PRESS KIT

Eiko Otake’s solo exhibition *I Invited Myself, vol. III: A Body* at Asian Arts Initiative opens on September 9, 2023

*Video still of Stone, 2023*

Press Release

*I Invited Myself, vol. III: A Body*
September 9–December 9, 2023

**Asian Arts Initiative**
1219 Vine Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-557-0455

**Hours:**
Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, 2–6pm
Free admission

For more Information
http://asianartsinitiative.org/
Facebook / Instagram
Philadelphia, September 9, 2023—Asian Arts Initiative is pleased to present I Invited Myself, vol. III: A Body, a solo exhibition of media works by internationally acclaimed movement artist Eiko Otake (b. 1952, Tokyo). Eiko worked for more than 40 years as Eiko & Koma, and since 2014, she has performed and directed her own interdisciplinary projects.

For Eiko, going to places is her movement work. Editing footage and designing an exhibition is an experimental “choreography.” After five decades of an active performance career, Eiko, now in her early 70s, is compelled to explore how she can create a time and space where people can come and see her body and movement in her videos and photographs without necessarily her live presence. This is a core concept of this artist-initiated project.

“I want to create media works only a performer can make. If a viewer chooses to give ample time and attention to each piece, ‘a different kind of performance’ happens between she and I. Her seeing becomes a uniquely personal experience, in which I wish to linger.”

Each volume of the project includes exhibitions, screenings, and public conversations along with performative interventions and installations. Its multi-volume form enables Eiko to collaborate with curators in creating programs and selecting works that consider space and the missions of each presenting organization as well as her history with a community.

Co-presented by Asian Arts Initiative (AAI) and The Fabric Workshop and Museum (FWM), I Invited Myself, vol. III in Philadelphia is a two-part exhibition. Part One, I Invited Myself, vol. III: A Body at AAI (on view September 9 through December 9, 2023) features Eiko's lone body moving within different landscapes and absorbing what they hold. Part Two, I Invited Myself, vol. III: Duets at FWM (one view November 9, 2023 through March 24, 2024) highlights her collaborative projects with artists of different races, identities, cultures, disciplines, and ages. The first iteration of I Invited Myself was presented by the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) and the second iteration was shown at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College.

Co-curated by Joyce Chung, Curator at AAI, and Eiko, I Invited Myself, vol. III: A Body features primarily her recent dance-for-camera works never shown in Philadelphia. In visiting such places as irradiated Fukushima, a quarry in Sweden, and the hills of Wyoming, Eiko finds traces of human violence. She moves in mourning, not to forget. In all places, including Tokyo where she grew up and New York where she lives, Eiko intentionally presents her body as a “foreigner” because, she says, “immigration is a never-ending process.” To contextualize her current practice, her early work from the 1980s and two documentations of her occasion-specific public performances will be also shown: Eiko’s first solo performance of 12-hour-long A Body in a Station (2014) at Philadelphia’s 30th St. Station, commissioned by Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (PAFA), and A Body in East Village (2016), a creative archive of her month-long solo project presented as part of Danspace Project's Platform.

To see the work of Eiko Otake is to become acutely aware of raw emotions that are universally felt but uniquely experienced. Watching her movements in space is like being conscious of your own pulse—the moments when it races, slows, or becomes almost undetectable. Her work dwells meaningfully in the territory of what it is to be
Related Public Events:

**Opening day Screening + Performance**
Saturday, September 9, 3–5pm
*Slow Turn*, co-commissioned by Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, NYU Skirball, and Battery Park City Authority in 2021 in commemorating the 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks will be screening in occasion of the opening. Two showings will be presented, one at 3pm and again at 4:30pm, and includes Eiko’s performative intervention to the projection.

**No Rule is Our Rule**
Saturday, November 4, 4–6pm
AAI and Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival (PAAF) will co-present Eiko’s feature length film *No Rule is Our Rule*, which will be followed by a conversation with dance artist Merián Soto.

Support:

About Asian Arts Initiative:
Located in Philadelphia’s Chinatown North, Asian Arts Initiative is a multidisciplinary arts center offering exhibitions, performances, artist residencies, youth workshops, and a community gathering space. Here, all of us can view and create art that reflects our lives, and think critically, creatively about the future we want to build for our communities.

