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“Leave Nothing Behind.”

A Conversation between Alanna Heiss and Min Tanaka

Born in 1945 Japan, Min Tanaka is one of the world's leading Butoh dancers and choreographers. Trained in classical ballet and modern dance, Tanaka was a student of Butoh's founder, Tatsumi Hijikata, and has been performing internationally for over three decades. P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center has hosted various performances by Tanaka, including his legendary 1978 dance on the snowy rooftop of the Clocktower Gallery. In an interview with P.S.1 Director and longtime friend, Alanna Heiss, Min Tanaka spoke about his role and commitment to Butoh dance.

Alanna Heiss: Your performances in the nude earned you a lot of praise, but also caused a lot of controversy—you were expelled from the Modern Dance Association! Did this negative action force you to view dance differently and ultimately lead you to Butoh?

Min Tanaka: For me, dancing has always been a sort of escape from the prevailing society, as well as a decomposition of myself. I think that one can secure freedom for dance

expression only if one can freely move in and out of society. I believe Butoh's significance has always been supported uniquely in this sense.

AH: Butoh is as much a mental dance as it is a physical one. It may be accurate to compare the amount of exertion and concentration in your performances to that of an athlete. Have you ever been interested and/or involved in sports?

MT: I was actually a basketball player in college and a candidate for the Japanese Olympic team but I was pushed out of the competition. “Death” is my only ambition. My dance, as well as my own self, is characterized by a certain excessiveness and concentration that nurtures my admiration for my predecessors, who may often be invisible. My attempt to extend the horizon of a fleeting moment could have something in common with sports, though in Butoh, there are no goals to attain or any expectations of remuneration.

AH: As you may know, we both have farms—I have Roe Farm in Long Island and you have the Body Weather Farm, though yours also serves as a dance studio, where Butoh dancers work, practice, and live. Tell me more about this farm, and how it came to be.

MT: In the 1970s I was struck with the idea of connecting the body with weather. This allowed me to extend my imagination



Dream Island, Bay of Tokyo, 1977. Gelatin silver print, 290x430cm. Courtesy Masato Okada Estate.

and creative activities. Then in the 1980s, body, weather, and farming became reality in words, as well as in terms of the way we live—these are all primordial terms. Yet at the same time, at the present moment, don't they also imply a very forward-looking direction for humanity? I think that those who offer themselves to Butoh—are capable of accepting and perceiving pain and joy at the same time.

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An Angel's Vanishing Point

by Kazue Kobata

Every time I arrived at the performance site, Masato Okada would quietly appear out of nowhere and come closer, holding his Hasselblad in his left hand and rubbing the camera body. He'd say, “Maido (thanks again)!” His dark pupils would give a sharp glance at me, and a moment later, they were turned somewhere else. “It's #S&@ today, isn't it?” or something, he'd say with a heavy Western-Japan accent.

Whenever I learned that Masato Okada would photograph Min's dance, the first thing that came to my mind—before the actual shooting—was his vantage point. To be honest, it was a somewhat odd idea that he would take a portrait of a dancer or a person. The

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Spotlight on Italian artists

by Sarah Scandiffo

P.S.1 has a long tradition of recognizing the unique artistic processes and working methods of contemporary Italian artists. In 1998, for the first time in P.S.1 history, Michelangelo Pistoletto occupied and transformed the entire museum as his solo exhibition space. Curator Achille Bonito

able to process the film at their own pace and digest its complex contents. Ideally this should be projected in a cinema.

The exhibition *Fassbinder: Berlin Alexanderplatz*, which originated in Berlin and traveled to New York, is available in the museum

Fassbinder Berlin Alexanderplatz

by Klaus Biesenbach



P.S.1 Actions and Events



The Young Architects Program: *Liquid Sky*



Art Radio WPS1.org broadcast boat.



Antoine Guerrero interviews Malik Sidibé at the Biennale.

