

CREDITS

Moving Off the Land. Ocean – Sketches and Notes is performed by Joan Jonas in collaboration with composer Ikue Mori

Second Performer: Francesco Migliaccio
Technical Assistance: David Sherman
Lighting Design: Jan Kroeze

Moving Off the Land. Oceans – Sketches and Notes is a new commission by TBA21–Academy. This iteration has been co-organised by TBA21–Academy and Tate Modern. Curated by Stefanie Hessler in collaboration with Isabella Maidment. Produced by Judith Bowdler and María Montero Sierra.

The performance builds on an earlier iteration of the work first presented as part of TBA21–Academy's *Convening #2* in Kochi, India (2016), as well as at TBA21–Augarten, Vienna, and at the Sequences Art Festival, Reykjavík (both 2017).

ABOUT JOAN JONAS

Joan Jonas (born 1936, New York) is regarded as a pre-eminent figure in contemporary performance who continues to influence a younger generation of artists. Reflecting the way Jonas works across many different disciplines, the ground-breaking survey exhibition is the first of its kind at Tate, combining a gallery exhibition, a ten-day Live Exhibition in the Tanks with performances by Jonas herself, and a film retrospective in the Starr Cinema. It reveals her powerful impact on contemporary art and her dedication to pushing boundaries to this day.

ABOUT TBA21–ACADEMY

TBA21–Academy leads artists, scientists, and thought-leaders on expeditions of collaborative discovery. Founded by Francesca von Habsburg and led by Director Markus Reymann, the Academy is dedicated to fostering a deeper understanding of the ocean through the lens of art and to engendering creative solutions to its most pressing issues. TBA21–Academy commissions interdisciplinary research that catalyses engagement, stimulates new knowledge, and inspires artistic production. Established in 2011, the nonprofit's programme is informed by a belief in the power of exchange between disciplines and in the ability of the arts as a vessel for communication, change, and action.

THU 31 MAY 2018
21.00
TURBINE HALL
TATE MODERN

JOAN JONAS MOVING OFF THE LAND. OCEANS – SKETCHES AND NOTES

Commissioned by TBA21–Academy and
presented in collaboration with Tate Modern

tba21.org/academy
tate.org.uk
#joanjonas
#movingofftheland



T ∞ Thyssen-Bornemisza
B Art Contemporary
→ A Academy



Joan Jonas's mesmerising multimedia performance *Moving Off the Land. Oceans – Sketches and Notes* pays tribute to the ocean and its creatures, biodiversity, and delicate ecology. On this exceptional occasion Jonas is joined onstage by the celebrated composer and drummer Ikue Mori (born 1953, Tokyo).

Combining movement, live drawing, readings, and video projection, *Moving Off the Land* draws on literary and mythological sources as well as Jonas's own collection of sketches and notes. Projected video footage of underwater scenes creates a setting in which multiple layers of gestures, real and imaginary figures, and numerous aquatic beings are brought together. In this 60-minute performance Jonas celebrates the poetics and explores the ecology of the ocean, which she describes as 'a poetic, totemic, and natural entity, as a life source and home to a universe of beings'. Readings include excerpts from Herman Melville's novel *Moby Dick* 1851, naturalist Sy Montgomery's book *The Soul of an Octopus* 2015, and marine biologist Rachel Carson's poetic science writing in *The Edge of the Sea* 1955.

The oceans are an ongoing thematic touchstone in Jonas's recent works, such as her project for the United States Pavilion at the 56th Venice Biennale, *They Come to Us without a Word* 2015, a multi-layered installation addressing the spiritual aspects of nature through video, drawings, objects, and sound.

In the late 1960s, as art opened itself to new practices and spaces, Jonas set her performance pieces – combining dance, theatre, live drawing, sculpture, and music – outside the museum, in lofts, studios, wastelands, beaches, or forests. This interest in transforming space is further pursued in *Moving Off the Land*. The performance premieres in the UK at Tate Modern's Turbine Hall, the institution's central public space – a crossroads of viewers and passers-by where the city meets the museum.

This event is one element of an ambitious multi-part programme at Tate Modern devoted to Jonas's pioneering work in performance, video, and installation, which includes a major exhibition in the level 2 galleries of the Blavatnik Building. Jonas's installation *Reanimation* 2010/2012/2013 is also on display in the Tanks, level 0.