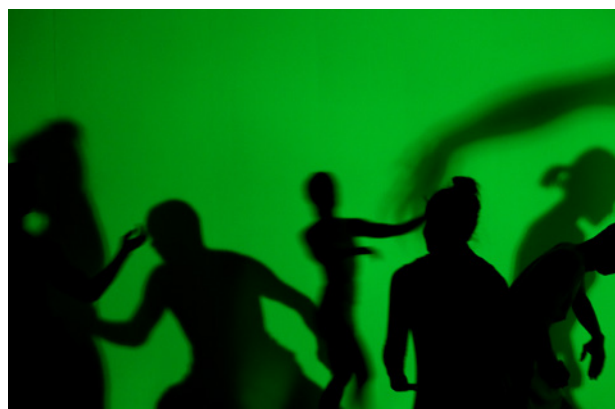
Curation: naoto IINA

Performers: Norihito ISHII, Kae ISHIMOTO, Teita IWABUCHI, Mitsuyo UESUGI, Saga KOBAYASHI, Yukio SUZUKI, Semimaru, Yasuhiko TAKEUCHI, Kumotaro MUKAI, Daisuke YOSHIMOTO

Equipment provided by: Sony Marketing Inc.

Ryudai TAKANO

Photographer. Born in 1963. In 2006 he won the Kimura Ihei Award for photography with *IN MY ROOM*, a collection that visualises the indistinct divisions between men and women, and homo and heterosexuals. With works such as *How to Contact a Man*, which explores the same themes in a pornographic format, and *Kasubaba*, which explores urban spaces particular to Japan, he continues to explore unorthodox themes through his photographs. His solo exhibition *Daily Photographs 1999-2021* will be held at the National Museum of Art in Osaka this year, from 29 June to 23 September.



naoto IINA—*THREE*

Three-sided pseudo hologram archive

Three modern-day dancers copy three masterworks by the founders of Butoh: Tatsumi HIJIKATA, Kazuo OHNO and Yoshito OHNO. The performers Mikiko KAWAMURA, Takao KAWAGUCHI and Dai MATSUOKA have responded to the spirit of Butoh with modern methods. Kawamura reproduces Tatsumi HIJIKATA's *Hosotan (Story of Smallpox)* (1972), Takao KAWAGUCHI reconstructs Kazuo OHNO's *Admiring La Argentina* (1977), and Dai MATSUOKA recreates Yoshito OHNO's *Hijikata Sansho* (1985). These three performances were filmed from three directions simultaneously in order to create a three-sided pseudo hologram installation. This installation is featured in the performance of the same name, currently available on TRU Online, which was filmed in the Former Hakubutsukan Dobutsen Station.

This pseudo-hologram has been created by compiling the footage from the three videos, taken from the front, right and left. By putting together images that show the dancer's centre of gravity and placement of the feet from three different angles, this "hologram" enables a more detailed archive of movement.



Direction: naoto IINA

Performers: Takao KAWAGUCHI, Mikiko KAWAMURA, Dai MATSUOKA

Film Production: Naohiro YOSHIDA, Eri KAWAMURA, naoto IINA

naoto IINA

Videographer, director, dramaturg, visual scenographer and producer. iina is the founder of Dance and Media Japan and International Dance Film Festival. He is also an Associate Professor at Tokyo Zokei University and lecturer at Za Koenji Theatre Academy. Recently he has been working on cross-genre works with video, dance and text. He is in charge of direction, composition, filming and editing of the online Butoh program "Re-Butooh" (NPO Dance Archive Network).

Yo ISHIHARA—*Butoh Incidents: Illustrated Ceiling*

Archiving Butoh as a series of incidents

The *Butoh Incidents* exhibition, currently available as part of TRU Exhibition online, is a timeline that depicts Butoh as a series of "incidents". The illustrations by Ishihara that decorate this timeline are based on "impressions" from archived photographs and film footage. For this exhibition, her 49 original illustrations conveying peoples' "memories" and "impressions" are displayed together as an illustrated ceiling.



Illustrations: Yo ISHIHARA

Curation: naoto IINA

Yo ISHIHARA

Artist. Born in 1988. Completed a PhD in Art and Design at the Tohoku University of Art and Design in 2020. Her paintings explore the invisible boundaries and unconscious filters between "them" and "us", and "you" and "me". Among numerous exhibitions, her recent activities include a solo exhibition *Who*, which was held online in May, and in person in August 2020 at the Seizan Gallery. She also creates works as part of a collective.

*COVID-19 prevention measures will be implemented for the duration of this exhibition. Visitors attending the exhibition are asked to read and comply with the measures outlined on the official website. Thank you for your cooperation. <http://www.tokyorealunderground.net/english/news/0006.html>

Related Event *Butoh: New Archive Talk*

A talk and Butoh Exhibition Dance* streamed on TRU Online

Release date: 3 July 19:30 [UTC +9] (60min, available until 15 August)

Venue: Online Access: Free (registration to TRU Online required)

Speakers: Ryudai TAKANO, naoto IINA, Toshio MIZOHATA Butoh Exhibition Dance: Saga KOBAYASHI

Directed by: naoto IINA Film Production: NPO LAND FES

Registration: <http://www.tokyorealunderground.net/english/ticket.html>

*Butoh Exhibition Dances are talks in which Butoh dancers have been invited to perform a slow, sculptural "Butoh Exhibition Dance" as the discussion happens around them. This is a new style of event where talks are conducted in a Butoh-inspired atmosphere.

Festival Outline

Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL Special 13

TOKYO REAL UNDERGROUND

Dates 1 April–15 August 2021

Venues Online, various locations in Tokyo

Admission Free (registration required for the online program)

Online Program Registration: <http://www.tokyorealunderground.net/english/ticket.html>

Featured Artists naoto IINA, Yasunori IKUNISHI, Norihito ISHII, Kae ISHIMOTO, Kim ITOH, Tenko IMA, Teita IWABUCHI, Mitsuyo UESUGI, Tadashi ENDO, Oguri, Eiko OTAKE, Yuko KASEKI, Takao KAWAGUCHI, MIKIKO KAWAMURA, William KLEIN, Saga KOBAYASHI, Yuki KOBAYASHI, Naoyuki SAKAI, Pechika SATO, Yukio SUZUKI, Semimaru, Ryudai TAKANO, Yasuhiko TAKEUCHI, Atsushi TAKENOUCI, Toshi TANAKA, Tomomi TANABE, HAUS, Bishop YAMADA, Dai MATSUOKA, Kumotaro MUKAI, Yumi UMIUMARE, Daisuke YOSHIMOTO, River LIN and more.

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

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; Canta Co. Ltd; Keisei Electric Railway; Shuto Metropolitan Expressway Company Limited; Arts and Snack Executive Committee; Ikenohata Fujii; Tokyo Cultural Heritage Alliance; 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/english/>

Facebook: @DanceArchiveNetwork

Twitter: @dance_archive

Instagram: @dancearchivenetwork

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 HUIKATA 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/en/>

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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