
Danspace Project

Spring 2021

PLATFORM 2021:
The Dream of the Audience

Danspace Project

Land Acknowledgment

Danspace Project pays respect to Lenape peoples. We acknowledge that this work is situated on the Lenape island of Manhahtaan (Mannahatta) in Lenapehoking, the Lenape homeland. We pay respect to Lenape land, water, and ancestors past, present, and future.

Site Acknowledgment

“Before we begin, let’s take a moment to acknowledge that the construction of this building, Saint Mark’s Church-in-the-Bowery, was completed in 1799. That same year, New York State enacted the Gradual Emancipation Act 1, so it is reasonable to assume that this building where we are when we stand, sit, dance, and some still worship, was built by enslaved individuals on what was the homeland of the Lenape people.”

- Ishmael Houston-Jones

Danspace Project Presents

Eiko Otake & Joan Jonas

WITH THE EARTH AT MY WAISTLINE

film premiere & conversation

Friday, June 11, 2021
5pm (ET)

Part of PLATFORM 2021: *The Dream of the Audience*
curated by Judy Hussie-Taylor

An interview

May 2, 2021

At Joan Jonas's Home

Camera by Jeri Coppola

Edit by Eiko Otake

Ballad of the Shadowy Pigeons

By Federico García Lorca

Translation by Jack Spicer

Special Thanks to Danspace,
Judy Hussie-Taylor, Benjamin Akio
Kimitch, Yolanda Royster

WITH THE EARTH AT MY WAISTLINE

Dedicated to Douglas Crimp

Commissioned and premiered by
Danspace Project as part of Platform
2021: *The Dream of the Audience*.

Conceived by Joan Jonas and Eiko Otake

Directed by Joan Jonas in collaboration
with Eiko Otake

Performed by Eiko Otake, Joan Jonas,
Iris McCloughan

Video Backdrops and Props by
Joan Jonas

Seagull Footage by Eiko Otake

Lighting Design by Jan Kroeze
with Yolanda Royster

Videography by Jeri Coppola
and Joan Jonas

Assisted by Sekeena Gavagan,
Paula Longendyke, Iris McCloughan,
Allison Hsu

Edited by David Sherman and Joan Jonas
with Eiko Otake, Sekeena Gavagan

A note from Eiko

Joan and I became friends relatively recently. We were strangers until we reached out to each other at the same time in 2018. Soon Joan invited me to her studio and I moved with projections of her video pieces. She then flew me to her summer home in Nova Scotia, where we worked alone for four days. During our Conversation Without Walls at Danspace last year, we both said that we were ready to do something we could not do when younger. We both agreed Joan would try directing me the next time we work together.

When Danspace commissioned a media work, I asked Joan if she would join me in two-week creative residency at St. Mark's Church Sanctuary. She said Yes!

Not directing myself or anyone else was liberating. She brought her wonderful team of helpers, many props and costumes, and took the lead in setting up, directing, shooting, and editing. This allowed me to be fully my performer-self. To my delight Joan joined me in many scenes. That was new for us. At each set up, we improvised, looked at the footage, and improvised again. I was totally happy with the process. We performed more

duets than we could put in this piece. In all, not only did I learn a lot about Joan, but also about myself. Thank you, Joan. I am grateful to her team (David, Jeri, Jan, Paula Sekeena), Judy, Ben, Yolanda, Lily, everyone at Danspace, and my team, Iris, Allison, and Paula.

Born and raised in Japan and a resident of New York since 1976, **Eiko Otake** is a movement-based, interdisciplinary artist. After working for more than 40 years as Eiko & Koma, in 2014 Eiko began performing her own solo project *A Body in Places*, which was also the title of her 2016 Danspace Project Platform. Since 2014, Eiko collaborated with photographer/historian William Johnston on creating *A Body in Fukushima*, which captures Eiko's body in places of nuclear contamination. Eiko has presented both photo exhibitions and film screenings of *A Body in Fukushima* in the US and internationally at museums and art centers.

In 2017, she launched a multi-year *Duet Project*, an open-ended series of cross-disciplinary, cross-cultural, and cross-generational experiments with a diverse range of artists. In addition to creating her works in her Virtual Studio during the pandemic, Eiko performed live for audiences at the Green-Wood Cemetery, Wesleyan University, and in Tokyo.

Eiko & Koma have been honored with a MacArthur Fellowship, the Samuel H. Scripps American Dance Festival Award, and the first Doris Duke Artist Award. For her solo work, Eiko has received a Bessie's Special Citation, an Art Matters

fellowship, the Anonymous Was a Woman Award, and the LMCC Sam Miller Award.

