

A TREE, IN-DEED!

—100 blocks stamina and awareness walk in solidarity with everyone and nobody—

Dear Human,

A human is indeed a tree that has torn its roots out of the earth...

Long ago, to protect ourselves from the desires we have been trying to civilize, from our vicious will power, from the unknown/unconscious forces that give birth to the inevitable cruelty within us, we created systems such as religious and governmental authorities. By doing so, we relinquished the burden of free will and gave it to those control mechanisms. In other words, we freed ourselves of our responsibilities. However, in time, as if created by an external agency, those authorities seized the will power that was initially ours. Thus, becoming unpredictably oppressive and brutal, they provoked even more fear within us. Now, we need to question not only governments but also the system of “governing” itself...

Recently, in different parts of the world, people have been trying to take deeper breaths out of these man-made systems, and they have been trying to hold it longer, with all their might... They will eventually exhale, or else they would die! Many people have died already... Many people are dying at this very moment... And the systems we have given power to, the systems we have created are the murderers... Maybe even much darker days will come forth... But the longer we can hold our breath, the more we can survive!

On May 28th at GEZI Park in Turkey, a small resistance against the demolition of the trees received a brutal response from the police, provoking the resistance to grow into a country-wide protest against governmental power abuses, and against long running human rights violations. During these public demonstrations, some of the state labeled, pre-coded, memorized borders between people began to dissolve. A social awakening from the political anesthesia took place. From afar, I witnessed a single tree becoming a forest in Turkey. The forest with various trees and the trees with various branches walked against the power abuse!

A tree is indeed a human that has planted its roots in to the earth...

Apparently, as an artist and a poet, I have always been influenced by trees. 10 years ago, when I first moved to New York City from Turkey, I found a broken tree in front of my apartment, on a street in Harlem, breathless... I shared my room with this de-earthed tree for 10 years. Now, I take it onto the streets for the first time! As it becomes my nerves and veins, I lend my breath to it. Along the avenue carved by the native inhabitants of these lands, from academia to unions... I walk 100 blocks, 100 years through history, my own history, the history of humanity, with stamina and awareness... Isn't it the “I” that makes the “we”...?

Here I am, as my own tree, walking with the dead. Slowly digesting life with each step, trying to replant this broken self back into the earth... I carry my existential burden of being a human, all too human, on my back, in solidarity with the GEZI movement in Turkey, in solidarity with all the trees and humans who have been torn out of the earth by man-made systems. Let's replant the broken trees in the earth! Let's hold our breaths longer to gather, together...

TIME AND LOCATION:

September 28, 2013 (Saturday)

Along Broadway

Begins on 114th street, 12pm

Ends on 14th street Union Square, 8pm

*This is a solo Butoh walk (very slow steps)! Unless there is an unexpected interruption, every block will take around 5 minutes to walk... Based on this timing, you can gauge where to observe the walk.

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For more information on GEZI, visit these sites: www.everywheretaksim.net, www.talkturkeyconference.com