

Choy Ka Fai bei ImPulsTanz

Performances

2018

Dance Clinic

19. + 21. Juli, 21:00 Uhr, Odeon
Österreichische
Erstaufführung

UnBearable Darkness

20. + 22. Juli, 21:00 Uhr,
Odeon
Österreichische
Erstaufführung

2016

SoftMachine

Xiao Ke x Zi Han (China)
(Director)

2015

SoftMachine

Rianto (Indonesia)
Surit Nongmeikapam (India)
Yuya Tsukahara (Japan)
(Director, Performer)

Exhibition

2015

SoftMachine: Exhibition

(Artist)



Biography

Choy Ka Fai

Choy Ka Fai is a Berlin-based Singaporean artist. He is inspired by the histories and theorisations that contain the uncertainties of the future. His research springs from a desire to understand the conditioning of the human body, its intangible memories and the forces shaping its expressions. These factors converge into complex articulations at the intersection of art, design and technology. Ka Fai graduated from the Royal College of Art, London, with a MA in Design Interaction in 2011. He completed a 12-month

Artist-in-Residency program at Künstlerhaus Bethanien Berlin in 2014 and is currently the Factory Artist (resident artist) at tanzhaus nrw, Düsseldorf through to 2019. His projects have been presented in major festivals worldwide including Sadler's Wells, London, ImPulsTanz Festival, Vienna and Tanz im August, Berlin.

IMPULSTANZ

Vienna International
Dance Festival 2018

Choy Ka Fai *The Wind that Cuts the Body*

19 July, 20:00

Vernissage, entrance free

The exhibition is open during the
performances at Odeon until 12 August

Choy Ka Fai GERMANY/SINGAPORE

The Wind that Cuts the Body

Driven by his interest in exploring the conditions of the human body, multidisciplinary artist Choy Ka Fai focuses on his research on choreographic practices in Asia since 2010. *The wind that cuts the body* presents his current investigation into Butoh which arose in Japan at the end of the 1950s encompassing a diverse range of techniques including dance, performance, theatre, and movement. Choy traces the legacy of one of the key founders, Hijikata Tatsumi (1928–86) who sought a new form of physical expression he referred to as *ankoku butoh* (“dance of darkness”), delving into imageries of the grotesque and sickness of the human form.

In his pursuit, Choy went to the extent of interviewing the spirit of Hijikata through an *itako* (Japanese shaman) and to speculate on the technological possibilities of dancing with Hijikata again. This research presentation features a selection of reference materials from the Hijikata Tatsumi Archive in Tokyo and from the artist’s expeditions, interviews and documentary sketches.

A_ Selection From The Hijikata Tatsumi Archive

As a central figure of the 1960s avant-garde, Hijikata collaborated with a number of representative artists of the time in creating his *butoh* performances. From his first *butoh* performance *Forbidden Colours* (1959), which drew much controversy for its exploration of homosexuality and use of livestock, to his unfinished work *Tohoku Kabuki* (1985) shortly before his death, the new form of dance-art was a direct subversion of the refined aesthetic favoured in Japanese art forms, an outlaw that resists definition.

The Hijikata Tatsumi archive was acquired by the Keio University Art Center in April 1998 as the first initiative in constructing research archives. The mission of the Art Center is to preserve the life of such materials in a cultural environment that tends to prefer more established art forms. The research archive consists mainly of material resources, and more recently a digital archive that makes use of various digital media and data gathering systems. It hopes that the collection and dissemination of materials relating to Hijikata will help enrich and expand *butoh* research on an international level.

B_ The Wind That Cuts The Body (Film)

Inspired by the legend of *kamaitachi*, a weasel-like demon who haunts rice fields and slashes people with a sickle, *The Wind That Cuts The Body* is a metaphoric translation of the *kamaitachi* story. The visual presentation documents the research field trips taken by the artist as he delved into the Shaman cultures in Tohoku northern Japan, to trace the possible afterlives of Hijikata Tatsumi, interviewing and inviting his spirit to collaborate in the making of a new dance creation.

C_ UnBearable Darkness Interviews

UnBearable Darkness is a dance and documentary project that inquires on the relevance and potentiality of *butoh* today. Since the spread of *butoh* to Europe in 1978, it has expanded into various forms of cultural assimilations, spiritual cultivation, and performative exorcism.

One of the major inspirations for the project is the famed photographic series titled *Kamaitachi* by Hosoe Eikoh in collaboration with Hijikata Tatsumi. It documents their visit to a farming village in northern Japan and an improvisational performance made with local villagers. Hosoe photographed Hijikata’s spontaneous interactions with the landscape and the people they encountered. Akita is also the birthplace of Hijikata where he spent his adolescent life before moving to Tokyo.

The Wind the cuts the Body was first developed in 2017 at the NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore and is part of the *UnBearable Darkness* project.

UnBearable Darkness is a production of Choy Ka Fai, co-produced by tanzhaus nrw as part of MOCCA – Motion Capturing Creative Area, a project of Hochschule Düsseldorf, LAVA Labs, Velamed GmbH and tanzhaus nrw, supported by EFRE, as well as Kyoto Experiment.

Sponsored by Kunststiftung NRW by NATIONALE PERFORMANCE NETZ Koproduktionsförderung Tanz, sponsored by Beauftragten der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien and The Saison Foundation.

The research was supported by TPAM – Performing Arts Meeting in Yokohama, The Saison Foundation, The Japan Foundation Asia Center and Hijikata Tatsumi Archive at Keio University Art Center.

This presentation is supported by National Arts Council, Singapore.

The investigation traces the choreographic beginning of Hijikata and seeks to uncover the various histories, ecologies, and evolutions of *butoh*.

D_ Hijikata Two Point Zero

Hijikata Two Point Zero is an impossible archive of lost images and parallel universe. The series of portraits and 3D animation are speculative ideas and dreams on the possible afterlives of Hijikata Tatsumi.

