

## PROVOKED

Koma and I, for the first time, performed our solos back to back on April 20 in the entrance lobby of the Modern wing of Art Institute Chicago. This was somewhat significant for our many decades of performing together. Since 2014, I had many solo performances in different cities. Last summer the American Dance Festival presented each of our solos two months apart, and our long time friend David White presented both of our solos in the same week at the Yard on different days and at different locations. But in Chicago our solos were 15 feet apart spatially and 7 min apart time-wise. What prompted us to put our solos so close was the photo exhibition, [PROVOKE: Photography in Japan between Protest and Performance, 1960-1975](#), currently on view at Art Institute Chicago, closing this weekend. We were invited to perform in "response to" this exhibition, which contained our youth, inspirations, and political and aesthetic backgrounds.

This exhibition presents the works not only of the photographers who created the short-lived yet widely influential photo magazine Provoke, but also of the preceding and younger generations of the radical photographers. The exhibition was constructed with three connected parts: Provoke, Performances, and Protests. It illuminated how the inspirations, experiments, and influences of these artists were deeply connected to the actively staged political protests and newly expanded notions of performances.

When the earliest photo of the exhibition was taken, we were children. In the photos of late 60's and early 70's that are the heat of the exhibition, any young man and woman on the streets and in protests could have been Koma or me. I also remember seeing these photos, not in the galleries or in expensive photo books, but in inexpensive magazines and on the agitation-filled-walls of the students-occupied universities. Thus, we were both the subjects and the susceptible viewers of works by these energetic artists, one or two generations our senior. As such we were "provoked" for life.

Koma and I truly appreciated this occasion to experience the rigorously curated exhibition by Diane Dufour, Duncan Forbes, Walter Moser, and Matthew S. Witkovsky, and the vivid memories and reflections that were again "provoked" by the photos and talks in the gallery. Thanks to the performing curators who brought us there. [See photos of our performances.](#)



Photos by Matt Dula Photography

## COMING UP...

**Koma's first solo New York Season:  
The Ghost Festival**



Photo by Matt Dula

May 11-13 | 7pm preview, 8pm show  
Danspace Project, 131 East 10th Street

This multi-disciplinary solo project combines an immersive set and live performance to honor the connection between past and present. Each night Koma will present a free 5-minute preview at 7pm open to the public and the ticketed performance begins at 8pm. [Tickets here.](#)

### **Kitchen Table Translation: Migration, Diaspora, Exchange**

May 4 | 6:30pm

McNally Jackson Books, 52 Prince Street, New York, NY

Eiko's translation of Kyoko Hayashi's [From Trinity to Trinity](#) brought this exciting, rare invitation to join the panel of translators at 2017 PEN World Voices Festival. Moderated by Madhu Kaza, the panelists Dagmawi Woubshet, Amy Sara Carroll, and Eiko will talk about the collision of texts and bodies through the perspectives of immigrants and diaspora.

This event is free and open to the public. [RSVP here.](#)

### **A Body in Places: Queens Edition - Opening Day**

May 6 | workshop from 1-3pm, reception from 3-6pm, performance at 4pm  
Topaz Arts, 55-03 39th Avenue in Woodside, Queens, NY

Topaz Arts will host Eiko's workshop and live performance at their gallery in Queens to mark the opening of her and William Johnston's photo exhibition, *A Body in Places*. Photos of Eiko in Fukushima and around the nuclear power plant at Indian Point will draw the connection between the a disaster far away and a potential disaster close to home. During the opening reception, Eiko will perform and William Johnston will give a talk. Space is limited for the workshop - please rsvp by emailing: [rsvp@topazarts.org](mailto:rsvp@topazarts.org)  
The exhibit will be on view through May 28 by appointment - reserve a time by emailing: [visit@topazarts.org](mailto:visit@topazarts.org)

### **A Body in Places at Dance Place**

May 19 | Workshop at Arts Park 4:30-5:30pm

May 20 | Performances at 11am and 7pm

Dance Place, Washington DC

On Saturday May 20 Eiko will offer two performances at 11am and 7pm on Monroe St. near the [Dance Place in Washington DC](#). Eiko's video talk *A Body in Fukushima* will follow the 7pm show with active dialogue with the audience members in the Dance Place's theater. Eiko will also offer a workshop and mini performance on Friday afternoon, May 19th at 8th Street Arts Park.

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