

FEELER 2007, solowork

Akemi Takeya (choreographer, performing artist)

An Artistic Statement:

I'm permanently oscillating between my own action and the reaction to it, finding myself in an interactive situation between myself, the space, and the sound of the performance, in order to catch that one moment in time where I have reached equilibrium of all these dimensions within myself. I achieve this by maintaining a state in which one opens oneself to the outside world - the eastern conception and perception of "ki" energy - which is a kind of frequency between things and space, the oscillation and vibration of things and space. This state begins when something comes into being, or enters existence.

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The basis of my work is to develop and exploit contrasts between action and stasis within the context of performative space. Stasis represents stability and balance, held together by tension. Action represents the release of tension, the collapse of stability and balance; it is a physical and kinetic representation that suggests spiritual release, which is most difficult to attain.

The space between the two opposites of action and stasis is both physical and metaphorical. The physical space, the three-dimensional performative space, becomes redefined through significant characteristics of absence and presence, appearance and reality. The metaphorical space signifies tension and resolution, explored through the performance process.

As an artist I have three roles that I think of as interacting personalities - literature (the written word), body, and voice, forming a triangle. This triangulation represents my artistic discipline and methodological process. The tension and interaction within this triangle results in my artistic manifestations of performance and site-specific installations, using integrated elements of body, movement, sound, lighting, and visual projections.

Within the triangulation of artistic personalities, there is another subdivision that is the essential opposition within the self, represented by two powers. The first power is agreeing with the self and the second power is disagreeing with the self. This creates a dynamic gap. This gap makes the self move. Thus the body moves as a representation of the self, becoming a kinetic sculpture fueled by opposites within the self.

My artistic vision is to work with the forms of voice and body performance as established by the European tradition. Since I am Japanese, I bring oriental ideas and outlook to these European forms, thus resulting in dynamic stage performances with unexpected results that might not be achievable by a western performer or choreographer. My upbringing in oriental philosophy is inseparable from myself, and I use the essence in both eastern and western aesthetics, artistic forms and techniques to exploit the similarities and opposites between them, resulting in a unique hybrid style of occidental and oriental performance art.