



Vessel

Sandwich, Nawa Kohei, Damien Jalet

JAPAN

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

“Vessel is a work of extraordinary ambition. What choreographer Damien Jalet and sculptor Nawa Kohei aimed for with Vessel was a turning body into sculpture, that also rendered sculpture corporeal. The result is a revelation: bodies, movements and a set probably unlike anything ever seen before. A striking visual and aural experience, that is a work destined to never fade from memory. Yet, it is also more than that’. Real Kyoto

Out of the darkness, a white structure looms above a pool of water. Seven near-naked bodies move on this floating stage, becoming one with the gases, liquids and solids that form all around them.

Japanese sculptor Kohei Nawa and celebrated Belgian choreographer Damien Jalet have created an experience that is truly out of this world. On a set unlike anything seen before, bodies become sculpture as they pulsate to haunting music from Ryuchi Sakamoto.

Part dance, part dream and complete poetry in motion, this breathtaking visual and aural spectacle will stay with you long after you leave the theatre.

Damien Jalet has travelled the world, infusing his dance with images of the myths, religions, and rituals of each country that he visits, and reflecting the conflict between body and mind in the dance.

Kohei Nawa explores materials and techniques through his sculptures and installations that communicate an organic world view while successfully combining image and materiality.

The basic concept for their collaborative project is 'vessel', the background to everything that is absorbed by life and death, and the cycles of earth and life.

Incorporating into the stage design a breadth of physical properties that extends to gases, liquids, and solids, they attempt to create a dynamic merger between the stage and the bodies of the dancers as they constantly transform their figures.

The distinctive "headless" poses hide the head, conferring anonymity by concealing gender and identity and hinting at the existence of some non-human entity. The world view painted by this sculptural dance transcends the genre of performing art, and bears the promise of further extension into different fields.

Company biography

Sandwich began in 2009, when Kohei Nawa renovated an old sandwich factory and launched a creative platform where architects, designers, artists and students can meet and collaborate on exciting new projects. The company creates projects from a range of different creatives, with the aim to overstep popular labels of manga and anime in order to offer a less obvious view of Japanese contemporary art and culture.

On premise are residential facilities available for artists from other regions or from overseas can stay and work on stimulating projects everyday. This helps to make SANDWICH a location for active international exchange and interaction.

Kohei Nawa

Kohei Nawa was born in 1975 in the ancient city Kyoto, Japan where he currently lives and works as a sculptor and a professor at Kyoto University of Art and Design.

He graduated from Kyoto City University of Arts in 1998 with a BFA in Sculpture, Nawa then moved to London and attended a sculpture course at the Royal College of Art. In London he was exposed to contemporary sculpture artists such as British sculptor Anthony Gormley. Nawa then completed a Masters of Fine Arts in Sculpture in 2000, and later a PhD in Fine Art/Sculpture in 2003.

The symbolic art of Buddhism and Japanese Shintoism are influential inspirations that characterise his idiosyncratic work.

Nawa has become one of the most renowned artists in Japan, with his artistic production spanning from sculptures and architectural interventions to installations and fashion. Nawa is at the forefront of a new

generation of Japanese creative minds, located at SANDWICH, a creative platform that he established in Kyoto in 2009 for multidisciplinary creative work involving architects, photographers, designers, and other creators as well as artists.

In 2011, his solo exhibition "KOHEI NAWA - SYNTHESIS" took place at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo. Nawa's works are part of prestigious collections around the globe showcased at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, USA), the Franks- Suss Collection (London, UK) and the Daimler Chrysler Contemporary (Berlin, Germany).

Damien Jalet

Damien Jalet is a French and Belgian freelance choreographer and performer working internationally. As a dancer and a choreographer, Damien Jalet has worked in a wide range of areas, including collaborations with sculptor Anthony Gormley (Babel), musicians, choreographers, movie directors, and designers as a co-creator.

In 2013, he collaborated with Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Marina Abramovic to restage Bolero, premiering at the Paris Opera, and was appointed Chevalier de l'ordre des arts et des lettres by the French government. Jalet's recent works include THR(O)UGH, (2015, in collaboration with Jim Hodges) and BABEL 7.16 (2016, at the Festival d'Avignon).

Damien Jalet is the guest artistic director of the UK National Youth Dance Company for 2016- 2017.

Damien Jalet and Nawa Kohei were both residents of the Villa Kujoyama in 2015, where they began their research for the work 'Vessel'.

Website: www.sandwich-cpca.net www.vessel-project.com www.kohei-nawa.net

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SANDWICH-113269668780732/?fref=ts>

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Wendy Martin is the Artistic Director 2016 – 19.

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