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Translation from Croatian: SU-EN Butoh Company

BALANCING BETWEEN CHAOS AND DISCIPLINE

Susanna Åkerlund, alias SU-EN, the artistic leader of the Swedish SU-EN butoh company, is in Pula for the third time. In the International Theatre Festival, PUF, she shared her knowledge and skills with regional artists.

Before the festival SU-EN held a seminar on butoh. She directed the opening project of the festival, "Anno Domini 2001" in Jadran Metal, a scrap yard for recycling metal in Pula. She also performed, "Headless - love on the other side", which she has both choreographed and dances.

- This is my solo project. In this performance Lee Berwick takes part, with whom I have worked for some years now. The performance is called "Headless" and differs a lot from the opening performance. Focus is on the body. While you are training you ask yourself - where is my arm, my leg, my head, which leads you into an interesting chaos. Loosing control, and finding it again is part of the training - that is the essence of this method. This is the balance point and you can not understand it without loosing it. Life is always balancing between chaos and discipline.

- Can you tell me something about your experience in Japan?

- I came to Japan in 1986, the year when the founder of butoh died, although his associates kept working. They showed me a whole new world; the becoming of something else, erasing the character and in that process open yourself to something else, something bigger.

- What is the role of the music in this performance?

- Lee started his career as a DJ and has a long experience from the club world, but the last few years he has taken the step into art music. When we are working together, as I come from the extreme art world, it gets interesting because we have different experiences. Lee does not create the kind of music we are used to, but site-specific audio material from, for example, daily life environments. He does not use melodies or rythms. It is energy.