

## Helsinki Butoh Festival

### 11th-15th of November 2020

Oranssi, Suvilahti (Kaasutehtaakatu 1, building 11 - Valvomo)

*The purpose of the Helsinki Butoh festival is to send a butoh message to the world, to provide opportunities and to support butoh artists and butoh activities in Finland. I hope that this opportunity will allow Butoh to enter society and have a positive impact.*

**Ken Mai**

**Artistic Director of the Helsinki Butoh Festival**

The second Helsinki Butoh Festival is taking place in November 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> 2020 in Oranssi (Suvilahti, Helsinki). The audience is invited to experience over 15 butoh performances by Helsinki based and international artists.

[The Festival program](#) includes two to three performances every day created by butoh artists in collaboration with musicians, actors, performance and visual artists from Finland and other countries. During the Festival there will also be an opportunity to taste and experience butoh dance in flesh - at the [butoh workshops](#) led by different teachers, as well as at the parties taking place on two last days of the Festival. On the first day (11<sup>th</sup> of November) and the last day (15<sup>th</sup> of November) the audience is invited to meet the artists and the Festival crew at to a moderated discussion. The Festival is supported by the City of Helsinki.

#### **Ticket prices:**

20€/10€ a day

30€/40€ - personal Festival pass with access to all the performances every day

### **About butoh**

Butoh is one of the major developments in the unique dance art form in the latter half of the 20th century. It has revolutionized the way people view what dance is, and can be. The influence of Butoh on today's dance world equals that of Martha Graham or Mary Wigman in the earlier decades of the last century.

Originating in Japan in the turbulent late 1950s, Butoh was an attempt to create new forms of movement and expression. Profoundly rooted in Japan culture, Butoh looks to traditional movements of the Japanese body – such as the mincing steps that one must take when wearing Kimono to create new forms of movement that belong neither to Western dance nor to traditional Japanese dance. So that Butoh can be understood and appreciated by Japanese and non-Japanese alike.

Today it is enjoying tremendous acclaim in the US, in Europe, Mexico and South America, etc, and has become a strong source of inspiration for dancers in these and other countries. Butoh's powerful image and its totally new approach to dance have stirred the interest and imagination of a growing audience in the world.

***"Shades of Darkness" by Jean Viala & Nourit Masson-Sekine (1988)***

For the additional information, media accreditation, or interview requests, please contact us:

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## HELSINKI BUTOH FESTIVAL PROGRAM SHORTLY

11-15.11.2020

Oranssi, Suvilahti (Helsinki)

During the weekdays, the performances will start at 7 pm, during the weekend at 5 pm.

The Festival will open **Minja Mertanen** (FIN) with [And I Followed](#). **Katia Skylar & Laura Martin** (RUS/FRA) will continue the program with [The Taste of Remembrance](#), a healing and transformative journey of celebrating and re-establishing the feminine power. The opening day will complete a shamanistic duo **Maanväki** from Jyväskylä with their [Beginning – Alku](#). After the performances there will be a chance to meet the Festival artists at a moderated discussion.

The program of the second day, Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>, will consist of two solos: [Imprints / Jäljet](#) by **Jaakko Kuikka** (FIN) and [Tirgonen Pitch](#) by **Meri Karhu** (FIN) and a performance of **Rhythmos Noir collective** and **Madar** [Matoyo – I efface I](#). Friday, the 13<sup>th</sup> will be the day of three solos by Finnish butoh artists: [Rakka](#) by **Sonja Kilpeläinen**, [Korpin Kulku / Raven's Pass](#) by **Santeri Vikström** and [The Flower of Emptiness / Tyhjyyden kukka](#) by **Ruus**.

The program on the Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> will have a strong Japanese influence. It will start with [Jodo 静動 - Silence of Movement](#) by **Tuuli Malla, Mari Mäkiö & Yukina Yamamoto** (FIN/JAP) followed by **Anton Vartiainen** (FIN) with the [Syrjän seudut / Periferia](#) and **Ken Mai** (JAP) with the [Mystery of Existence / 存在の謎 / Sonzai no nazo](#). **Inari Virmakoski's** video installation will also find it's time in the program!

The program of the last day, Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>, includes a solo work [Lähellä / Close](#) by Aino Aleksandra Johansson (FIN) and a performance [Reborn](#) choreographed by **Ken Mai**, an artistic director of the Festival.

On Saturday and Sunday the audience is also invited to express themselves to dance parties! DJs and VJs will set the mood! In addition to the scheduled program, we will keep some space for surprises and pop up, improvised performances on the Festival's venue (Oranssi) and some other locations! Stay tuned!



Photo by David Uriegas