

“I hope my body can be a conduit to connect different places. I remain a foreigner because I didn’t come here to assimilate, I came here to work, to find who I am and what I can offer to the viewers. I want to make works only a performer can make.” –Eiko Otake

For nearly four decades, interdisciplinary artist Eiko Otake has worked outside of the traditional expectations of dance, what it is and where it can happen. Using slow movements that are at once spontaneous and deliberate—something that the artist calls “the poetics of oddness”—Otake creates dances with and in places. Through this process she explores how the body affects and is affected by its surroundings.

I Invited Myself, vol. II is Otake’s first solo-museum exhibition and presents new and recent works. The title of the exhibition alludes to the artist’s resistance to ceding control of her work’s presentation to an institution and her insistence on a collaborative and dialogic process. Attentive to the specificities of Colorado Springs and the architecture of the El Pomar galleries at the Fine Arts Center, the works in this exhibition feature Otake’s engagement with various places, many of which bear the marks of economic and ecological crisis: the dense cityscapes of Tokyo and New York; irradiated Fukushima; and the vast landscapes of Wyoming and California, including the site of former Japanese internment camps in Manzanar. In addition, objects related to the performances are placed within the galleries, gesturing toward the resonant histories of material that is invoked in Otake’s work.

Visitors are strongly encouraged to return to the exhibition as certain works will rotate on April 5 and June 21 in accordance with the changing seasons.

Eiko Otake: I Invited Myself, vol. II is curated by the artist, Katja Rivera, Curator of Contemporary Art, and Ryan Platt, Associate Professor of Performance Studies in the Department of Theater & Dance at Colorado College with support from Savannah Pennell, Curatorial Paraprofessional and Elise Butterfield, Independent Curator. The exhibition was designed by Jonathan Dankenbring, Exhibition Designer and Preparator Manager with support from JD Sell, Preparator. Artwork care and installation support was provided by Christian Valvano, Assistant Registrar; and Brittany Hall, Assistant Collections Manager. Alie Ehrensaft, Museum Education Manager, supported academic programming. Stormy Burns provided administrative support. Support of the exhibition is generously provided by The Anschutz Foundation and Colorado Creative Industries.