Recap: Warm Up 2007

This summer's 11th annual Warm Up Music Series was a rousing success. Each Saturday, from June to September, up to 5,000 visitors arrived to lounge in the communal hammocks of Los Angeles architectural firm Ball-Nogues's Young Architect Program installation, *Liquid Sky*, listen to live music in the courtyard, and explore exhibitions in the P.S.1 galleries. Early in the day, visitors witnessed experimental acts such as Bubblyfish, who "played" Nintendo Game Boys, the Dewanatron brothers with their homemade synthesizers, and Eric Singer's LEMUR—The League of Electronic Musical Urban Robots, which consisted of instruments played by mechanical "robots." The day's line-up continued with live bands and DJ sets, which included memorable performances by the band Flaming Fire, who were joined on stage by a choir attired in masks and togas; legendary video art and experimental music band Psychic TV led by Throbbing Gristle's Genesis Breyer P-Orridge; and the Bronx teenage DJ duo, the Martinez Brothers. The 2007 season closed with a big bash—the Brooklyn/Pittsburgh Underground Rock Celebration of Oneida's 10 year anniversary, which rocked the P.S.1 stage with the Ex-Models, Dirty Faces, DJ Fitz and the Mighty Robot AV Squad, and many other surprise guests. Log onto www.wps1.org to catch all the live recordings of Warm Up 2007.

Art Radio in Venice

We teased you in our last issue with a drawing of the design for our broadcast boat in advance of the 52nd Annual International Art Exhibition also known as the 2007 Venice Biennale. Above is a photo of the finished vessel. Over the course of a week in June, during the opening of the Biennale, P.S.1 set up a radio station, catered lounge, and party headquarters on the Venetian waterfront just outside the Giardini. The boat was lavishly decorated as a lounge by the Italian fashion house Malo. Our radio crew built a completely operational recording and broadcasting station onboard. Aside from our Internet streamcasts we also broadcast on local FM for 24 hours a day for seven days. Selected segments went national! P.S.1 staff members hosted programs featuring a range of art world characters and topics drawn from the participants and visitors at the Biennale. We also benefited from a program partnership with the Perna Foundation (principle sponsors of the effort and producers of a wonderful series on art in the Mediterranean basin). The Palazzo delle Arti Napoli also supported the project and provided additional programs on the Balkans, Sicilian art, Italian new media and more. All of this is available on demand on the Venice Biennale 2007 page on WPS1.org. Programs include Egyptian electronic music, an art quiz show, Israeli sound art, a virtual Indonesian Pavilion, and Italian hip hop plus interviews with participants in the Albanian, Georgian, Tahitian, Turkish, and Venezuelan pavilions, as well as conversations with Robert Storr, Carolee Schneemann, Paolo Canevari, Sophie Calle, Daniel Buren, Andrea Bellini, Kara Walker, Achille Bonita Oliva, Vasif Kortun, and many more.

E/AB Opening Night Gala

Excitement is building for the November 1st Opening Night Gala of the Editions/Artists' Book Fair benefiting Art Radio WPS1.org. Always a great night for a great cause, the Fair's Preview Gala will unfold from 5 to 8 p.m. at the ex-Chelsea hotspot, The Tunnel (261 Eleventh Avenue at 27th Street, NYC).

Now in its tenth year, the Editions/Artists' Book Fair has grown in size and stature to become the premier showcase for contemporary publishers and dealers presenting the latest and greatest in prints, multiples, and artists' books. The Opening Night Gala serves as a sneak preview of the E/AB Fair.

The spectacular musical line-up includes performances by LEMUR, who recently played this year's Warm Up series to rave reviews, and DJ Jeannie Hopper, host of the Liquid Lounge on WBAI and many programs on Art Radio WPS1.org. Cocktails and beverages have been graciously provided by 10 Cane, Blue Point Brewing Co., Sierra Nevada Brewing Co., and GuS—Grown-Up Soda.

Special thanks go to this year's E/AB Benefit Host Committee: Jaishri Abichandani, Sarah Basile, Phong Bui, Kent and Marguerite Charugundia, Dana Farouki, Gandalf Gavan, Jeannie Hopper, David Humphrey, Jaime Johnson, Kayrock & Wolfy, Lisa Kirk, Zach Layton, Kalup Linzy, Prema Murthy, Althea Vifora-Kress, Kate Werble, Saman Westberg, and Arden Wohl for their dedication to making the night a success.

Tickets are \$50 and are available online at www.ticketweb.com or in person at P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center. Tickets will also be available for purchase the day of the event. Hope you can make it!!

Olafur Eliasson Arrives at P.S.1 in April 2008



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