Residential Arts, a program of the Fine Arts Center at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, presents an OFF Center series performance of Maureen Fleming at Bowker Auditorium on February 6 at 8pm. Fleming's latest multi-media project, Decay of the Angel, reflects and explores physical and emotional movement through regenerative dance.

At age two Fleming was in a serious car accident. As an instinctive reaction to this physical trauma, she developed a unique technique of body manipulation that allowed her to maintain the superhuman flexibility of an infant. The experience dramatically affected her mind, body, and outlook and has been entwined in her life as an influence on many levels. Decay of the Angel, which was developed in both the United States and Japan, explores the feminine archetype through images of the soul. Fleming is joined by dance photographer Lois Greenfield, celebrated Japanese photographer Tadayuki Naitoh, video artist Jeff Bush, light and visual artist Chris Odo, and ikebana artist and stage art designer Gaho Taniguchi. Involving solo choreography, the work sets up a stream of compositions that depict woman’s transformation, birth, decay, and other natural images. Fleming’s choreographic creation is set in juxtaposition to film, photography, and ikebana design to reflect on birth and death, pain and ecstasy. In Decay of the Angel, Fleming transforms her body into structural forms that push and break any limitations inherent in a human skeleton.
The daughter of an American Navy Lieutenant, Fleming was born in Japan. She draws much of her influence from her extensive study in Japan with Kazuo Ohno, the co-founder of Butoh, a minimalist movement developed in the country after the war. Fleming went on to tour internationally with her master’s son, Yoshito Ohno. She continued her training in the United States as a student with a scholarship from the Cecchetti master Margaret Craske and in 1984 became an artist in residence at La MaMa ETC in New York. In the past decade, Fleming has conducted annual workshops at New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, Trinity-La MaMa, and recently at The Julliard School. In addition, she has been awarded fellowships from the National Performance Network Commission Fund and was the national recipient of the Dewar’s Profile Performance Award.

Tickets are $5 (students) and $12 (general) and can be purchased at www.resarts.com, or by calling the Fine Arts Center Box Office at 1.800.999.UMAS.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND PRINT-QUALITY IMAGES, PLEASE VISIT www.resarts.com

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