

Monochrome Circus × graf × Toru Yamanaka

TROPE

device as a new structure

Dialouges of furniture and the body.

For the first time in two years, a theater performance has been scheduled with the dance company “Monochrome Circus” (Kyoto), and creative group “graf” (Osaka).

Date: 19th (Sat) – 26th (Sat) January, 2013

Venue: MATSUO MEGUMI+VOICE GALLERY pfs/w

Tickets: Tuesday 20th November, 2013

A Unique theater performance by dancers, furniture craftsmen, designers and musicians

“TROPE” addresses various responses not only from dance, but all quarters of design, architecture and art as well. Two years since their previous, fully packed performance in January 2011, Monochrome Circus will be tackling— for the first time—a long stretch of nine performances over seven days, including fresh interpretations of composition and evolution. Toru Yamanaka will be in charge of the theater music again. We hope you will enjoy watching the full potential of furniture and the body unfold in this stimulating performance. We sincerely hope you will consider covering and publicizing this performance.



Photo: Yasunori Shimomura (Shimomura photo office inc.)

Contact

■ Monochrome Circus: mc@monochromecircus.com

■ graf: info@graf-d3.com

[About the performances]

We think about the wealth of language the body holds and the existence of furniture in the performance “TROPE,” repeatedly dismantling and reassembling each and every movement, shifting the multilayers of construction and conditions that both objects and the body hold. A few decades ago—or even before then—in an age when resources were scarce and even technology was not a familiar tool, our daily lives were brimming with a happiness derived from the fruits of experience and the health, or wisdom of daily life; the different ways we used single objects being one example. We believe it was probably the rich environment and the way we constantly thought to ‘create’ with our senses and consciousness.

Place our sensations in the 21st century—an environment overflowing with information and objects—we control thoughts about these ‘convenient items.’ To put it another way: we attach definitions to the actions we take with these environments, conditions and the objects placed inside them.

There are lots of tools and furniture that support our lives. We sit, hold, pull, push, twist... These are the functions that form from the tools and furniture when the body intervenes. By stopping and reconsidering the relationship between these actions and objects, “TROPE” inquires into the potential of the human ability that the body holds; the lost bodily sensations, the blank spaces between thoughts and objects, and also the power of creativity that exists therein. We believe it’s important to consider the ability to survive in this age through questions of furniture and the body.

[Images from the public performance in Kyoto, January 2011]



Photo: Yasunori Shimomura (Shimomura photo office inc.)

Date: 19th January (Sat) – 26th January (Sat), 2013

Schedule:

19th Jan (Sat): 2:00pm / 6:00pm

20th Jan (Sun): 2:00am / 6:00pm

21st Jan (Mon): closed

22nd Jan (Tue): 7:30pm

23rd Jan (Wed): 7:30pm

24th Jan (Thu): 7:30pm

25th Jan (Fri): 7:30pm

26th Jan (Sat): 2:00pm

Venue: MATSUO MEGUMI+VOICE GALLERY pfs/w (<http://www.voicegallery.org/>)
1F Ocean Print Bld. 10 Nishi-Iwamoto-cho, Higashi-Kujo, Minami-ku, Kyoto, JAPAN 6018005
Tel: (+81) 75-585-8458

Tickets available from: 20th November (Tues), 2012

Date: 19th January (Sat) – 26th (Sat), 2013

Venue: MATSUO MEGUMI+VOICE GALLERY pfs/w

1F Ocean Print Bld. 10 Nishi-Iwamoto-cho, Higashi-Kujo, Minami-ku, Kyoto, JAPAN 6018005

Director: Kosei Sakamoto (Monochrome Circus), Shigeki Hattori (graf)

Performers: Yuko Mori, Yuka Saeki, Kyoko Nomura, Hisashi Watanabe, graf

Double cast*: Yuki Goda, Watanabe, Asako Kotera, Sachiyo Kotera

Scenography: graf

Composer: Toru Yamanaka

Stage manager: Tomohiko Watarikawa

Graphic designer: Michio Yokoyama (graf)

Co-production: MATSUO MEGUMI +VOICE GALLERY pfs/w, flowing KARASUMA

Production: Dance & Environment, graf

Supporter: Agency for Cultural Affairs

In cooperation: flowing KARASUMA

Kyoto Art Center Production Support Program

Contact

■ Monochrome Circus: mc@monochromeircus.com

■ graf: info@graf-d3.com

Comments from the directors

Kosei Sakamoto (Choreography, Monochrome Circus Director)



