

Tomoko Hojo

Monday 24 November, 3.30pm
Phipps Hall

Tomoko Hojo (Japan, 1988)

Whispered Screaming (2022-) 20' UK Premiere

This performance of *Whispered Screaming* was first presented at the concert 'Japanese Woman Experimental Sound Artists', which I curated at the Emily Harvey Foundation, NYC. The work is based on a soundtrack from Yoko Ono's past discography, in which the screams (the parts that have no lyrics and are pure screaming) are extracted and re-recorded in her own voice. The screams used in the performance are not the usual loud screams, but silent whispered shouts.

The background is the experience of being a socially vulnerable group (Asians, women, children, the elderly, immigrants), exposed to violence from strangers on a daily basis. Crimes against Asians have gained

momentum in recent years, particularly in New York where this performance was made, and we are forced to live in a situation where we do not know when we will be targeted. Screaming, which is used to express excessive emotion and pain, is a universal act that anyone can engage in. Instead of drowning out the other sounds by making a single loud voice, the overlaying of whispered screams (the voice itself is a small sound) allows the overlapping of other voices. By accumulating and emanating unvoiced and dehumanising voices and sounds, this is an attempt at a small resistance to the violence that exists at different levels in different parts of the world. © **Tomoko Hojo**

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