



LIFETIMEproject



LIFETIME is an experiential art project including sensitive, authentic portraits of people from different continents, religions and social backgrounds.
...who accept and transform challenges or limitations into possibilities for personal growth, learning & healing.
...who dare to ask inconvenient questions, search for answers, and overtake responsibility for social-, and ecological fairness.
...who dedicate their lives to creativity, beauty, joyfulness and share their visions in being an inspiration to others.

LIFETIMEproject

LIFETIMEproject is an invitation to a dialog of generations, about preserving traditions, passing on knowledge, and developing new strategies for our future by respectfully cooperating, sharing, and learning from each other with tolerance, playful curiosity and openness.

photography, videos: ansgar pudenz
concept, interviews, realization: yris kayser

what is wisdom - if it is not seen?
what is beauty - if it is not shared?

LIFETIMEproject copyright © 2013 yris kayser. all rights reserved.
contact: phone +49 173 393 55 69 or email: yriskayser@aol.com



TADASHI ENDO

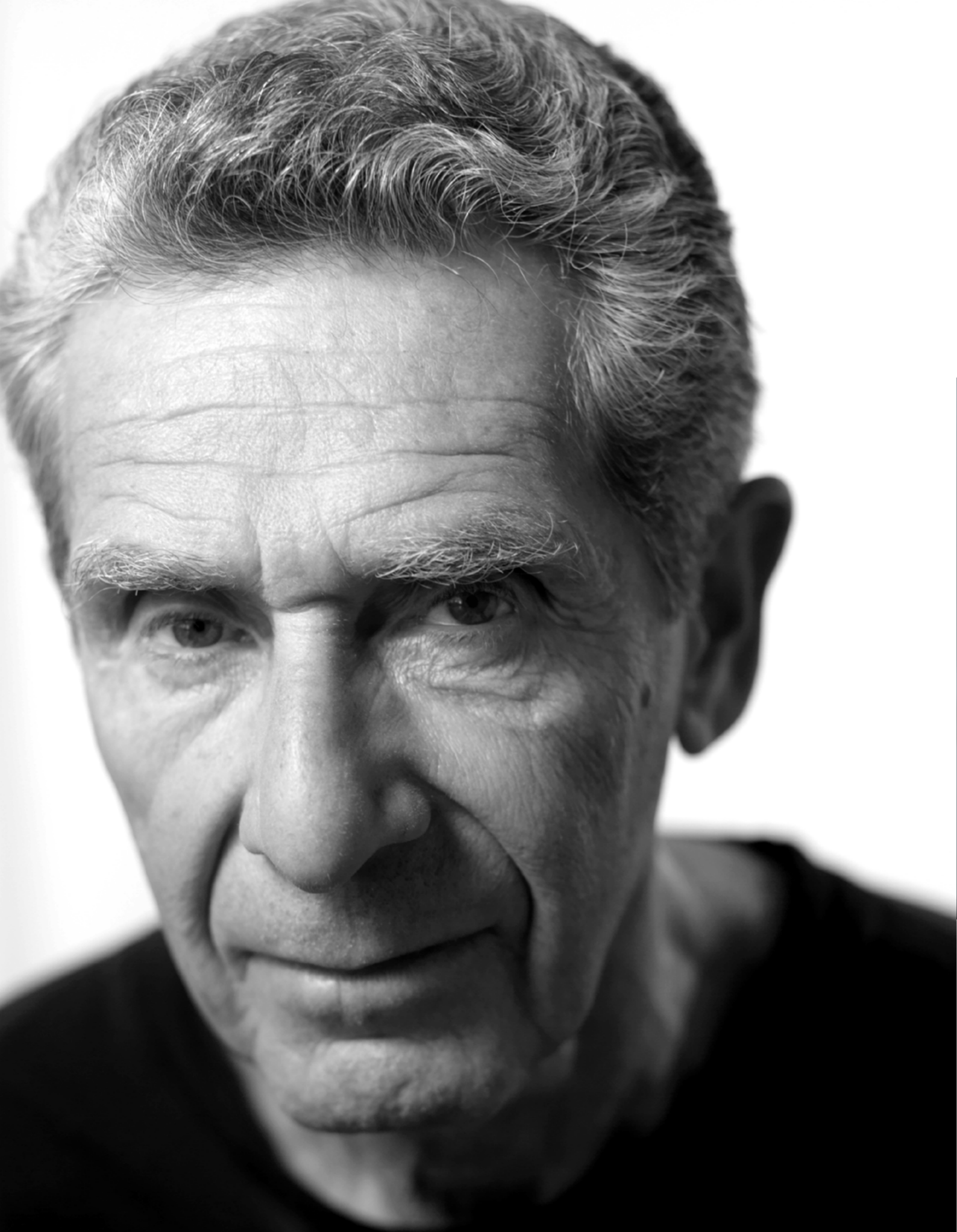




since i am dancing butoh, my aesthetic perception has changed. of course i still can sense something - like standing on a white sandy beach under the open blue sky as beautiful - a beauty that sells well in commercials. but having a closer look at a dirty, filthy corner or observing insects, spiders and worms, which all together in former times i didn't like that much - watching their movements, their colours, the fantastic shades and combinations of colours - that's like a miracle. a state of perfection hardly achievable for us human beings. those magnificent creations of nature - that's what i mean with real beauty. from my point of view ,manmade beauty' will always stand between two questionmarks.

in my whole life i preferred obliquity to straight lines. so for example during my time at school in chemistry class: i took several bottles, filled with different chemicals and showed to my colleagues how i might change, when i drink this stuff. what transformation will happen, if i gulp down another one - of course only for the show. when i took one after the other of those seven flasks, performed seven different facial expressions and body shapes - that was my ,hit' for chemistry class, and i had to come quite early to finish before the teacher arrived. this means there's probably something inside me, that wants to bend what is straight, lay down what is standing, and erect what is laying to awaken the awareness of people through my actions. what is changing this moment? what is coming to an end in this moment? what is beginning? and what happens afterwards? those reactions and their relationship to human behaviour are important for me - something i've always been curious about.





