



The Kitchen Center  
for Video · Music · Dance  
Performance · Film and Literature

512 West 19th Street  
New York, NY 10011  
Tel: 212.255.5793

kitchen@panix.com  
www.panix.com/~kitchen  
Fax: 212.645.4258

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Contact: Isabelle Deconinck  
212.255.5793

## **DUST**

### **A New Opera by ROBERT ASHLEY Designed by YUKIHIRO YOSHIHARA**

**An End-of-the Millennium Meditation on Memory and Loss**

**US Premiere: April 14 [Wed] 8 PM**

**Run: April 15-17 [[Thu-Sat] 8 PM**

**April 17 [Sat] 4 PM**

**\$25**

**Post-performance discussion: April 15**

**Symposium on Collaboration with Robert Ashley and Yukihiro Yoshihara:  
April 15 [Thu] 4:30 pm, Free**

**The first large-scale work by Robert Ashley presented in New York since 1994**

**Featuring Sam Ashley, Thomas Buckner, Tom Hamilton, Jacqueline Humbert,  
Joan La Barbara, "Blue" Gene Tyranny and Robert Ashley.**

Composer Robert Ashley collaborates with Japanese artist Yukihiro Yoshihara in *Dust*--a multimedia television opera inspired by "street talk," the so-called babble of the marginalized and isolated. Modeled upon the medieval form of a motet, *Dust* layers the voices of five characters, drawing upon the "street-talk" practice of speaking and hearing at the same time. Introducing new techniques in vocal and orchestral styles, and featuring video projections by Yoshihara, *Dust* conjures up a futurist fusion of dream and reality to deal with questions of memory and irretrievable loss.

A major figure in American experimental music theater, Robert Ashley has connected opera with stream-of-consciousness poetry over the past decade, using advanced forms of narrative and new ideas about the nature of operatic ensemble. As in his monumental opera tetralogy, *Now Eleanor's Idea*, Ashley derives *Dust's* orchestral fabric (rhythms, pitches, instrumental sounds) and vocal style (voice and pitch assignments, rules for vocal inflection) from elements discovered in an analysis of the libretto of the text.

Over...

Video/director/Set Designer Yukihiro Yoshihara created a multi-screen video presentation for *Dust*. Precisely synchronized to the electronic orchestra, the video is projected in large and small formats, and also serves as the principal stage lighting source. The singers stand behind panels of industrial glass, whose opacity is controlled by an electric current, as performers are brought in and out of obvious view, as determined by music and narrative.

*Dust* was commissioned by Kanagawa Arts Foundation and by Dorothea Tanning, and is co-presented with Composers' Forum, Inc.

### **About the Artists**

**Robert Ashley** is known for his work in new forms of opera and multi-disciplinary projects. In the 60s, Ashley organized Ann Arbor's legendary ONCE Festival and directed the ONCE Group. During the 70s, he directed the Center for Contemporary Music at Mills College, toured with the Sonic Arts Union, and produced and directed *Music with Roots in the Aether*, a 14-hour television opera/documentary about the work and ideas of seven American composers. Ashley wrote and produced *Perfect Lives*, an opera for television widely considered to be the pre-cursor of "music-television." Staged versions of *Perfect Lives* and *Atlanta (Acts of God)* and the monumental opera tetralogy, *Now Eleanor's Idea*, have toured throughout Europe, Asia, and the United States. More recently, he has completed *Balseros* for Florida Grand Opera, *When Famous Last Words Fail You*, for the American Composers Orchestra, *Your Money My Life Good-Bye* for Bayerischer Rundfunk.

**Yukihiro Yoshihara's** work ranges widely from painting and sculpture to multi-media installations and video. Recent solo exhibitions of his work have taken place at the Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, the Gaya Gallery, Fukuoka, and at the Ginza Pocket Park, Tokyo. He collaborated with Nam June Paik on a satellite television broadcast; designed space for an exhibition of the work of David Lynch at the Tokyo Museum of Contemporary Art; made the opening title sequence for the television program, *Music Factory* (Japan Satellite Broadcasting); designed the video projection/visual presentation for Robert Ashley's opera, *Improvement*, for its USIS Tour of Japan. Yoshihara's paintings, sculptures and installations can be seen in the collections of Chemical Bank in New York, the Ginza Building in Tokyo, the Yokohama Grand Inter-Continental Hotel in Yokohama, and the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Osaka.

**The Kitchen is located at 512 West 19th Street, between 10th and 11th Avenues. For more information or to reserve press comps, please call 212.255.5793.**