



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

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RELEASE

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REMEMBERING FUKUSHIMA: Art and Conversations

Conceived and Directed by Eiko Otake

Dramaturge: Mark McCloughan

Media Coordinator: Alexis Moh

New York, February 8, 2017– The Cathedral of St. John the Divine closes its five-month exhibition and program initiative *The Christa Project: Manifesting Divine Bodies* with ***Remembering Fukushima: Art and Conversations***, a commemoration of the sixth anniversary of the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster in Japan. Conceived by Eiko Otake, Artist in Residence for the Cathedral's Dignity Initiative, this program will bring together scholars, specialists, and artists of many disciplines to create an occasion that aspires to be both informative and affecting.

On March 11, 2011, the biggest earthquake in Japanese history hit Northeast Japan and shut down the sustained fission reactions at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. The largest tsunami ever recorded in Japan soon followed, disabling the plant's emergency generators. Insufficient cooling led to three nuclear meltdowns and explosions, releasing vast quantities of radioactive material. The Fukushima meltdowns were the worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl, and the destroyed plants continue to contaminate the surrounding land and sea. However, Japanese nuclear technology is now being exported to other countries. To remember Fukushima means to realize how nuclear technology cannot be trusted in our lives and the environment.

Remembering Fukushima coincides with the closing of *The Christa Project*, which features the work of 21 contemporary artists, including Eiko and William Johnston's photos from their most recent trip to Fukushima. Themes of the exhibition ranged from bodily autonomy to the Incarnation, queer and trans identity to the relationship between place and spirit. In Eiko and Johnston's photographic work, which will be expanded for the event, Eiko's body is shown embedded in the still-devastated landscape, a single figure marking where violence of negligence took place.

Eiko Otake has been teaching college courses on the atomic bombings and nuclear power for the last 10 years. Her solo project, *A Body in Places*, started in 2014 with her visit to irradiated Fukushima with photographer and historian William Johnston. Their collaborative photo exhibition, *A Body in Fukushima*, has since been shown in many cities both in the U.S. and abroad. In New York last year, on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Fukushima meltdowns, Eiko and Johnston collaborated with Danspace Project to present these photos as a 24-hour exhibition, each hour marked with performances by guest artists.



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This year, at *Remembering Fukushima*, speakers, musicians, and artists will work together to create an experience for participants to know and remember the legacy of Fukushima, and explore the relationship of body, place, and history. *Remembering Fukushima* is presented in partnership with the Asia Society and Danspace Project. Eiko's residency at the Cathedral was made possible in part by support from the Japan Foundation's Performing Arts Japan program, the New York State Council on the Arts, and the Harkness Foundation for Dance.

Participating artists and speakers:

Eiko Otake
William Johnston
Marilyn Ivy
Thomas Looser
Mark McCloughan
Alexis Moh
Nora Thompson
Megu Tagami
John Kelly

Carol Lipnik
DonChristian Jones
Geo Wyeth
Ronald Ebrecht
Ralph Samuelson
Elizabeth Brown
Jake Price
Nona Faustine Simmons
NYC iSCHOOL

EVENT: *REMEMBERING FUKUSHIMA: Art and Conversations*
DATE: Saturday, March 11, 2017
TIME: 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
PLACE: The Cathedral of St. John the Divine
1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112th Street)
Manhattan

All are welcome; there is a suggested donation of \$10.00

Please visit stjohndivine.org for information and updates.

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