



The Cathedral
Church of **Saint John**
the Divine

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RELEASE

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**THE DUET PROJECT: DISTACE IS MALLEABLE
CONCEIVED AND PERFORMED BY EIKO OTAKE
AT THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE**

*Open Rehearsals Nov. 19, 11 am – 5 pm
Performance Nov. 20, 7 pm*



Photo Credit: William Johnston

(November XX, 2018) Artist in Residence **Eiko Otake** will return to **the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, located at 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112th Street), Manhattan,** **on Monday, November 19 and Tuesday, November 20** to continue development of her **Duet Project**. From 11 am – 5 pm on November 19, Eiko and her collaborators will work where visitors to the Cathedral can happen upon them. Visitors will be able to observe and engage in conversation with the artists. The first early-stage showing of the project will happen at the Cathedral on Tuesday, November 20th at 7 pm. Admission is free and no reservations are necessary.



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The artists involved in the project have diverse backgrounds and practices. Filmmaker **Alexis Moh** and poet **Mark McCloughan**, both longtime collaborators of Eiko's, will join her to explore difference, collision, and communication across disciplinary and generational boundaries. Pianist **Margaret Leng Tan**, who worked with Eiko & Koma in their 2007 *Mourning*, will perform two pieces by Henry Cowell for her duet with Eiko. The presentation will also include projections of media works Eiko created with another young collaborator, **DonChristian Jones**, a rap artist and painter. Different projections will also allow Eiko to perform with her deceased grandfather, noted Japanese painter **Chikuha Otake**, continuing Eiko's exploration of the many different ways a duet can happen.

Eiko's investigations with her collaborators, although accessible to the public, are informal and process-oriented. In light of this, the artists are committed to maximizing the potential for each encounter, aiming for it to be truly meaningful to the viewer who experiences it. Audience members are encouraged to have conversations with artists and thus to contribute to the future development of the project.

The project will premiere at the 2019 American Dance Festival and will tour several cities. Eiko, in dialogue with the presenters, will design each leg of the tour as a unique program that will include a collaboration with artists specific to the community she is visiting. The range of collaborations will be visible online and through media installations.

The development of Eiko's duet project and these occasions to share it with the public are made possible with support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, the Japan Foundation's Performing Arts Japan program, and Dance/NYC's Dance Advancement Fund.

For more information on the November 20 performance, please visit [this page](#).

Born and raised in Japan and a resident of New York since 1976, **Eiko Otake** is a movement-based, interdisciplinary artist. She worked for more than forty years as Eiko & Koma but since 2014 has been performing her own solo project *A Body in Places*. In 2017 she launched a multi-year *Duet Project* that she will direct and perform with a diverse range of artists. Eiko & Koma were the recipients of the first United States Artists Fellowship (2006) and Doris Duke Artist Awards (2012). They are the first collaborative pair to share a MacArthur Fellowship (1996) and the first Asian choreographers to receive the Samuel H. Scripps American Dance Festival Award (2004) and the *Dance Magazine* Award (2006). For her solo



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work, Eiko was awarded a special Bessie citation, an Art Matters grant, and the Anonymous Was a Woman Award.

Eiko is an Artist in Residence of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York, where she created a four-hour Fukushima memorial (March 11, 2017) and where she performs unannounced solos. In November, co-presented by Performa 2017 and commissioned by Met Live Arts, Eiko created seven-hour-long video distillations of William Johnston's photographs taken in Fukushima and performed all day with them at the three Metropolitan Museum of Art sites.

Alexis Moh is a filmmaker and multimedia artist who has worked with Eiko Otake and filmmaker Jem Cohen. Her collaborations with Eiko have been presented by Danspace Project, Dance for Camera Film Festival, Anthology Film Archives, and River To River Festival. Her documentary work, *Recursion* (built off footage taken during her time at the Standing Rock prayer camps) was shown at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and her first feature film, *Spider Moth Butterfly*, funded by the Mortimer-Hays Brandeis Traveling Fellowship and featuring circus artists of Mexico City and Guadalajara, is now in post-production.

Mark McCloughan is an artist and writer in New York City and the co-artistic director of No Face Performance Group that has presented works in venues such as FringeArts, The Barnes Foundation. Since 2014 Mark has collaborated with Eiko Otake as dramaturg for her solo Project, *A Body in Places*. Mark is the author of the chapbook *No Harbor* and the winner of the 2018 Stanley Kunitz Memorial Prize from the American Poetry Review.

Philly native **DonChristian Jones** is a New York based, visual artist, rapper, singer/songwriter, and producer. His work spans musical and time based performance, rap mixtapes, video and public murals, blending genres of painting and hip hop, referencing classical and contemporary styles. Much of his work today is informed by his time spent painting murals on Rikers Island with youth inmates. Don has shown and performed at venues such as The Whitney Museum, MoMA Ps1, "Where There's Smoke," released in July 2018, is DonChristian's first studio album.<http://www.donchristian.world/>

The Cathedral of St. John the Divine is the Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. It is chartered as a house of prayer for all people and a unifying center of intellectual light and leadership. People from many faiths and communities worship together in services held more than 30 times a week; the soup kitchen serves roughly 25,000 meals annually; social service outreach has an increasingly varied roster of programs; the distinguished Cathedral School prepares young students to be future leaders; Adults and Children in Trust, the renowned preschool, afterschool and summer program, offers diverse educational and nurturing



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experiences; the outstanding Textile Conservation Lab preserves world treasures; concerts, exhibitions, performances and civic gatherings allow conversation, celebration, reflection and remembrance—such is the joyfully busy life of this beloved and venerated Cathedral.

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