

Exploring a Virtual Creative Residency



Photo by William Johnston

Dear Friends,

How are you and where are you? Are you staying healthy?

I am sorry for those of you who were planning to attend my spring/summer performances. They were all cancelled or postponed. When I learned that, I left New York for Japan so I could be near my family during this hard time. But our hearts remain in New York, checking the news everyday. I miss working with people, face to face/body to body, but I know we need to be patient. I am grateful that we have a roof over our heads and a small garden my mother left me. I am also grateful that Wesleyan University's Center for the Arts (CFA) has invited me for its first [Virtual Creative Residency](#). It is great to be working again with Jennifer Calienes, the CFA's interim director.

[Jennifer's introduction to my residency on the CFA blog](#)

With the help of [Allison Hsu](#), I explored what a virtual creative residency can look/feel like and experimented on its contents. When I perform in theaters, I can assume that the audience members are in relatively good health and are willing to give their attention. But that is not so when I reach people at home, especially now.

So I decided I will create a virtual space where I can share what I am doing these days for those who want to see, when they want to see. I have always worked toward performance dates when I can physically be with my audience members. The web does not replace the beautiful tension of live performance, but I will post online what I am working on for the time being.

I do not create content merely to be shared virtually with the audience of today but also to reach out to future viewers. These works and dialogues will become components of future installations and presentations in a real place, be it a screening room, gallery, or theater, where people can walk in alone or gather. I look forward to being with you at specific time and space with physical proximity, but until then, I keep working, however slowly, thinking of your gaze that I have been blessed with.

If you have thoughts or responses, please write me at info@eikoandkoma.org. My work does not end on stage or on screen.

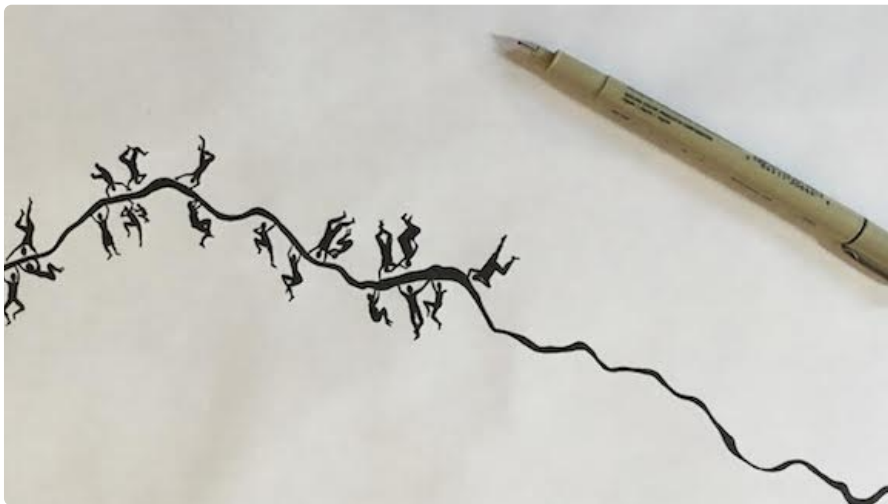
I get provoked by your thoughts and often compelled to try differently. Whether you visit the studio or not, however, I would appreciate learning how you are. Nowadays I find myself in conversation with friends I have not talked with for years. I hope you too find some comfort in moments of connection, even though our lives are restricted and there is so much sadness in the world.

Eiko



Photo by William Johnston

Centipede



Nora Thompson has [a page in my Virtual Studio](#) with her project, *Centipede*. Since 2015, Nora has taken time to draw each body of hundreds of people suffering or surviving. She shows us how each person is a different individual, not part of a number or a statistic.

Please read [her project description](#).

I will be attending her work when she shares her process live on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) from 8:30am-9:30am EST on Friday, May 1 and at other points in the future.

Another Day



Photo by William Johnston

[Another Day](#) is the shortest of the three works in which I revisited memories of working in Rauschenberg's studio in 2017. It is a collaboration with William Johnston (photographer) and David Harrington (violin).

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