

SANDBOX performance installation by Josef Ka // Annantalo Helsinki // fall 2021



credit Tatiana Solovieva

"Josef Ka's installation/performance 'Sandbox' is an astounding multi-disciplinary experience with the power to pull its audience into the long-lost world of one's own childhood.

Through a seamless combination of butoh and other contemporary dance disciplines, theatrical narrative, historical document, video installation art, and audience participation, Josef Ka masterfully seduces her viewers to follow her ever-deeper on a journey of exploration, time-travel, and self-(re)discovery.

Ka's 15-minute performance opens with the artist lying motionless beneath a plastic tarp, seemingly asleep within a large sandbox in a darkened gallery space. From directly above, a 100-year-old film projecting images of lively, long-gone children playing in a remarkably similar sandbox begins, spotlighting the performer and awakening her from her dreams as she slowly begins to dig through the sandbox for something long lost within the now illuminated sand.

Sands of time...of memory...of our own childhoods – the one we remember each in our own way – slowly divulge remnants of various objects and amulets that could easily be from our own half-remembered early years, as Ka digs ever deeper into unexpectedly emotional, deeply personal places of remembrance and loss."

independent curator Mark Maher