

Flight Over Wasteland
Liliya Lifanova in collaboration with Hiroya Miura
Knockdown Center
April 12 – 16, 2017
Open Rehearsals: April 12 – 14, 2-6pm
Performance: April 15, 3pm



Knockdown Center is pleased to present *Flight Over Wasteland*, an installation and live performance project by visual artist Liliya Lifanova in collaboration with composer Hiroya Miura. The collaborative duo reimagines T.S. Eliot's modern epic poem *The Waste Land* in a series of evocative tableaux vivants, choreographed gestures, actions, sculptural objects, and sound.

Eliot's poem, *The Waste Land* attracted Lifanova for its ability to reflect the complexity, brokenness, and collaged nature of the present moment, with its multiple voices, points of view, quotes and histories. Revisiting this monumental text, *Flight Over Wasteland* offers an immersive experience to contemplate this literary and cultural inheritance anew.

The performance draws from themes in *The Waste Land* such as death and rebirth, history, memory, lust, loneliness, despair, and disillusionment among others. Incorporating four scenes from Eliot's text, the score is personal, muted, and abstract, derived from the impressions generated by the poem. Lifanova's installation consists of sculptures, props, and garments, and directly references *The Waste Land*. Dry, gritty, and appearing discolored by the sun, the objects are constructed at a scale that suggests an aerial view of curious menhirs that frame the actions of the performers. Broken verses of Eliot's text bring out a bird's eye view perspective in contrast with the source material. A soundtrack made by Miura oscillates between audible and inaudible, to compliment the fragmented verses of *The Waste Land* recited by the actors. The composer uses technology to warp sounds in order to meet Lifanova's visual composition in an immersive experience that combines visual and auditory stimuli with the participatory aspects of theater.

Originally a site for industrial manufacturing, the Knockdown Center inspired the artists to center the project around an open rehearsal format in which the audience is invited to observe and even engage with the work as it develops throughout the week. Individual 'fragments' of scenes will be located throughout Knockdown Center's main space, facilitating a unique way to contemplate the original text, the artist's vision of it, and the typically concealed process of building an artwork.

Schedule of Events

Wednesday April 12

Open Rehearsal (free): 2-6pm

Thursday April 13

Open Rehearsal (free): 2-6pm

Friday April 14

Open Rehearsal (free): 2-6pm

Saturday April 15

Debut of Flight Over Wasteland performance (tickets: \$16 presale / \$20 door): 3pm

Followed by an informal Q&A with the artists, curator Jovana Stokic, Knockdown Center's director and artist Michael Merck, moderated by curator Jodi Waynberg.

Sunday April 16

Installation on view (free): 2-8pm

Artist Bios

Liliya Lifanova lives and works in New York. A multidisciplinary artist whose practice encompasses performance, painting, drawing and sculpture, she received her MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL (2010), and is a Fulbright Scholarship recipient (2011-2012). Lifanova has been an artist-in-residence at Gridchinhall Artist Residency, Moscow, Russia (2012), Triangle Arts Association, New York (2013), Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, Omaha, NE, Artist's Alliance, New York (both in 2015), and more recently at Illinois State University, Normal, IL (2016) and Residency Unlimited, New York (2016). Recent exhibitions include: PUSH / STRIKE / RESIST, Equity Gallery, New York, NY; Idus Martiae, Igreja do Calvário, Marvão, Portugal; On the Ides of March, Rooster Gallery, New York, NY; Time + Space (Beginnings), Bemis Center, Omaha, NE; Rumour from Ground Control, Rooster Gallery, New York, NY; Pixel, Elga Wimmer Contemporary, New York, NY; It's a Bored Nation, Kunsthalle Projects, Brooklyn, NY; Arte al Centro, Cittadellarte-Fondazione Pistoletto, Biella, Italy; Victory of Caissa. Homage to Marcel Duchamp, The State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow, Russia; Anatomy is Destiny, Museum of Contemporary Art, Saint Louis, MO; Artists Choose Artists, Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, NY. Her work is included in the Permanent Collection of the US Embassy, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, Art in Embassies, US Department of State, ECO Collection, Marvão, Portugal, and in several private collections. Since 2009 Lifanova directed several large scale video and performance projects and taught workshops in the United States and Europe.

Hiroya Miura, a native of Sendai, Japan, has been active as a composer and performer in North America. Acclaimed by Allan Kozinn of New York Times as "acidic and tactile," his compositional output typically mirrors his multiple musical roles, and creates "the charm resulting from continuous changes of balance." For the 2016-17 season, Miura was selected as one of the four American composers to be sent to the Havana Contemporary Music Festival in Cuba as part of the American Composers Forum's artist delegation program. Miura has composed works for Speculum Musicae, New York New Music Ensemble, American Composers Orchestra, Juilliard Percussion Ensemble, le Nouvel Ensemble

Moderne, fama Q, Momenta Quartet, and members of Reigakusha (gagaku ensemble based in Tokyo), which were presented in venues and festivals such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, Miller Theater, Smithsonian Institution's Freer Gallery, Tanglewood, and Ostrava Days. He is also a founding member of the electronic improvisation unit, No One Receiving, whose debut album from the grain of sound has won critical acclaim in Europe and the United States. He holds a doctoral degree from Columbia University, and he is Associate Professor of Music at Bates College, where he teaches music theory and composition, and directs the College Orchestra. He is also Artistic Director of Columbia University's Institute for Medieval Japanese Studies and Japanese Cultural Heritage Initiatives.

About Knockdown Center

Featuring programming of diverse formats and media, Knockdown Center aims to create a radically cross-disciplinary environment. The particularity of our architectural environment and history leads us to gravitate toward projects that demonstrate a sensitive reactivity to site and environment. Visit our [website](#), or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

Media Inquiries

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