

EIKO OTAKE

I Invited Myself, vol.III

November 9, 2023 – March 24, 2024



Eiko Otake, *A Night With Moths*, 2019

17 min.
Camera by Rebekkah Palov

“Rebekkah Palov filmed *With Mother In Twilight*, 2019 and *A Night With Moths*, 2019 at the same location on the same evening, just hours apart. In both videos, her camera work is intuitive: one long, un-edited take. My favorite way. Though we communicate in advance, once we start, I like to be surprised by how each cinematographer films me.”
—Eiko



Eiko & Koma, *Lament*, 1985

8 min. 5 sec.
Camera by James Byrne
Edited by James Byrne and Eiko Otake
Sound design by Eiko Otake

“Early on, Koma and I understood that in order to be effective, we needed to choreograph a dance specifically for the camera. Realizing that video is inherently flat while dance is three-dimensional, we looked for ways to make a composition that emphasized depth.” —Eiko



Eiko & Koma, *Undertow*, 1988

6 min. 30 sec.

Camera by James Byrne

Music by Ushio Torikai

Edited by James Byrne with Eiko Otake

"Koma and I began performing naked in 1983. Stating 'stones, whales and grasshoppers are all naked,' we created many pieces and wore no costume. Then, we extended that to our media works. Created in collaboration with James Byrne in the 1980's, when many of our colleagues died of AIDS, these pieces are choreographed and performed specifically for camera. Realizing that video is inherently flat while body and time are multi-dimensional, Koma and I used on-site monitors and playback technology to compose our bodies within the video frame to emphasize depth of space and our bodies. While editing these films, our focus was to present the enduring and existential continuity of time." —Eiko



Eiko Otake with John Killacky, *Elegies*, 2019

9 min. 15 sec.

Camera and editing by Brian Stevenson with John Killacky and Eiko Otake

"For a long time, John was my presenter/curator friend. But I also knew that he creates video pieces and that we were both born in 1952. The death of a mutual friend made us closer and for this video we shared our eulogies to our mothers, an intimate experience. I had never spoken in my work before and I would not have without John's encouragement." —Eiko



Eiko Otake with DonChristian Jones, *Visit*, 2020

6 min. 20 sec.

Camera by Eiko Otake and DonChristian Jones

Edited by Eiko Otake

"DonChristian Jones and I have worked closely since 2016. I invited him to perform live with me on several occasions for my Duet Project. He has filmed and painted me, and we had public conversations on stage and in writing. In addition to *Soak* and *Visit*, DonChristian and I created several video duets. All of the duets made me feel that working with a younger collaborator is my 'practice of dying.'" —Eiko



Eiko Otake, *With Mother In Twilight*, 2019

3 min. 26 sec.

Camera by Rebekkah Palov

"Rebekkah Palov filmed *With Mother In Twilight*, 2019 and *A Night With Moths*, 2019 at the same location on the same evening, just hours apart. In both videos, her camera work is intuitive: one long, un-edited take. My favorite way. Though we communicate in advance, once we start, I like to be surprised by how each cinematographer films me. Following my mother's death in February 2019, I began dancing a duet with a large-sized print of my mother in her coffin. I made this film in the woods in upstate New York. I see this as my first duet with my deceased mother." —Eiko



Eiko Otake with Wen Hui, *Stone Wall*, 2020

4 min. 20 sec.
Camera by Wen Bin

“Wen Hui is a choreographer and filmmaker who is considered a pioneer of contemporary dance in China. Friends since 1995, we co-created a film *No Rule Is Our Rule* that documented our time together in China in January 2020 at the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. This footage was our last duet before my hastened departure. We are committed to collaborate again.” —Eiko



Eiko Otake with Merián Soto, *Fools*, 2019

4 min. 42 sec.
Camera by Connor Lifson
Edited by Eiko Otake with Merian Soto

“Merián lives, teaches, and works in Philadelphia. I am from Japan and she is from Puerto Rico. We are both mothers of two grown sons. Since 2017, Merian and I have spent time together in creative residencies and produced performances and media works together. To make work, we say, ‘What the heck,’ and ‘Just do it.’” —Eiko



Eiko Otake with Kyoko Hayashi, *Ahhh*, 2023

3 min.
Written and edited by Eiko Otake

“Kyoko Hayashi (1930–2017) was a writer and Nagasaki atomic-bomb survivor who I admire deeply. In 2010, I translated and published her work, *From Trinity to Trinity*. I was her younger friend. When we were upset, we used to talk for hours, so I decided to cry with her in this newest piece with no visual image. This is the first media work I have ever produced relying solely on my voice without engaging visual images.” —Eiko



Eiko Otake with DonChristian Jones, *Soak*, 2018

5 min.
Camera by DonChristian, Jones, Inci Eviner, Merián Soto
Edited by Eiko Otake