JERRY KARZEN





how would i define wisdom? i think wisdom is the capacity to listen, and to allow yourself to be surprised at some kinds of insights into consciousness. usually i think older people might have some wisdom. but non-necessarily, because a lot of times we really get stuck in our ways of perceiving things. so it doesn't allow us to be open to other possibilities and new ways of looking. being able to learn and appreciate is a good presupposition for wisdom. there's also a gentle kind of being quiet within yourself. knowing that things are okay the way they are without the need to show or prove anything. wisdom is a sense of understanding of life. at the same time - wise people seem to have a certain air about them. my personal experience in recent years, isn't only about finding wisdom in old people.

there are many children, and extraordinarily bright young people balancing their immaturity and inexperience with a lot of wisdom. how would i define beauty in my life? it's definitely in the eye of the beholder. we have certain, supposedly aesthetic senses of proportions in sculptures, paintings, and human beings. we see beauty in people. we see beauty in flowers. we see beauty in the ocean. it's a sunny day right now, and most people might perceive this as beautiful. but then again for some people a huge thunderstorm is outrageously beautiful - while others are scared of it. so it seems to be a kind of emotional reaction. a feeling. a sense of awareness. it's about personal appreciation of things along with whatever cultural bias and upbringing. for example in hawaii we have a lot of 'tongens.'

indigenous women and men with about 300 pounds. when you watch them hula dancing. the way they move. it's so extraordinarily beautiful. same with sumo wrestlers, in one sense you see these obviously huge, monstrous guys, but on the other hand - as i am aware through my own work with movement there's quite a sensitive kind of beauty in their moves and the whole ritual. so what is beauty then? it can be a dreamscape or landscape of dreams. well, i'm very happy where i am. when i first arrived here in maui - on one of these typical hawaii evenings, with this special, soft air quality, it was full moon, landing with the airplane, a reflection of the full moon in the ocean, feeling the air on one's skin - like the caressing of a beautiful woman, then you know - it's a good place to stay!