Joan Jonas was born in 1936 in New York, where she lives and works. Jonas is one of the most significant artists in the history of video and performance. Beginning in the 1960s, she placed female subjectivity at the center of her work, employing a complex linguistic repertoire including gestures, storytelling and images in movement. Jonas experiments with sources from fairy tales to essays, from myths to local folklore, both poetically and politically. In 2004, Jonas began collaborating with the composer Jason Moran on several projects and they continue to perform together.

In 2020/21 Jonas produced 75 drawings and a video for her participation in the 13th Shanghai Biennale, *Bodies of Water*. In 2020, she had her first solo show in South America, *Joan Jonas: 5 Decades*, at the Pinacoteca in Sao Paulo, Brazil. In 2019, in collaboration with TBA21, Jonas presented an immersive exhibition, *Moving off the Land*, at Chiesa di San Lorenzo, Venice, which then travelled to Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid, Spain in 2020. In 2019 the Kyoto City University of Arts Art Gallery presented *Five Rooms For Kyoto: 1972 - 2019*, Jonas' largest solo exhibition in Japan. In 2018 Jonas was the recipient of the Kyoto Prize in Arts and Philosophy. In 2018 Tate Modern devoted to her a major survey exhibition, which then travelled to Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art, Porto, Portugal. In

2015 Jonas represented the United States at the 56th Venice Biennale.

Iris McCloughan is an artist, writer, and performer. Their performance work has been presented in New York (Movement Research, The Poetry Project, The New Ohio, Ars Nova, JACK), Philadelphia (The Barnes Foundation, Philadelphia Contemporary, FringeArts, ICA Philadelphia), Chicago (Links Hall), and Detroit (Public Pool).

Iris was awarded the 2018 Stanley Kunitz Prize from American Poetry Review, and was named a finalist in nonfiction for Best of the Net 2020. They are the author of three chapbooks, including *Triptych* (2021, greying ghost) and *Bones to Peaches* (2021, Seven Kitchens Press). Their writing has appeared in *jubilat*, *juked*, *Denver Quarterly*, and *Gertrude*, among many others.

BALLAD OF THE SHADOWY PIGEONS

By Federico García Lorca
Translation by Jack Spicer

On the branch of laurel
Saw two shadowy pigeons.
One of them was the sun
The other the moon.

Little neighbors, I asked them,
Where am I buried?
In my tail, said the sun.
In my craw, said the moon.

And I who had been walking
With the earth at my waistline
Saw two eagles of marble
And a naked maiden.
The one was the other
And the maiden was no one.

Little eagles, I asked them,
Where am I buried?
In my tail, said the sun
In my craw, said the moon.

On the branches of laurel
Saw the naked pigeons.
The one was the other
And both of them no one

About Platform 2021

Platform 2021: *The Dream of the Audience* (May 15 – June 18, 2021), curated by Judy Hussie-Taylor, is a digital Platform featuring acclaimed artists and past Platform curators, each with longstanding relationships to Danspace Project: Ishmael Houston-Jones, Okwui Okpokwasili, Eiko Otake with Joan Jonas, and Reggie Wilson. Each of the artists are receiving residency time in St. Mark’s Church and opportunities for live conversations. New short video works by the artists, created while in-residence at the church, will be screened during the Platform.

Each week of the Platform will feature: Monday Archives: Special Danspace archival footage released on the Online Journal, Issue 12.

Friday Film Screenings: A new film premiere, filmed on site at Danspace Project. Film premieres on Zoom.

In two Conversations Without Walls, Lydia Bell and Kristin Juarez will activate these archives. The Journal will also include new written works by Writer-in-residence, Maura Nguyen Donohue.

Platform 2021 takes inspiration from a poem by the late Korean American artist Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, in which Cha addresses the audience “as a distant relative.” “Although written in 1977, Cha’s text resonates with our current condition,” says Hussie-Taylor. “This Platform is an homage to audiences.”

Audience Distant Relative, Teresa Hak Kyung Cha (1977)

you are the audience

you are my distant audience

i address you

as i would a distant relative

as if a distant relative

seen only heard only through someone else’s

description

Funding for Platform 2021

Special thanks to the Howard Gilman Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts for their support for Danspace Project’s 2021 Platform, and thank you to all our vital supporters.

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Platform 2021 Schedule

Saturday, May 15 at 7pm (ET): Platform Launch with Ishmael Houston-Jones, Eiko Otake, Joan Jonas, Okwui Okpokwasili, and Reggie Wilson. Facilitated by Judy Hussie-Taylor.

