

*Mills College Dance and Theater Studies Department presents*

**An EVENING WITH EIKO OTAKE**

*Mills Performing Artist in Residence*

**Film screenings and conversation with  
SanSan Hwang**

Marilyn McArthur Holland Theater  
Lisser Hall  
Feb. 18, 2022  
7 pm

*Funded by the Theodora Faust-Anderson Project and Second Chances: More Dance at Mills.*

***Outdoor showing:***

**Roots (2019)**

Camera by Alexis Moh

Edit by Eiko Otake

***Gallery Showing:***

**Deer Island (2021)**

Performed by Eiko Otake

Camera by Merian Soto, and Bonnie Brooks

Edit by Eiko Otake

**A Night with Moths (2019)**

Camera by Rebekkah Palov

Edit by Eiko Otake

***Theater Showing:***

**Introduction:** Sheldon Smith

***Presentation of Films by Eiko Otake***

**Undertow (1987)**

Collaboratively created and edited with James Byrne (camera)

**Room (2020)**

Performance by Eiko Otake

Camera by DonChristian

Edit by Eiko Otake

**Attending (2020)**

Performed by Eiko and Iris MccLoughan

Edit by Eiko Otake

**A Body in a Cemetery (2020)**

Choreographed and performed by Eiko

Camera and sound by Jennifer Attala

**A Body in Fukushima (2020)**

Music by David Harrington

Photographs by William Johnston

Edit by Eiko Otake

**Projecting Fukushima in Tokyo (March 2020)**

Conceived and performed by Eiko Otake

Camera by LandFes

Edited by Eiko Otake

**Seagulls (2020)**

Camera and Edited by Eiko Otake

## Closing by Eiko Otake

*Brief Pause*

### Conversation between SanSan Kwan and Eiko Otake

---

*Lighting Designer & Projectionist* - Chris Griffin

*Audio Engineer* - Mitch Stahlmann

*House Manager* - Jozi Gullickson

---

**EIKO OTAKE** Raised in Japan and a resident of New York since 1976, Eiko Otake is a movement-based, interdisciplinary artist. She worked for 42 years as Eiko & Koma, but since 2014 has worked independently, including a month-long Danspace Project Platform and three full day performances at the Metropolitan Museum.

During the pandemic, Eiko has performed outdoors in sites including cemeteries, and public plazas. In 2021, she created and performed her first two monologue pieces for Hiroshima Nagasaki memorial and 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of 9.11. Also acknowledging the 10<sup>th</sup> year since the Fukushima nuclear plant meltdown, Eiko and her collaborator William Johnston co-published a photo/essay book *A Body in Fukushima* by Wesleyan Press. Her film of the same title will premiere in MoMA in March. Her new media works and her public dialogues are available in her [Virtual Studio](#). Before coming to Mills, Eiko directed and performed in her installation, *I invited myself*, at the school of Chicago Art Institute and Duet Project: Distance is Malleable at Columbia College Dance Center.  
<https://www.eikootake.org/the-duet-project>

Eiko resides in New York and regularly teaches at Wesleyan University, NYU, Colorado College and University of Tokyo. [Eikootake.org](http://Eikootake.org)

**SanSan Kwan** is an associate professor in the Dept of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies at UC Berkeley. Her research interests include dance studies, Asian American studies, theories of space and kinesthesia, and interculturalism. Her new book is titled [Love Dances: Loss and Mourning in Intercultural Collaboration\(link is external\)](#) (Oxford University Press, 2021). She is also author of [Kinesthetic City: Dance and Movement in Chinese Urban Spaces\(link is external\)](#) (Oxford University Press, 2013) and co-editor, with Kenneth Speirs, of [Mixing It Up: Multiracial Subjects\(link is external\)](#) (University of Texas Press, 2004). SanSan remains active as a professional dancer and is currently performing with Lenora Lee Dance.

**Sheldon B. Smith** is an Adjunct Professor and current Chair of the Department of Dance and Theater Studies at Mills College where he has been teaching full-time since 2008. He has taught at numerous other institutions including UC Berkeley, Sonoma State University and Colorado College. Smith attended Phillips Exeter Academy, was the first student at Colorado College to receive a BA in Dance and went on to receive an MFA in Dance from the University of Illinois Champaign Urbana. He has made dances, music and video professionally for over 35 years. For the past 20 years his specialty has been in the integration of technology and live performance.

He has collaborated with his wife Lisa Wymore since 1999. Their company Smith/Wymore Disappearing Acts has toured internationally and won many awards for their witty blend of movement, theater and technology. Smith has also collaborated and/or performed with many significant artists including: Carey Perloff, Meg Stuart, Kathleen Hermesdorf, Bob Eisen, Scott Wells, Jennifer Monson and others. He has been an ODC Artist in Residence, received a

Creation Fund Grant from the National Performance Network and was in the initial cohort of artists that received major funding from the Chicago DanceMakers Forum.

## **ABOUT MILLS COLLEGE DANCE DEPARTMENT**

Founded in 1941, the Mills Dance Department offers one of the oldest ongoing dance programs in the country. The longevity of the program and its international reputation are testaments to the quality of instruction and the successful philosophy that guides our curriculum. Our distinguished Mills faculty and visiting artists work closely with students to help them develop into articulate artists who can express themselves both creatively and through critical discourse.

The strength of our degree programs springs from our unique combination of creative and critical dance studies, choreography, and performance practices. We help students hone their skills in performance, choreography, research, and dance writing, both critical and scholarly. The Mills Dance Program is both small and highly selective. This allows us to provide students with an immersive experience and the rich one-on-one interaction that is the hallmark of a Mills education.

## **ABOUT THEODORA FAUST-ANDERSON PROJECT and SECOND CHANCES: MORE DANCE AT MILLS**

These Funds support the annual engagement of a local or global guest artist or scholar in the Mills College Dance Department to share forms of dance, in areas other than those taught regularly by full-time faculty, with the goals of expanding the current offerings of the College and further enhancing its standing and reputation in the field. The project aims to culminate with an innovative public presentation reflective of a compassionate and comprehensive understanding of the world.

The Theodora Faust-Anderson Project, also known as the Thea Project, was established in memory of Thea Faust-Anderson, who graduated from Mills with a degree in dance in 2014. We appreciate this opportunity to celebrate Thea's life as an advocate for global learning and artistic expression, including using dance to help others through performance and dance therapy.

Mills College is very grateful to the vision and generosity of these funders.

## **ABOUT MILLS PERFORMING ARTIST IN RESIDENCE**

The Mills Performing Artist in Residence program cultivates engagement opportunities for the Mills College and local communities to experience and work with national and international performing artists. Activities including lectures, workshops, open rehearsals and showings are hosted on the Mills College campus in Oakland, California.

## **ABOUT MILLS PERFORMING ARTS**

Situated on the Mills College campus in Oakland, California, Mills Performing Arts is a multi-venue performing arts center committed to promoting action and exchange in the performing arts, and supporting artists and scholars who reflect, explore, and celebrate the abundant cultural, racial, gender, and economic diversity of our society.

Special thanks to the MPA staff, Ann Murphy, Debby Kajiyama, Arielle Cole, and the Dance MFA students for their support of tonight's production.