Anna Ångström

Cruel and beautiful solo dance

Venue: Moderna Dansteatern, Stockholm
Piece: Headless - love on the other side
Dance and choreography: SU-EN
Music: Lee Berwick

Butoh: The expressive danceform that developed in Japan after the second world war was a reaction to that times modernism and can today appear in
various aestetic expressions. Some main themes seem to continually recur - violence, erotisicm and a focus on the body in slow transformation.

All this is in the SU-EN's solo "Headless - Love on the other side". SU-EN has studied Butoh for many years and gives here a concentrated taste of her development as an artist in recent years.

The piece starts from a kind of zero point where the body - naked apart from short red pants and a red shawl covering the head - resembles a beating heart. Her body is bent over a bulb which lights up parts of the legs, arms and a nodding head, creating a remarkable and strange illusion. The stage is dominated by a hanging globe thats reminds us of a brain or embryo. Under this is soil and Suen cleanses herself with it and gradually becomes human. In collaboration with sound and light the body is transformed from muscle to woman. Between the spastic jumps and crawling transportations there is control - The impression becomes grotesque and comic but also horrific when she kneels with her arms behind her and the proud coverd head reminds us of a prisoner before execution.

The electrified sound carpet shifts from irregular heart beats to breaths. Then SU-EN uncovers her face and with half closed eyes, puts on a dress. Next moving incredibly slowly in the room with hands that extend outwards she caress's her own body, senuous in the red light you breathe with her and suddenly she stands in front of us and bites chunks of her own flesh away. In a moment beauty and pain is united - Love as cannibalism , Life and death go full circle. One Headless condition passes by - cruelly beautiful.