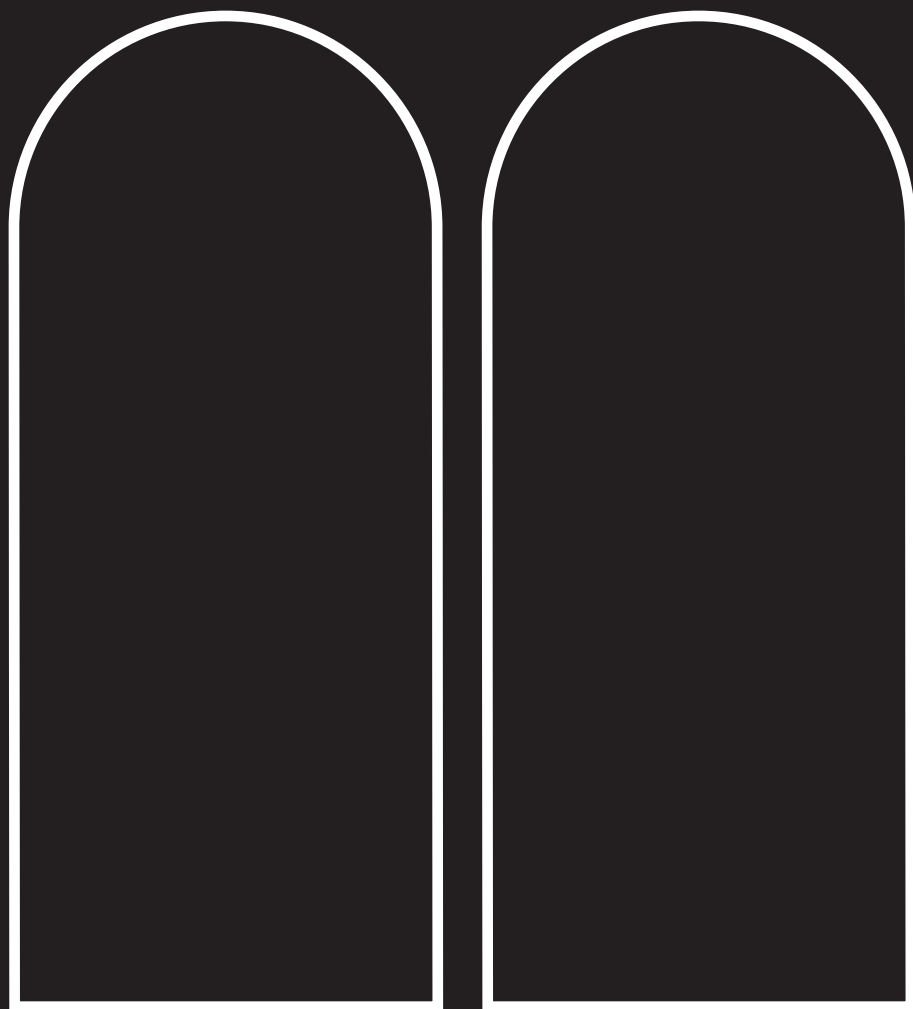

EIKO OTAKE: A BODY IN A CEMETERY
SEPTEMBER 26 & 27, 2020
PIONEER WORKS & THE GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY

GRAVEYARD SHIFT



EIKO OTAKE

A BODY IN A CEMETERY

CONCEIVED AND PERFORMED BY: Eiko Otake

DRAMATURG: Iris McCloughan

CURATORS: Gabriel Florenz and Harry Weil

“Facing away from the burnt field of N City in the autumn wind, the grave markers of the two girls were surrounded by many grave markers. They stood side by side in the breeze.”

—Kyoko Hayashi, “Two Grave Markers”

Kyoko Hayashi (1930–2017) was a close friend of the artist. Hayashi wrote volumes of work on her experience of the atomic bombing in Nagasaki.

A NOTE FROM EIKO OTAKE

Thank you for coming to Green-Wood Cemetery, and for walking to the site of the performance today. I am grateful to be with you in open air, after many months of not publicly performing. Also with us are the dead from past centuries, including many whose graves were never built, and the land that precedes us all.

I am grateful for being seen and seeing you. There have been so many upsets and unknowns. In coming here to rehearse and to perform, I made a point of leaving my upsets at the gate, promising myself to pick them up on my way home. I appreciate your respect for the quiet nature of the place and the performance.

Special thanks to my assistant Allison Hsu, dramaturg Iris McCloughan, and photographer William Johnston. Thank you to curators Gabriel Florenz and Harry Weil, as well as the entire staff and volunteers of Green-Wood Cemetery and Pioneer Works. On behalf of Inta Inc, I also thank the funding agencies that have supported my work, including the New State Council for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

