

Ensemble Sonne

Toshiko Oka (Ensemble Sonne)

Toshiko Oka is director of the dance group Ensemble Sonne, which is based in the Kansai region. A graduate from the Dance Department of Folkwang University in Germany, she premieres work annually while practicing the dance methods she mastered in Germany. She explores the existence of mankind and also creates improvisational solo dance in collaboration with musicians. She has participated in the Kazuo Ohno Festival every year since 2010. She staged her work as part of the European Capital of Culture season in Mons, Belgium, in 2015 as a participant in the Program of Overseas Study for Upcoming Artists, organized by the Agency for Cultural Affairs. She also participated in an artist residency organized by Salzburg, Austria. Her recent work includes The Green Table 2017, Kobe city Nagata culture Prize 2014, KOBE ART AWARD 2018, Kobe-city Cultural Award 2018.



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Review

“Mayoi/ Unsettled Mind” by Ensemble Sonne

by Mari Takeda, Dance Critique

Ensemble Sonne is a dance company producing unique works by putting into practice its solid methodological basis acquired in Germany. The dancers share the company’s common body language which vividly carries their pulsating life force across to the audience.

“Mayoi” or Unsettled Mind on the other hand is performed by five dancers. They don’t deny their genders - the female dancers are clad in dresses while the males wear shirts and trousers. While dancing, they reveal their individual core which refuses to be generalized as something abstract. Solo and duo dances are composed not only by well-composed steps but also a body language that is not confined to dancing. Out of this wide range of movements emerges a string of scenes one after another which seemingly reflects the complexity of human beings as a whole. This work piece does not suggest a direct association with any messages or stories.

Instead, the audience sees individual bodies making their undeniable mark on time at that very moment of their existence. This makes for a certain simple yet profound spell that can best be achieved by dance as a means of expression. Nanako Kaji, a contemporary ceramic artist, collaborates with Ensemble Sonne and livens up the stage with her paper craftwork.