There is “space” inside the Body. This is heavily woven into our bodies through each person's experience and imagination. Try to remember the house you grew up in, for example. How did you pass through the entrance of the house? What was the texture of the floor like? What was the distance to next door? You pass through the living room to get to your own room. The steps: how high were they? What was the first object your hand touched when you woke up? By simply closing our eyes we can trace all the details of the house we were born in. We start to feel like we can live in “our own house” again, on the inside. Dancers making fresh movements and act as a medium between this inside and outside space. The reason why I consider graf's furniture my personal favorite is that there are so many spaces available, just like a white canvas. We users can put our own imagination and movements into them. You have a “zen dialogue” between furniture craftsmen and dancers. There may be many misunderstandings, but that's just how it is.

Shigeki Hattori (graf)



This project started from a discussion about the memories of the body. The body itself acts unconsciously when you grasp an object. It is the theory of affordance. Utility can be controlled psychologically. Use is remembered and understood by the body and this is why we are able to act. This convenient process is understood as ‘usefulness.’ This is also the reason why people cannot imagine how tools are invented or the time when they did not exist in the world. This is something wrong. If you have a chance to reconsider the way you use tools then maybe you can find tools that suit you. Maybe you can find new ways to use these tools at the same time. Go back to the origin of the tools. Reconsider why they exist. Observe your space in daily life again. Maybe you can find some ideas for “life,” even in the small details. Wisdom will grow from finding another things to do with tools. Even though we may be surrounded with material richness, we should still create a life that makes up for material losses. I want to find a new way of living with objects that make up for material losses. In this performance, we plan to make a “trap” for a body about to move, and try to reconsider the movements engraved in our own bodies.

Profile

Monochrome Circus



[Choreography, Dancers]

A contemporary dance company based in Kyoto, directed by Kosei SAKAMOTO. Monochrome Circus performs both in Japan and abroad under the theme “dialogue around / with body.” With 13 repertoires, each member is able to perform both solo or duet, and their speciality is the ability to make organic ensembles with contact improvisation. Recent collaborations include various festivals: “Look for dancers!!” (BEPPU contemporary art festival2009), “Naoshima Theater” (Setouchi International Art Festival 2010) and “lost” (FESTIVAL DANSE D’AILLEURS 2011).

www.monochrome-circus.com

graf



[Direction, Scenography, Graphic Design, Acting]

A creative group based in Osaka’s Nakanoshima area working on extensive activities— everything from furniture, space, product and graphic design to food and art—with the keywords “structure for living”. With a spirit based in craftsmanship, graf has recently been expanding into new, non-design related areas including the organization of “FANTASTIC MARKET,” a community market project developed from a network with primary producers.

www.graf-d3.com

Toru Yamanaka



[Music Composition]

Composer, recording engineer, producer and DJ. President of Foil Records. Assertively involved in collaboration with artists from various fields, not just music. In charge of “dumb type” music until 2000. Has organized the “Diamonds Are Forever” club event since 1989, and also participates as a DJ. Has been producing video, sound, dance performances and installation works with Takahashi Kyouta since 2002.

Product Brand Line “TROPE”

The tools introduced at the theatrical performance “TROPE” were released in March, 2011 as a new product lineup two months after their appearance at graf. They are made to be “tools that awaken user’s intuitions.” Aiming to be tools that encourage ideas that bring abundance in our daily lives, this lineup suggests enjoyment when users handle cut their functions down to the minimum level and attempt to use them in their own, individual ways.



Photo: Rie Nitta

[Previous collaborations, Monochrome Circus & graf]

Cage (2009) France / Kyoto

[Choreography] Kosei Sakamoto [Dancer] Monochrome Circus [graphic design] graf



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D__E__S__K (2009) Kyoto / Tokyo / Fukuoka / Gifu / Hiroshima

[Choreography] JUNJUN [Dancer] Monochrome Circus + Hirokazu Morikawa, Jun Morii [graphic design / stage arts] graf



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Art Setouchi 2010 “NAOSHIMA THEATER” (2010) Naoshima island (Japan)

[Director] Kosei Sakamoto + Shigeki Hattori [Visual production] graf [Production] Art Setouchi 2010