CLAUDIO KÜRTE

is health decisive for the quality of a human life? - a key question.
and the attempt of an answer:

how many human beings

could get up - but don't know why?
can stand - but don't know for what?
can walk - but have no idea where to?

how many human beings

can see - but don't recognize anything?
can hear - but don't understand?

how many human beings

do have a voice - but nothing to say?
would like to say something -
but nobody will listen to them?

and how many human beings

do have a (physically) healthy heart -
but nothing it's beating/feeling for?

for me - one of the greatest gifts in life is: to have something you're living for,
something to care for - whatever that might be.





REINHOLD MESSNER





beauty... nature is always beautiful, always new, creative and way stronger than we can imagine. for someone who's able to sense nature - its beauty has more or less universal validity. landscapes in west-tibet for example - these successions of pastel-shaded mountain ranges - they are unique in their harmony. of course also the 'arts' create something that we call beauty. that means we have the ability to transform nature into 'culture'.

as i do respect nature for its variety and creativity, i also respect the human being, who gained experiences throughout thousands of years. birds are able to fly since a long time - humans just since fifty years. but we learned to fly and probably in another fifty or one hundred years - we will be able to fly without causing massive

pollution to the atmosphere. these are our tasks, and our scientists draw their perceptions and insights from observations of nature, instead of extracting them exclusively from abstract calculations.

while the sensory of our mind is limited, i would definitely ascribe a divine dimension to nature. caused by our sensoric limitations we should beware of attempting to project form or expression to what is not accessible for us - what others imagine as god. the divine. the other side or the beyond. in the genetic structure we might have discovered the basic functions of a human being. we figured out - more or less - how gravity, the stars and the universe 'work' - but we're just reaching out for the first horizon. beyond that an infinite number of 'horizons' stretches out

into whatever. and this 'beyond', which is not accessible for us - that's what i respect as divine dimension.

although we humans are deficient beings - we are a part of nature. our equipment is comparably not ingenious. we aren't especially fast. we react slower than most animals. we only have our mind to develop technologies and implement them in our daily life to somehow cope with this world.

my life is based on searching for challenges and translating them into action. whenever i expose myself on the edge of my possibilities - in awareness of the deficiencies of human nature - i can come to learn and experience a bit more.



HIAH PARK





when people come to me with their problems, they hope to find a way to escape from who they are. so i always ask them: where is your airport? once you find and accept that ,dark' airport inside, you can take off for your journey into the skies.





WALTER SCHEELS





once on the night train to barcelona, i remember being alone in the compartment. in south of france, at night, pouring rain outside - i opened the window, and held my head into the rain. being dripping wet, rain flying into my face - that was such a moment of happiness. it's an enormous feeling of joy - to simply travel through the night like this. to see the sea, sit on the shores of the ocean, playing the flute, or not - that's another moment of happiness.

from early on, i had this deep longing for america. at night in barcelona, when these huge passenger ships left the harbour, i always sat there, and enjoyed their departure: the music, the lights, the melting of the ship into the horizon. then suddenly i was in rotterdam myself - to travel with a holland-american-liner to new york.

first of all i spent one day walking back and forth along the side of the ship - almost unable to believe that i would be going to america on this ship. how could such good luck happen to me? boarding the next day, standing on deck at the rail, listening to the farewell music, then suddenly feeling that vibration, the ship starts to move, the sound of the horn, people on the pier getting smaller and sea gulls whizzing around, joining us - these are incredible moments of happiness.