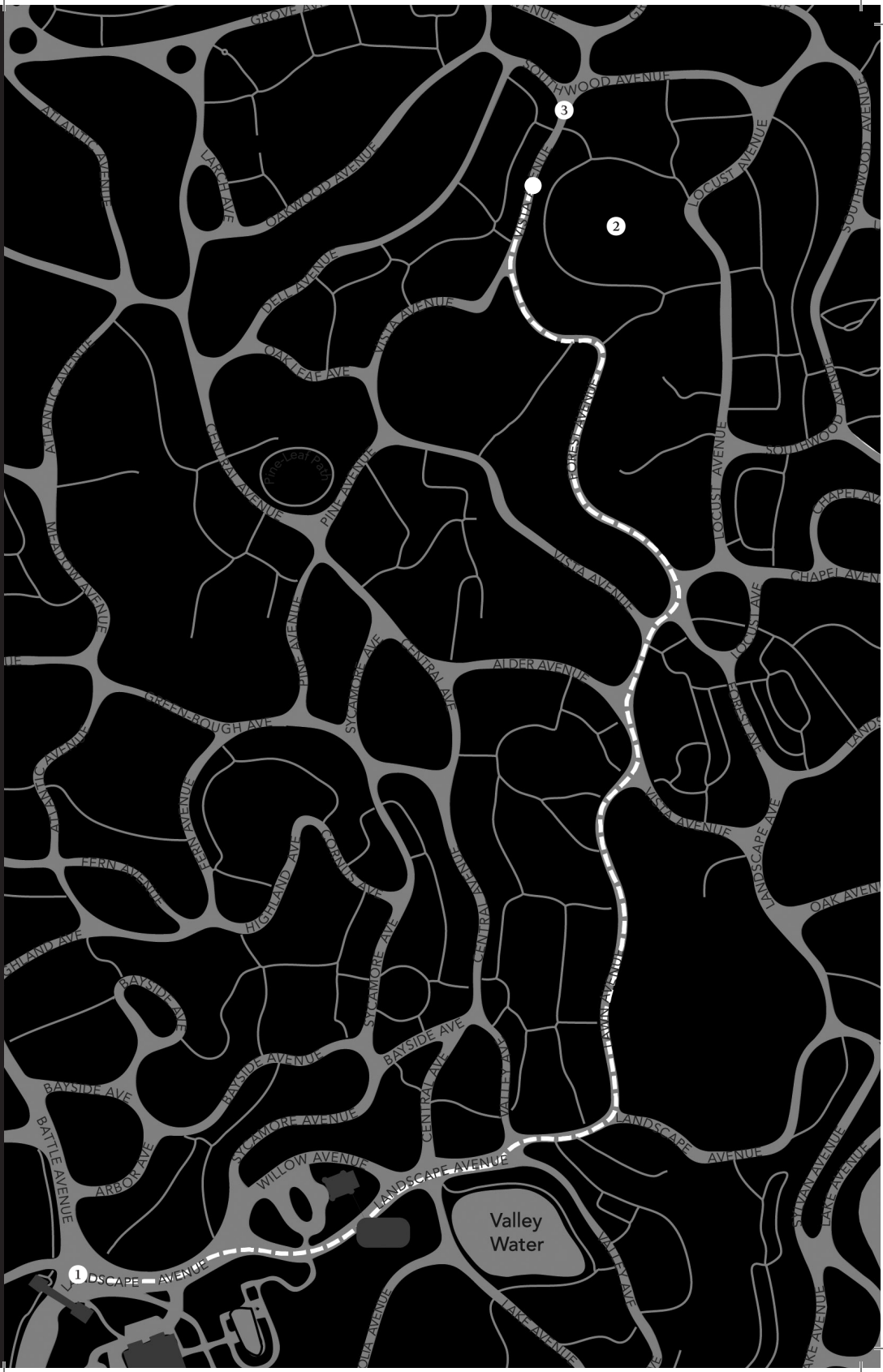
—Eiko

LEGEND

① ENTRANCE

② PERFORMANCE SITE

③ BATHROOMS



1

2

3

Valley
Water

ABOUT THE SERIES

Nineteenth century American cemeteries were social spaces where visitors picnicked on laws and leisurely strolled down meandering paths. In the last century, however, they have become more utilitarian in nature, lacking public engagement beyond funerals and memorialization. *Graveyard Shift* proposes a new way of interacting with the space of the cemetery by activating it through sight, sound, and movement. The storied landscape and monuments of Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery serve as reference points for this site-specific series of performances.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Raised in Japan and a resident of New York since 1976, Eiko Otake is a movement-based, interdisciplinary artist. She performed for more than 40 years as part of the duo Eiko & Koma, but has been working on her own projects since 2014. Eiko has performed her solo project *A Body in Places* in over 60 sites, including Danspace Project (2016) and the Metropolitan Museum of Art (2017). She has collaborated with photographer William Johnston to document her lone performance in irradiated Fukushima. Since March 2020, Eiko has been working on a new project titled *Virtual Studio*, hosted by Wesleyan University. For more information about the artist, please visit eikootake.org.

PIONEER WORKS

Pioneer Works is a cultural center based in Red Hook, Brooklyn that is devoted to building community through the arts and sciences. Through a broad range of educational programs, performances, residencies, and exhibitions, Pioneer Works transcends disciplinary boundaries to foster a community where alternative modes of thought are activated and supported. We strive to make culture accessible to all.

THE GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY

Founded in 1838 as one of America's first rural cemeteries, the Green-Wood Cemetery soon developed an international reputation for its magnificent beauty and became the fashionable place to be buried. By 1860, it was attracting 500,000 visitors a year, rivaling Niagara Falls as the country's greatest tourist attraction. This popularity helped inspire the creation of public parks, including New York City's Central and Prospect Parks. Green-Wood's diverse set of public programs include art installations, concerts in the Catacombs, book talks, walking and trolley tours, workforce development training in masonry restoration, Social Studies-aligned school programs, environmental justice workshops, and much more.

MANDATORY PROTOCOLS

- ◆ Face coverings must be worn at all times ◆
 - ◆ Maintain 6 feet from other visitors and Cemetery staff and ambassadors ◆
 - ◆ Complete a health questionnaire in advance of the performance ◆
 - ◆ Sit only in designated areas and follow directions given by Cemetery staff and ambassadors ◆
 - ◆ Please refrain from taking photographs and videos during the performance ◆
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