

Art Installation and Performance

K A N G E N
還源

Reunited
with
Nature

KANGEN

Reunited with Nature
Performance Details

Prepared by: Aoi Yamaguchi, Japanese
Calligrapher

October 2010

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Overview

Japanese artists now living in San Francisco, New York, and Sweden explore the theme of KANGEN -Reunited with Nature- through installation and live art performance in hopes to embody human distinctions celebrate the natural order of life.

On the night of the reception, KANGEN -Reunited with Nature- features a collaborative live performance by a Japanese calligrapher Aoi Yamaguchi, contemporary dancer Mika Yanagihara, textile artist Hiroko Tsuchimoto, video artist Martin Söderblom, and music producer Zaion. Artists transcribe their visualization of reincarnation, “from rebirth to death,” through physical movement of live calligraphy and contemporary dance performance.

KANGEN -Reunited with Nature- is the second series of CHISEKI -Traces of Nature-, which was held in New York in March 2010, directed by Aoi Yamaguchi, Hiroko Tsuchimoto, and curated by Tokio Kuniyoshi.

Artists

Aoi Yamaguchi | Japanese Calligraphy Exhibition / Live Performance (San Francisco)

Hiroko Tsuchimoto | Textile installation (Sweden)

Martin Söderblom | Film Projection (Sweden)

Mika Yanagihara | Contemporary Dance performance (New York)

Zaion | Music Producer (Tokyo)

Links

Aoi Yamaguchi <http://www.glamorousmonochrome.com>

Hiroko Tsuchimoto <http://www.hirokotsuchimoto.com/>

Mika Yanagihara <http://pnovoroldance.com/performers.html>

Zaion <http://zaionrecordings.com/>



Live improvisational performance at CHISEKI -Traces of Nature- in NYC, March 2010 | [VIEW PHOTOS](#)



Aoi Yamaguchi writes calligraphy on Mika Yanagihara as canvas at KANGEN -Reunited with Nature- in San Francisco, November 2010 | [VIEW PHOTOS](#)

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Theme

還源

薄弱な光明の中
薄れて行く意識とともに増して行くのは
不確かな暗闇

穏やかな鼓動を聴きながら
薄れて行く光とともに鮮やかになっていくのは
肌に染みていく熱

土の中へと沈んで行く
深く、深く

大地とひとつになる
果てなく、果てなく

大地の鼓動を聴く
大地の鼓動と自分の鼓動をゆっくりと重ねる

大地の呼吸を聴く
大地の呼吸と自分の呼吸をゆっくりと合わせる

生命の生まれた源へ還っていく

それは退化や消滅ではなく
それは私たちが息づくところ

生命が生まれる場所から
生命が還っていく場所へ

新たないのちがそこで生まれる。

KANGEN *Reunited with Nature*

Within the dim ray of light
As consciousness gradually fades away
Enveloped in hazy darkness

Hearing the heart calmly pulse
As the light grows dimmer and dimmer
Senses sharpen, feeling the warmth vividly on my skin

Sinking into the soil
Deeper, deeper

United with the Earth
Infinitely, infinitely

Listening to the Earth's heart beating
Slowly syncing the Earth's rhythm with mine

Listening to the Earth breathing
Syncing the Earth's breathing with mine

Returning to the origin of life
A spiral of reincarnation

This is not decomposition or disappearance
This is where all lives rejuvenate

From the place where a life is born
To the place where a life has returned

A place where new lives are born to witness the world

—

Words by Aoi Yamaguchi & Hiroko Tsuchimoto
English translation by Aoi Yamaguchi & Andrew Capistrano

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About Aoi Yamaguchi

Born and raised in Hokkaido, Japan in 1984, Aoi Yamaguchi has been trained to master the basics of calligraphy by learning under the Master since at the age of 6, while refining her knowledge and skills. She is a recipient of numerous awards including the First Place prize from the Minister of Education at 44th Asahi Calligraphy Nationwide School Exhibit, Superior First Place at 33rd National Students Calligraphy Exhibition and others that are known as the supreme prizes at competitive public exhibitions. As a noteworthy event, she was nominated to participate in the group, 4th Hokkaido Elementary and Junior High Students Visit to China in 2000, representing the country of Japan and participated in calligraphy exchange sessions at Palace of Pupils of China, known as the sanctuary of special education for brilliant children. Landed in the United States in 2004, she is determined in her

indomitable endeavor to popularize and develop the art of calligraphy worldwide. Her works show her exploration in juxtaposing the traditional Eastern classics and her contemporary artistic expressions, as well as her unique ambition of transforming two-dimensional art of Japanese Calligraphy into the art of physical expression through performances. Currently living in Oakland, she has been working on her unique calligraphy installation, exhibition, live performances, custom logo designs and art works internationally, as she pursues her career to preserve traditional arts with music in the modern world.



About Hiroko Tsuchimoto

Hiroko Tsuchimoto is an artist living in Stockholm. She works with different media, such as textile, video and even her body. A concept, "One man's trash is another man's treasure" is always behind her works. Born in Sapporo, Japan in 1984. She graduated from Konstfack (Textile in the Expanded Field: MFA) this spring and now studies in Royal University College of Fine Arts (KKH) as a Guest Student.

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About Mika Yanagihara

Mika Yanagihara has trained modern, ballet, jazz, contemporary since started her training by modern ballet when she was 2 years old. In 1997-1998, she won scholarship at Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance in New York. Mika has a vast range of experience such as performing on television, musical, world expo, music video, and fashion.

Since 2007, she has been directing total art entertainment "KAGUYA" which she founded in Japan and also teaching and choreographing for the past 9 years. She is currently dancing with Diane McCarthy, Patricia Noworol Dance Company, and 277danceproject.



About Zaion

Born in Toyama, Japan, Zaion was raised with a classical music background, then he gravitated towards creating hip hop. Zaion is an avid traveler, he aims to mesh cultural textures with lush musical landscapes with his main tool: the MPC2000XL. His long-awaited debut album "Nomadic Journals" was released in December 2009. After his musical and cultural exploration in San Francisco for several years, he now lives and works in Tokyo.

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PRESS



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“Kangen: Reunited with Nature”


Daily from Fri., November 19 until Sat., December 11

Fivepoints Arthouse
Price: free-\$5

Right in Front of Your Eyes

By Hiya Swanhuysen

Aoi Yamaguchi is a performance calligrapher. Wielding a big brush (or two), she turns music way up loud, a crowd gathers, and she writes on someone's shirt. Or the floor. Or the wall. To the beat. Tonight, as part of “**Kangen: Reunited with Nature**,” Yamaguchi's soulful take on traditional Japanese art is echoed by her performance compatriots, New York dancer Mika Yanagihara and Swedish textile artist Hiroko Tsuchimoto. Each one, at this opening reception, uses live art to express a vision of “rebirth to death.” We love that Yanagihara's extensive movement training and Tsuchimoto's hallmark woolly bulbs are as unexpectedly suited to the expression of such a span as art-writing is.



The opening reception and performance for “Kangen: Reunited with Nature” starts at 7 p.m.

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Location

Fivepoints Arthouse
72 Tehama (at Second St.); San Francisco CA

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Aoi Yamaguchi
Japanese Calligraphy

Contact Information

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