

Akan Yukar

ロストカムイ

LOST KAMUY



Akan Yukar “Lost Kamuy”

Ainu Ancient Ceremonial Dance × Contemporary Dance × Digital Art

In Akan, Hokkaido, is a small kotan (village) where the Ainu, the indigenous people of Hokkaido, live. Inside the Ainu Kotan is the Lake Akan Ainu Theater "Ikor," where visitors can experience traditional ancient dances of the Ainu. The Akan-Yukar "Lost Kamuy" is a culmination of ancient and modern dances, 3DCG, 7.1 ch Surround that was created by up and coming digital art, sound design, dance creators. This new performance has been shown since March of 2019, using 5 projectors that create a 3-dimensional stage.

STORY

The Ainu believe that two worlds exist: the kamuy (gods) world and the Ainu world. The Ainu see souls residing in all things—in animals, in plants, and in natural phenomenon. And they live in mutual respect with these souls (kamuy), considering them family. The Ezo (the old word for “Hokkaido”) wolf is an extraordinary kamuy. This wolf, a superb hunter that was revered by the Ainu, is called “Horkew Kamuy” (hunting god). The Ezo wolf met a sorry end, though: Heavy snow in 1879 caused the number of Ezo deer (a major source of sustenance for Ezo wolves) to sharply decrease. Without Ezo deer to hunt, livestock belonging to settlers from Honshu (the main island of Japan) were attacked by the Ezo wolves. The Ezo wolves were then seen as a hindrance and poison-laced venison was scattered around for them to eat and kill them. From around 1882 for six to seven years, hunters spurred on by a high-cash-reward scheme killed between 2,000 and 3,000 Ezo wolves. That hunting drove them to extinction. It's said that the kamuy use dreams to express their anger and tell us of our errors. What do those lost kamuy think about and what will they talk about? Every single thing has a role, including these lost kamuy.

- Venue: Akan Lake Ainu Theater <Ikor> (7-84, Akankonsen 4-chome, Akancho, Kushiro City, Hokkaido, Japan)
- Inquires: TEL 0154-67-2727