well, but after one week of rough sea and of being seasick - i was so happy when the skyline of new york appeared in front of us. then, seeing something the first time for real, that i only knew from photographs in books - really being there - that's another moment of happiness.

that's how i found happiness and some kind of independence in my youth. but as soon as one has ,arrived' somewhere, everything might still turn out differently. to have a profession, an occupation that's fulfilling and makes sense - is one of the main tasks. in the search for this ,calling', dissatisfaction can be quite inspiring, and then the discovery of what you really want to do - that's again another moment of happiness.

so, these are moments of happiness. caused by the awareness of the transient nature of life - a moment becomes even more precious, and joyful - with its uniqueness in mind. usually each of these moments is the result of a long path. but sometimes happiness just comes as a gift.



HENNING SCHERF





a turning point? that's what recently happened in my life - when i quit my official political duties, after having been a member of the state government for 24 years, plus 11 years of being governor. in all these years my schedule had been pretty tight. it was a stressful job, lots and lots of work, with many conflicts to solve, including difficult questions, needs, fears and worries. but i had great people who supported me, and i did my part of the work with vigour until i left in oktober 2005. thank god, my decision was accepted and respected. at this time i was 67 years old. ready to start into a new life - without being run by my highly competent office organizers with a meticulously structured daily schedule. now i'm able to think in the mornings about: what is going to happen today? what are you looking forward to?

what could you avoid? what can you make short? what could you prolong? where can you learn something new? and in the evenings before falling asleep - i'm watching my 'internal movie of the day' - acknowledging that there was something familiar, but something new and exciting as well. suddenly i realize, that i can learn. primarily after functioning' for many decades - i am learning again. learning to develop and explore my creative sides. playing the piano for my whole life was fine, i just rarely had enough time for it. now i play with a completely different intensity and inspiration. it's quite similar with painting. somehow i always used to make little sketches. and suddenly i realize, that i'm able to do water colours. curate an exhibition and sell my art - a completely new experience.

having time for my grand children - this is something that only works, if you really take time for it. time to be open for them, neither holding big speeches, nor imposing instructions or advice on them. time for listening: what do they really want? what do they consider beautiful? what do they dream of? then - one sun after the other begins to shine - such a little child discovering her old, loving grandfather and developing trust and nearness. when our grandchildren are visiting here in our place, and one of these little hands is finding its way into my hand and holding on to it - that's indiscribly beautiful. such moments leave me with a feeling of happiness - that's way better than being governor for 20 years.



HERRAT STAMPA





i grew up with a mother, who while reading fairytales to us: PAUSED.



and glanced at me...



'In times when wishing still helped...'



and before reading on, she said



'...and these times aren't over yet.'



KYO SHIN





in the 50's here in germany we had these tiny corner stores where we could buy mixed candies for 5 pence. wrapped up in a little triangular paperbag with blue stars printed on it. my favorite sort where the heart-shaped, raspberry flavoured, veryvery red ones, with a delicate, soft consistence. the remembrance of that taste and all the details of the shop are still quite alive inside me. everything seemed to be so high up and tall - or maybe it's just that i still was so small in those days.

there is a certain turningpoint in my life closely connected to one symbol - the ,kesa'- which i received when i took my vows to become a zen monk. it is at the same time a prayer, an expression of incredible beauty, infinite presence and eternal change. it is a mindfully joined patchwork of seven torn pieces in one frame, hand-sewn by a zen nun.

one aspect of zen is ,fusei' - something given unconditionally without any thoughts. unconditional love is just what it is - a sun shining on holy water in the same way as on the puddles in the street. it's the spiritual flow of energy that i experienced with sufis as well as in a christian church, in a synagoge and in a buddhist temple. sometimes the taste is a bit different, but the nurturing essence is the same - pure love, joy and bliss.

there is a soul in every human being. living through this human body while walking on earth. no matter on which religious bias the intellectual framework might be buildt - it's the soul inside each human being that is longing for realization.