

Cross-boundary forum on reconstructed 'Dance of Death II'

German dancer Prof. Henrietta Horn gave insight into the process of her reconstructing expressionist Mary Wigman's "Dance of Death II" together with Prof. Susan Barnett at a cross-boundary forum at TNUA in May.

Prof. Horn noted that the reconstruction of the work from static images or dance notations was a process of creation involving the sensitivity of the choreographer.

She said the reconstruction and the staging of the reconstructed work at TNUA gave her a better understanding of Wigman's original dance.

She also said she is looking forward to the next collaboration with TNUA – a project to reconstruct "The Rite of Spring."

Prof. Horn and Prof. Barnett completed the task of reconstructing "Dance of Death II" based only on

some photos, Wigman's manuscript, and drawing of the dance by German Expressionist artist Ernst Ludwig Kirchner. The reconstructed dance was staged at TNUA in May.

At the forum, Prof. Chiang Mei-Hsuan from TNUA's Department of Filmmaking, discussed German Expressionism in film, citing "Dracula," "Madame Dubarry," and "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari" as examples.

Prof. Chiang said post-World War I resentment to realism gave rise to a form of expression that reflected the sense of insecurity and skepticism about reason and civilization.

Prof. Chang I-Wen from TNUA's Department of Fine Arts, discussed expressionism and the death motif in fine arts. She also pointed out the intrinsic conflicts in Germany.



Caption: Ms. Su Wen-chi (extreme right) and the participants of her "Body and Matter" workshop.

Su Wen-chi conducts 'Body and Matter' workshop

Ms. Su Wen-chi, a dancer, choreographer and new media artist, conducted a two-day science/performance workshop, called "Body and Matter," at TNUA in early May.

In the workshop, arranged by the Center for Art and Technology on May 6 and 7, Ms. Su talked about the relationship between the body and technological innovation, and its implication in new media art.

Ms. Su, who in 2005 founded YiLab – an experimental group of new media and performance artists working on integrating new technology with the performing arts – is currently the artist-in-residence of Taiwan's National Performing Arts Center.

Ms. Su is a doctoral student (practice-led) of drama, theatre and performance at the University of Roehampton in London. She won the Jury's Special Award of the 9th Taishin Art Award of Taiwan in 2009

and the Accelerate@CERN Taiwan residence award in 2015, among other accolades.

It was during the Arts@CERN residency that she was inspired by quantum physics into rethinking the body and matter and investigating whether science would change her perception of the physical world.

During the workshop, she had the participants make their own telescopes, pin-hole cameras and spectrometer with paper and tapes, as she explained some of the scientific principles.

Sound artist Wu Ping Sheng also played a part in the workshop, explaining the principles of sound waves, and letting the participants understand the relations between sound waves, the body and space through their auditory and visual perceptions.