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House of Dance November 10-12, 2015

It is autumn on earth, and the smell of rotten apples are the first things that the spectator meets. This is Butoh artist SU-EN's signum, a sweet smell of rotten fruit that lingers in one's nose a long time after leaving the theatre. At House of Dance, she presents the performance Voracious for three days. It is a performance that criticizes society, the environmental problems as well as pure human aspects such as hunger, gluttony, desire, thirst and despair. The body is in direct connection to the world and earth through these instincts.

The colors remain like the earth, the costumes are shaded in the naked brown color of earth, the floor is the color sand, even the hairstyles give associations to the round planet, and SU-EN seems to be Mother Earth with her single earth ball on her head. These hairstyles make one think of planets circling around the earth, and the participation of the mini-pig Laban is likely of the same idea. A part of Voracious video art work can be seen at Uppsala Art Museum until November 24. It is in any case "out of this world", as I felt when I saw Butoh for the first time 25 years ago.

The apple is the fruit of knowledge, but we have handled it recklessly through the words of wisdom and Mother Earth is angry. From her throat we hear rumbling and a violent scream starts to form deep down in herself. The world is in disharmony, we destroy ourselves, and the apples in their different stages of decay are clear images of what is happening to ourselves and the earth. We eat our planet, as we eat the apples. Now it is said!

The sparse movements, the sound is more like animal sounds or cracked-up songs, suddenly there is something that sounds like a motor boat, and I find myself to formulate words like "the hand that feeds you" or "with the ear to the ground".

SU-EN has created her own creation mythology, even if it is in reversed form. It is not often we can see the Japanese dance form Butoh in Sweden, so hurry up to see the one of the remaining two performances.

Voracious is dedicated to SU-EN's mother Erda, the meaning of her name is earth!