About The Fabric Workshop and Museum:
The Fabric Workshop and Museum (FWM) is an internationally acclaimed contemporary art museum devoted to the creation, presentation, and preservation of innovative works of art. Its mission—*Collaborating with artists, revealing new possibilities*—embodies a 45-year commitment to helping artists experiment with the expressive possibilities of a broad spectrum of new materials and techniques.

Press Contacts:
Asian Arts Initiative: Jino Lee, jino@asianartsinitiative.org
The Fabric Workshop and Museum: Justin Rubich, jrubich@fabricworkshopandmuseum.org
Please note that artist is available for interviews.
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Caption</th>
<th>Image</th>
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| 1 | *A Body in Tokyo*             | *Shibuya River Culvert*, 2021, 22 min 44 sec      | ![Image](image1.png)  
**Performance and Editing:** Eiko Otake  
**Produced by Tokyo Real Underground as part of 2021 Tokyo Tokyo Festival** |
| 2 | *Abandoned Subway Station*    | *2021, 14 min 33 sec*                             | ![Image](image2.png)  
**Performance and Editing:** Eiko Otake  
**Produced by Tokyo Real Underground as part of 2021 Tokyo Tokyo Festival** |
| 3 | *a foreigner*                 | *2023, 3 min 31 sec*                              | ![Image](image3.png)  
**Performance:** Eiko Otake  
**Cinematography:** Patrizia Herminjard  
**Editing:** Patrizia Herminjard with Eiko Otake |
| 4 | *In a Cathedral*              | *2016, 3 min 51 sec*                              | ![Image](image4.png)  
**Performance:** Eiko Otake  
**Cinematography:** Alexis Moh  
**Editing:** Alexis Moh and Eiko Otake |
| 5 | *A Body in a Station: Philadelphia* | *2014, 4 min 20 sec*                             | ![Image](image5.png)  
**Presented by the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA)**  
**Performance:** Eiko Otake  
**Cinematography:** Ben Grinberg  
**Editing:** Ben Grinberg and Alexis Moh with Eiko Otake |

*Photo by William Johnston*
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Director(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td><em>A Body in the East Village</em></td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>19 min 45 sec</td>
<td>Performance: Eiko Otake&lt;br&gt;Cinematography: Alexis Moh&lt;br&gt;Editing: Alexis Moh and Eiko Otake</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td><em>A Body in a Quarry</em></td>
<td>2023</td>
<td>34 min 10 sec</td>
<td>Performance: Eiko Otake&lt;br&gt;Cinematography: Thomas Zamolo&lt;br&gt;Editing: Eiko Otake with Thomas Zamolo</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td><em>Pit</em></td>
<td>2023</td>
<td>15 min 3 sec</td>
<td>Performance: Eiko Otake&lt;br&gt;Cinematography: Thomas Zamolo&lt;br&gt;Editing: Eiko Otake with Thomas Zamolo</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td><em>Mountain</em></td>
<td>2023</td>
<td>11 min 5 sec</td>
<td>Performance: Eiko Otake&lt;br&gt;Cinematography: Thomas Zamolo&lt;br&gt;Editing: Eiko Otake with Thomas Zamolo</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td><em>A Body in Wyoming</em></td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>25 min 53 sec</td>
<td>Performance: Eiko Otake&lt;br&gt;Filming director Liz Sargent&lt;br&gt;Cinematography: Naomi Saito&lt;br&gt;Editing: Eiko Otake</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td><em>Pearl Street</em></td>
<td>2023</td>
<td>3 min 6 sec</td>
<td>Performance: Eiko Otake&lt;br&gt;Camera: Ben Grinberg&lt;br&gt;Editing: Eiko Otake&lt;br&gt;Commissioned by Asian Arts Initiative</td>
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| **12** | *Husk*, 1987, 9 min 33 sec  
Performance: Eiko Otake  
Camera: Takashi Koma Otake |   | ![Husk](image) |
| **13** | *A Body in Fukushima*, 2014,  
Photography  
Performance: Eiko Otake  
Photographs by William Johnston |   | ![A Body in Fukushima](image) |
| **14** | *What I Carry*, 2023, suitcase, mixed textiles, hoses, cables, metal basin |   | ![What I Carry](image) |