



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

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Koosil-ja Hwang/Dance KUMIKOKIMOTO Memoryscan

March 10-13 [Wed- Sat] 8 PM \$15
March 13 Post-performance discussion

How traces of forgotten ethnicity affect our cultural personalities

Choreographer **Koosil-ja Hwang** brings together a tribe of cultural nomads to investigate the relationship between ethnicity and identity. Dancers **Kathryn Sanders, Michael Portnoy, Margaret Hallisey, Mary Helene Spring,** and **Koosil-ja Hwang** draw from their individual memories to reveal how traces of forgotten ethnicity can affect our cultural personalities. Hwang's striking movement style known as "circle and line," combines with live video projections and electronic music to create an ethereal environment channeling intimate physical and visual episodes. Real time cinema on stage heightens the experience of pedestrian and extreme movements, helping to create a dance geography that seems private, yet exists solely for the audience.

Live video is by **Benton Bainbridge**, pre-recorded video by **Caspar Stracke**, music by **Koosil-ja**, and lighting design by **Carol Mullins**.

Memoryscan is made possible with funding from the Rockefeller Foundation Multi-arts Production Fund, The Jerome Foundation, and the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts. Additional support from the Experimental Television Center.

Over...

About the Artist...

Born in Osaka, Japan of Korean parentage, Koosil-ja Hwang came to New York in 1981 to study dance with Merce Cunningham and began choreographing in 1986. Combining elements of live music and song, film, video and dance, **Dance KUMIKOKIMOTO** was founded in 1986 by choreographer Koosil-ja Hwang, formerly known as Kumiko Kimoto, with composer Yuval Gabay. The complexities of the mediums and multi-layered cultures that converge in Hwang's work, create an alternative way of expressing that lifts the boundaries of culture, generations, gender, and economy. There is no literal explanation in her abstract narrative works, though they do convey authentic and personal events. Hwang avoids conventions in her expressions, searching for new ways to create and perform dance that are integrated with living life. Her interest in 90's electronic music, video technology, Yoga practice, as well as, the consistent subjects of self-identity versus politics and human interaction, are all sources for inspiration and materials, and are integral to her creative process.

Hwang is a recipient of five National Endowment for the Arts Choreographer Fellowships, a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship (1991). She is a recipient of residencies at Harvestworks, Yellow Springs, and with the American Dance Festival, and of the 1993 United States Residency through the National Endowment for the Art International Program and the Mexican government. She has been commissioned by the Theatre Artaud in San Francisco and the Contemporary Arts Center in New Orleans to create *cease still I see*, and Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church, Theatre Artaud, and Washington Performing Arts Society to create *Masao*.

Hwang's music evolves from her dance imageries. In 1984, she co-founded the band Boshō as a percussionist and vocalist and toured to over thirty cities in Europe and Japan. She also performed as a percussionist with Takehisha Kosugi, Fast Forward, as a electronic bassist with David Linton, and as a samplist for MIMI led by Mimi Goese. Currently she performs her solo electronic dance music for underground events such as David Linton's UNITY GAIN. She has composed music for her new work *memoryscan*.

The Kitchen is located at 512 West 19th (between 10th and 11th Avenues). For press comps, call Isabelle Deconinck at 212-255-5793, ext. 14.