

Special program for realizing the life: INSTALLATION “Earthen Statue of HIJIKATA”

About this installation

HIJIKATA Tatsumi, the founder of BUTOH, pursued in 1960s destructive and violent expression, but in 1970s he focused on imperfect body – bodily expression of disease and aging. Then in his last years, HIJIKATA conspire to a concept “a body dying”. Its practice in dance field is to choreograph a dance according to an imagery – slowly-dying and decaying body of himself is looked at by alter ego. For this, HIJIKATA was interested in SOKUSHINBUTSU (mummy), that slowly approaches death. And many of SOKUSHINBUTSU is found in Tsuruoka, where this project is held.



HIJIKATA Tatsumi in Story of small pox. Photo: ONOZUKA Makoto

The project “Earthen Statue of HIJIKATA” aims at objectifying HIJIKATA’s interest and expression. In this project, we produce earthen statue and at the same time demolish it. To express the dying (=collapsing) body, water will be dropped on it bit by bit during the seminar and finally the statue will be fallen. People witnessing the falling statue will have extraordinary experience where life and death cross over each other. It must give them opportunity to think about the essence of life. In addition, the process of falling will be recorded with all the time in HD quality. It would take 3-4 days for the statue to fall. When it’s completely fallen, the camera stops. The video from camera will be transmitted to the world in real-time, thorough WWW. People around the world experience at one time, extraordinary /ordinary time regarding to LIFE and DEATH.

This program can be viewed at:

INTERNET (webcasting)

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/butoh> (the view of installation)

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/butoh-subcamera> (relevant lectures, behind the scenes)

Quicktime Broadcaster (requires Quicktime)

<http://www.dmc.keio.ac.jp/butoh/butoh.qtl>

HD quality video

Keio University (Mita, Japan) DMC labo, 9.1-9.3 12:00-18:00 (9.3 10:00-12:00)

<http://www.dmc.keio.ac.jp/>

Photographs (SHONAI Live camera)

<http://www.tele-sp.co.jp/live/>

Date / Place:

August 31 – September 3, 2008 / Institute for Advanced Biosciences (Tsuruoka, Yamagata, Japan)

-Organised by: Keio Research Center for the Liberal Arts

-Produced by:

HIJIKATA Tatsumi Archive at Research Center for the Arts and Arts Administration, Keio University

Portfolio Butoh Project at Research Institute for Digital Media and Content at Keio University