

# TALKING ABOUT MY GRANDFATHER



Photo by Julie Lemberger

This recent presentation I did with William Johnston at Asia Society on November 18 was new to me. It was about painter Chikuha Otake, my grandfather who died 16 years before I was born. I did not have any personal memory or much knowledge about his work, but I grew up with his paintings and also knew he had a scandalous reputation.

So it was great to learn that the exhibition at the Asia Society, *Meiji Modern: Fifty Years of New Japan*, includes his painting. Having been invited to give a presentation about Chikuha, I did more research. Reading his essays and seeing more of his paintings made me curious. Reciting his essays in public made me feel connected to his thoughts. I found new photos and created videos for this occasion. The process was a journey and reminded me how I actually grew up with his paintings.

If you have time to watch this video, you will meet my grandfather. Learning about Chikuha made me realize again how each artist is conditioned in a particular society and by its history. I got a better understanding of his shortcomings and overt passion, which I also find in myself.

It is hard to think about the past when the world now constantly demands our attention. However, engaging in matters of the past could offer the benefit of distance and with it a new appreciation of our commonality.

As always, Bill was a great collaborator. I can push any button on Bill and so much historical knowledge rushes out. Thank you to Bill and his wife, art historian Ikumi Kaminishi, for their guidance. A deep thank you to Yasufumi Nakamori, Rachel Copper, Min Benjamin-Hong, Diya Radhakrishna, and the staff and crew at Asia Society for all of your support. —Eiko

[Watch the Video](#)

# KOMA AT DANSPACE PROJECT



Photo by Yuki

## Choreographer's Notes

***You* by Koma Otake**  
**Danspace Project**  
**Dec 14-16, 2023 | 7:30PM**  
**Tickets: \$20 | \$10 for Danspace**  
**Members**

**Open Dress Rehearsal\***  
**Tuesday, Dec 12 | 7:30PM**

This is Koma's second solo work that he has been working on for the past two years. We hope to see you in the audience at Danspace.

\*About Open Dress Rehearsal: Tuesday evening's dress rehearsal will be free with RSVP and open to the public at limited-capacity. Open dress rehearsals are a mask-required, community-minded program prioritizing our immunocompromised and low-income audiences. Staff and audiences will be required to wear masks (N95 or KN95).



[Get Tickets](#)

# EIKO AND WEN HUI

[Watch the Trailer](#)



Video still from *No Rule Is Our Rule*

## ***No Rule Is Our Rule* Screening Asia Society Theater**

**Sat, Dec 9, 2023 | 3-5PM**

**Tickets: \$8 Members, \$15 Non-Members**

Join us for a New York premiere screening of award-winning film *No Rule Is Our Rule* by Eiko Otake and Wen Hui. They candidly tell the stories of their decades-long friendship and their histories as two independent female artists.

The film screening will be followed by a discussion with the artists themselves, and Yiru Chen, who joined Eiko and Wen Hui in editing. Zhen Zhang, Professor in the Department of Cinema Studies at NYU Tisch and founding Director of the Asian Film and Media Initiative, will moderate the conversation. This event marks Wen Hui's first return to New York since 2018.

*No Rule Is Our Rule* has been selected by Sans Souci Festival of Dance Cinema, Munich New Wave Film Festival, and WRPN Women's International Film Festival, and the film won Best Feature Documentary at the Japan International Film Festival.

[Tickets](#)

[Read a Review](#)

## **EXHIBITIONS IN PHILADELPHIA**

# *I Invited Myself, vol. III*

"Otake is telling a story with her body, and it is one she wants you to be a part of...Her goal is to engage with you, whether she is physically in the space with you or not. In our hurried world, she invites you to linger, to watch, and return to watch again. Will you take the time?" —Ellen Miller, [\*ThinkingDance\*](#)

[Read a Review](#)



Photo by Constance Mensh

***A Body***  
**Asian Arts Initiative**  
**1219 Vine Street**  
**Closing December 9, 2023**

[More Info](#)

***Duets***  
**The Fabric Workshop and Museum**  
**1214 Arch Street**  
**On view until March 24, 2024**



Photo by Eiko Otake

[More Info](#)

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