Aisha Sasha John

TO STAND AT THE PRECIPICE ALONE AND REPEAT WHAT IS WHISPERED

Written primarily over the course of four months in the fall of 2018, when Aisha Sasha John spent time in her native Vancouver, TO STAND AT THE PRECIPICE ALONE AND REPEAT WHAT IS WHISPERED sees the poet reckoning with narrative in the wake of returning to a place at once familiar and strange: “The other name for this work is DAUGHTERHOOD. What if instead of shaming your parents about their need to grow up, you went on ahead and did it yourself? I used the money I got from being shortlisted for this big poetry prize to spend what would become four months in Vancouver. I went to impose my will on the earth: to be secretary to my mom on a personal business matter. It was entirely my idea. I went to Vancouver I guess to more closely consider my exile. It was terrible: a beautiful time.”

“With masterful clarity, Aisha Sasha John transforms that archetypal tale of “the return home” into a capsule of sensations so contemporary and alive.

— SHEILA HETI

“Climb Aisha Sasha John’s cliff and meet her energetic catalogue of daily life in the ruins of a disquieting world. John’s cliff is language for recovering the ecstatic from the heights and depths of collapse.

— CANISIA LUBRIN

A poet and choreographer, Aisha Sasha John is the author of I have to live. (McClelland & Stewart) and THOU (Book*hug). John is the 2019-2022 Dancemakers’ Resident Artist—in 2021 she will commence research on an ensemble work DIANA ROSS DREAM. Her solo work the aisha of is premiered at the Whitney Museum in 2017.