Viewed at Kobe Art Village on 10 March 2018



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biography

- 1995 “Kastanie” - Tokyo, Itami, Nagoya
1996 Nominated to Les Rencontres Choregraphiques Internationales de Seine-Saint-Denis Yokohama Platform
1997 Improvisation – Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art (Toshiko Oka, Lighting: Genta Iwamura)
1998 Nominated to Les Rencontres Choregraphiques Internationales de Seine-Saint-Denis Yokohama Platform
1999 Moment in Dropping” - Tokyo, Kobe, Nagoya
2001 Improvisation - Germany (Toshiko Oka, Fritz Sitterle)
2002 Improvisation - Dusseldorf (Toshiko Oka, Fritz Sitterle)
2002 “Way in the Dark” - Tokyo, Kobe, Nagoya
2002 “Still Burning” - Tokyo, Kobe
2003 “ECHO” - Tokyo, Kobe
2004 Nominated to Toyota Choreography Award
2004 Nominated to Les Rencontres Choregraphiques Internationales de Seine-Saint-Denis Yokohama Platform
2004 Participation in Exhibition “running MARS” - Dusseldorf (Toshiko Oka, Fritz Sitterle)
2005 “Nebel land” - Tokyo, Kobe
2006 “Driving in a Nail” - Tokyo, Kobe, Nagoya
2006 Improvisation - Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art (Toshiko Oka, M.Inada, I.Matsui, K.Kameyama)
2006 “Nebel land” - Espace Culturel Bertin Poiree, Paris
2007 “Light, Wind, Ash and Mountain” - Tokyo, Kobe, Nagoya
2007 Improvisation - Aichi Arts Center (Toshiko Oka, Aki Takase)
2008 “Falkenschrei” - Tokyo, Kobe
2008 Improvisation - The National Museum of Art, Osaka (Toshiko Oka, Kazuhisa Uchihashi)
2008 Improvisation - Ashiya City Museum of Art and History (Toshiko Oka, Aki Takase)
2008 “Still moving” - Tokyo, Kobe, Nagoya
2009 Improvisation - Guggenheim House, Kobe (Toshiko Oka, Aki Takase, Louis Sclavis)
2009 Improvisation - Ashiya City Museum of Art and History (Toshiko Oka, Aki Takase, Nobuyoshi Ino)
2009 Improvisation - OAG-Haus, Kobe (Toshiko Oka, Aki Takase, Nobuyoshi Ino)
2010 Solo performance Red” / KOBE-Asia Contemporary Dance Festival - Art Theater dB KOBE
2010 Improvisation / Aichi Triennale 2010 tie-up event - SMBC park Sakae, Nagoya (Toshiko Oka, Megumi Nakamura, Masaru Kakio, Kazuhisa Uchihashi)
2010 “Fleeting Light” - Tokyo, Kobe
2010 Improvisation - Guggenheim House, Kobe (Toshiko Oka, Megumi Nakamura, Aki Takase)
2010 “Falkenschrei” / Theater Festival - Tottori
2010 Improvisation / Kazuo Ohno Festival 2010 - BankART1929, Yokohama (Toshiko Oka, Megumi Nakamura, Nobuyoshi Ino, Kazuo Imai)
2010 Improvisation - PlanB, Tokyo (Toshiko Oka, Megumi Nakamura, Nobuyoshi Ino, Kazuo Imai)
2011 “Still moving 2” - Kobe, Nagoya
2011 Improvisation / Kazuo Ohno Festival 2011 - Yokohama (Toshiko Oka, Nobuyoshi Ino)
2011 Session Performance with Thomas Duchatelet Company - Kobe
2011 “Still moving 2” - Tokyo
2011 Improvisation - Art Theater dB KOBE (Toshiko Oka, Aki Takase)
2012 “Place in the Moment” - Tokyo, Kobe, Nagoya
2012 Improvisation / Theater X International Performing Arts Festival 2012 - Theater X, Tokyo (Toshiko Oka, Nobuyoshi Ino)
2012 “Shiroi Yoru (White Night)” / Kazuo Ohno Festival 2012 – Yokohama (Toshiko Oka, Megumi Nakamura, Kazuo Imai)
2013 “Passive Silence” - Tokyo, Kobe, Nagoya
2013 “Memai” / Kazuo Ohno Festival 2013 - Yokohama (Toshiko Oka, Megumi Nakamura, Kazuhisa Uchihashi)
2013 Improvisation - Minatogawa tunnel, Kobe (Toshiko Oka, Masaru Kakio, Koji Itose)
2013 “Shiroi Yoru (White Night)” - Theater X, Tokyo (Toshiko Oka, Megumi Nakamura)
2014 Performance - Design and Creative Center Kobe
2014 “Falkenschrei” - Art Theater dB Kobe
2014 “Memai” - Striped House Gallery, Tokyo (Toshiko Oka, Nobuyoshi Ino)
2014 “Mayoi” - Tokyo, Kobe, Nagoya
2015 The Operating Theater / Dance Archive Project (DAP) 2015 - Yokohama (Toshiko Oka, Masaru Kakio)
2015 “Memai”/Mons 2015“JAPAN MOVE”-Mons,Belgium (Toshiko Oka, Koji Itose, Jean Paul Bredif)
2015 THE CURRENT “FLYING CLASSROOM” -Tokyo, Kobe
2016 “Tonari no Signal”d-Soko Dance Festival 20 - Tokyo
2017 “The Fog” - Kobe, Tokyo
2017 “The Green Table 2017” - Kobe
2017 “There are pictures, there is sound, The body is here.” gallery feel art zero, Nagoya (Toshiko Oka, Wolfgang Seierl)
2017 THE CURRENT “FLYING CLASSROOM” - Kobe, Tottori
2017 The Operating Theater / Dance Archive Project (DAP) 2017 - Kobe (Toshiko Oka, Masaru Kakio)
2018 “Memai / Mayoi” - Kobe, Yokohama
2018 “The Green Table 2017” - Nagoya, Tokyo
2019 “The Green Table 2017” - Kobe
2019 “Song of Innocence”/ Presented by The TARO singers - Kobe
2019 “Song of Innocence”/Ensemble Sonne's version of Ohno Kazuo and Ohno Yoshito's original work, “Water Lilies”. - Kobe

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Website : [Japanese] <http://ensemblesonne.com/>

[English] <http://ensemblesonne-en.jimdo.com/> (Under Construction)