Monday, May 17: On the Online Journal: Ishmael Houston-Jones and Miguel Gutierrez: *Variations on Themes from Lost and Found...*

Friday, May 21 at 5pm (ET): Film Premiere: Ishmael Houston-Jones

Monday, May 31: On the Online Journal: Okwui Okpokwasili and Peter Born: *Sitting On a Man's Head*

Friday, June 4 at 5pm (ET): Film Premiere: Okwui Okpokwasili

Monday, June 7: On the Online Journal: Eiko Otake: *A Body in Places* & Joan Jonas' *Moving Off the Land*

Monday, June 7 at 5pm (ET): Conversations Without Walls: Revisiting Eiko Otake's *A Body in Places* and Ishmael Houston-Jones and Will Rawls' *Lost & Found* Platforms with Lydia Bell & Kristin Juarez

Friday, June 11 at 5pm (ET): Film Premiere: Eiko Otake & Joan Jonas

Monday, June 14: On the Online Journal: Reggie Wilson: *...they stood shaking while others began to shout*

Monday, June 14 at 5pm (ET): Conversations Without Walls: Revisiting Reggie Wilson's *Dancing Platform*, *Praying Grounds* and Okwui Okpokwasili's *Utterances From the Chorus* with Lydia Bell & Kristin Juarez

Friday, June 18 at 5pm (ET): Film Premiere: Reggie Wilson

RSVP at [danspaceproject.org!](https://danspaceproject.org/)

Journal Issue #12: *The Dream of the Audience*
visit danspaceproject.org/journal

Mission & History

Danspace Project presents new work in dance, supports a diverse range of choreographers in developing their work, encourages experimentation, and connects artists to audiences.

For over 45 years, Danspace Project has supported a vital community of contemporary dance artists in an environment unlike any other in the United States. Located in the historic St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery, Danspace shares its facility with the Church, The Poetry Project, and New York Theatre Ballet. Danspace Project's Commissioning Initiative has commissioned over 570 new works since its inception in 1994.

Danspace Project's Choreographic Center Without Walls (CW²) provides context for audiences and increased support for artists. Our public programs (including Danspace Presents, Platforms, Food for Thought, DraftWork), Commissioning Initiative, residencies, guest artist curators, and contextualizing activities and materials are core components of CW² offering a responsive framework for artists' works. Since 2010, we have produced twelve Platforms, published thirteen print catalogues and five e-books, launched the Conversations Without Walls discussion series, and explored models for public discourse and residencies.

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Danspace Project's Online Journal

Ongoing with new posts weekly!

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Thanks to our Funders

Danspace Project's 2020-2021 Commissioning Initiative and Residency Program receives generous support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and The New York State Council on the Arts, as well as the generous individuals that support the Creation Fund.

Danspace Project's 2020-2021 season, including the DraftWork and Conversations Without Walls series, is presented, in part, with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council. Danspace Project programs are made possible in part through **public funds** from the National Endowment for the Arts; the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; the NYS DanceForce, a partnership program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council; and Materials for the Arts (a joint program of the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs and the Department of Sanitation).

Danspace Project extends special thanks to City Council Majority Leader and Cultural Affairs Committee Chair Jimmy Van Bramer, City Council Speaker Corey Johnson, New York State Senator Brad Hoylman, and State Assembly Member Deborah J. Glick for their advocacy and support.

Danspace Project gratefully acknowledges the **private support** of Anonymous; The Joseph and Joan Cullman Foundation for the Arts; Barbara Bell Cumming Foundation; Cultural Services of the French Embassy; Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation; Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; FUSED (French U.S. Exchange in Dance), a program developed by FACE Foundation and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States with support from the Florence Gould Foundation, the Ford Foundation, Institut français- Paris, the French Ministry of Culture

and private donors; Howard Gilman Foundation; The Harkness Foundation for Dance; Marta Heflin Foundation; the Jerome Foundation; Lambent Foundation Fund of the Tides Foundation; The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; Mertz Gilmore Foundation; The New York Community Trust; The Robert Rauschenberg Foundation; The Jerome Robbins Foundation; the James E. Robison Foundation; The Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Inc.; The Shubert Foundation; Joseph S. and Diane H. Steinberg Charitable Trust; and the Teiger Foundation.

Danspace Project is also appreciative of the support of individuals, including donors, Members at every level, and its 2020-2021 Leadership Circle, which includes Carol Bryce-Buchanan; Barbara Castelli; Terry Creach; Vallejo Gantner; Allyson Green; Gary Hattem & Frazier Holloway; Dorothy Lichtenstein; Glenn Ligon; Ellen & George Needham; Derek Sands; Martha Sherman; Christina Sterner; Lena Stringari; and David and Monica Zwirner.

Danspace Project receives additional support from the Barr Foundation, ExxonMobil Foundation, Google, Moody's Foundation, and The William Penn Foundation through matching gifts programs. Special thanks to the Mertz Gilmore Foundation and Community Funds, Inc. - LuEsther T. Mertz Advised Fund for support of equipment and technological upgrades.

Special thanks to the following supporters for their generosity in many forms throughout the years: Contact Quarterly, fleur elise bkl, Insomnia Cookies, Ozone Design, Paddle8, Pangea Restaurant, Porsena Restaurant, Sky Frame Inc., and Veniero's.

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