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**Erotic buto intoxicates**

FRAGRANT  
Moderna Dansteatern  
Choreography, concept, dance: SU-EN Butoh Company

Beauty, despair and forbidden knowledge are the subheadings of SU-ENs latest piece for 7 female dancers.

In the piece we are not only pulled into magic, splendid and fragrant garden that the Japanese flower artist Junichi Kakizaki fills with fresh flowers during the performance. SU-EN also invites us to the historic aspects of Tatsumi Hijikata's choreography for SU-ENs teacher Yoko Ashikawa in post-war Japan 1976.

Hijikata's dance was inspired by the bodies of farmers, old people, prostitutes and even his handicapped sister. His work was full of eroticism, sexuality, death and archaic pulse.

The butoh shows cruelly beautiful acts of transformation: a circle of life and death where the ego of the dancer is erased and the invisible forces of existence become visible. Carlotta Ikeda's group Ariadone is perhaps the most famous female ensemble which lately has started to research in a more cross-cultural way.

Fragrant moves in the opposite direction: the classical. SU-EN, the most experienced butoh artist in Sweden, present in this piece - after the provocative solo pieces *Headless* and *Slice* - her skills in the feminine erotic aspects of the dance form. In the beginning, she is reborn, wearing only flowers in a nest. This *Sleeping Beauty* is painfully transformed into a woman and a being with spiraling arms and teasing tongue: just like a snake seducing us in paradise.

The six well-instructed dancers, move like geisha-like female demons in lavender and pink, in a slow, floating and dream-like way. They also move like more grotesque and comical genderless creatures, crouching with claws and in white make up.

SU-ENs dance also gives us associations to the American modernism, when she like a sculptural Martha Graham, her hair tight back, seem to unite the juice of the earth and the air of the sky.

In her tight costume, she is both a poetic image and a sexy woman, a challenging, mocking and sensual nature force. The way she controls the body in stillness is amazing. In the stillness the hands are suddenly visible as a flower, its petals falling down on the ground.

Lee Berwick's music charges this landscape with minimalistic consistency. Trembling beauty grows into a pulse and fades away into darkness. After SU-EN has disappeared into darkness, a red explosion of flowers are visible. The tree at the entrance, bare before, now contains big white flowers. The heavy scent of these flowers is a promise of new life. I stumble out into the spring evening intoxicated by beauty.