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

Exhibition
2018
Dance Clinic
Österreichische Erstaufführung

2015
SoftMachine
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 Kunstlerhaus 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.

Choy Ka Fai bei 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

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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 Kamaïtachi 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 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.