



Performance presentation for ECArTE 2013

Primordial Butoh Elicits Non-Verbalized Bodymind Reflections

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Before reflections become the target of thinking process, we need to be overwhelmed by inexplicable bodymind experiences, and the reflections should be deep or worthy enough to be contemplated.



Performance is usually thought to be conceptually organized around a given theme or topic. But, butoh dance still preserves its original amorphous and primordial nature by refusing verbal conceptualization. When people encounter with an authentic primordial butoh dance performance, the audience bodymind is threatened or shocked by unspeakable impacts. It is mainly because such butoh performance is not conceptually created, but the performer her/himself allows oneself to be attacked or infiltrated by feelings or emotions, such as uneasiness, fear, sorrow, desperation, happiness, devastation, serenity, and etc., coming from within her/his bodymind or the environments including sounds, lights, smells, winds, temperature, humidity, the weight of the body, textures of the floor, the scenery, a flying bird, etc. There are a couple of key points to make a butoh performance to be primordial or inexplicable: 1) the butoh dancer should allow anything coming or occurring in one's bodymind by opening up oneself even if it is felt dangerous, 2) it is necessary to train oneself a lot physically and mentally to accommodate to it.

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