

WHERE ON EARTH ARE WE GOING? SYMPOSIUM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2017



PHOTO BY WILLIAM JOHNSTON

9 – 10:30 A.M.

Stories from the Aftermath of Hurricane Harvey in Houston and the Legacy of Fukushima

PRESENTER: JAKE PRICE, FILMMAKER AND PHOTOJOURNALIST

Over the past 20 years Jake has witnessed firsthand the impact of climate change on coastal communities, documenting the profound changes that these communities must contend with. Most recently he was in Houston where he accompanied first responders as they saved Houston residents from the rising waters and then recorded their testimony.

His presentation will explore long-term options that communities should adopt after the water recedes. We have reached a point where renewable energy has become more accessible than ever, so why isn't it being utilized in the regions most affected by climate change as rebuilding commences? What can be done to help get storm battered communities to become leaders in renewable energy and how might universities, government and industry play a part in that?

As challenging as current events may seem, there is also reason for hope: In each aftermath, Jake was profoundly moved by the decisions that people made as it relates to their relationships to others and how they came to a deeper awareness of what's important in life—an awareness that those of us who have not lived through the direct impacts of climate change could learn from. Jake will share stories of his personal experiences with the displaced and will screen selections from his upcoming films from Fukushima and Houston.

10:30 A.M. – NOON

A Body in Places—Making Distance Malleable

PRESENTER: EIKO OTAKE, MENAKKA AND ESSEL BAILEY '66 DISTINGUISHED VISITING SCHOLAR IN THE COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

This year's COE Think Tank Fellow Eiko Otake (of Eiko & Koma) dances alone in odd places: a train station, a library, a cathedral, an observatory, Wall Street. Eiko's presentation of her current work, *A Body in Places*, brings to the audience two critical themes that require connection: disaster and indifference. Disasters, such as Fukushima, Chernobyl and Hurricane Harvey are not mere disruptions. Disasters need to be remembered because so much suffering has been caused and magnified by human recklessness. By performing in public places, Eiko invites her viewers to discover that distance, which is often a cause of people's indifference, is indeed malleable. Someone else's pain far away can become achingly immediate. That sense of immediacy CAN help us to resist our collective forgetfulness.

Eiko's work was inspired by and contextualized during multiple visits to post-nuclear-disaster, Fukushima, Japan. Performing with the same costumes and props as she did in Fukushima, Japan. Eiko offers her body as a conduit to connect the audience with places: a here and now of her performances in Fukushima where she danced for the camera and irradiated landscape. Sharing her video and photos, Eiko will speak about the why, what and how of her four-year, and ongoing, project.

Katja Koldo (Chair of the Dance Department and a faculty Think Tank Fellow) and William Johnston (Professor of History, Science in Society, and the College of East Asian Studies and photographer of the project) will join Eiko in a conversation.

EXLEY SCIENCE CENTER, TISHLER ROOM 150

This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, please contact Valerie Marinelli, at 860-685-3733 or vmarinelli@wesleyan.edu



SPONSORED BY THE COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT