

Haruka Tomatsu's Choreographed Work Portfolio

2025:-"Calling back the Spirits" Water tower art Residency #10 (Levochevo, Bulgaria)



I participated in a 10-day residency in Levočovo, Bulgaria. During this period, I explored the commonalities between Japanese myths related to the sun and the summer solstice rituals passed down in the Rhodope Mountains, while creating a participatory performance involving the audience. I also created an installation specifically for the performance.

The installation was made using natural elements from the Rhodope Mountains as well as man-made objects (mainly discarded items) found in Levočovo. This installation served as both a ritual site and a sacred space where the divine resides.

In Shinto belief, it is thought that deities and spirits dwell not only in natural elements such as mountains, rivers, and the sea, but also in small things like stones, twigs, or even leaves. Additionally, man-made objects that have been used over long periods are also believed to acquire a spirit and a soul. The objects I created were imbued with human intention and craftsmanship, and they ultimately became vessels for the divine.

In the climactic performance, I conducted a ritual of divine invocation—calling forth the sun, light, and the return of hope—together with the audience.

The audience helped purify the space, and each participant placed a wish-imbued stone onto the altar. I performed a dance to summon our deity, simultaneously acting as the ritual leader, guiding the audience throughout the ceremony. Video link: <https://youtu.be/WkGfMyMjodo>

2025:-"Kawaii Syndrome"(Dance by Kotone Yoshimatsu)

(Competition 29th Internationales Solo-Tanz-Theater Festival Stuttgart Semifinalist)

"Japanese women are constantly confronted with the value of being "always and forever young and kawaii" as a standard of beauty. They are exposed to the mental pressure to "always be a kawaii woman" that is transmitted daily from the mass of advertisements and social networking sites that flood the streets."

*In Japanese, "Kawaii(かわいい)" describes a charm that combines cuteness, innocence, and endearing qualities. It applies to people, objects, and characters, highlighting an aesthetic that evokes affection and warmth, and reflects a unique cultural appreciation for gentle, approachable beauty.



The Performance will be portraits of a Japanese woman who lives in the modern age and is confronted with the ideal of "being a kawaii woman.".

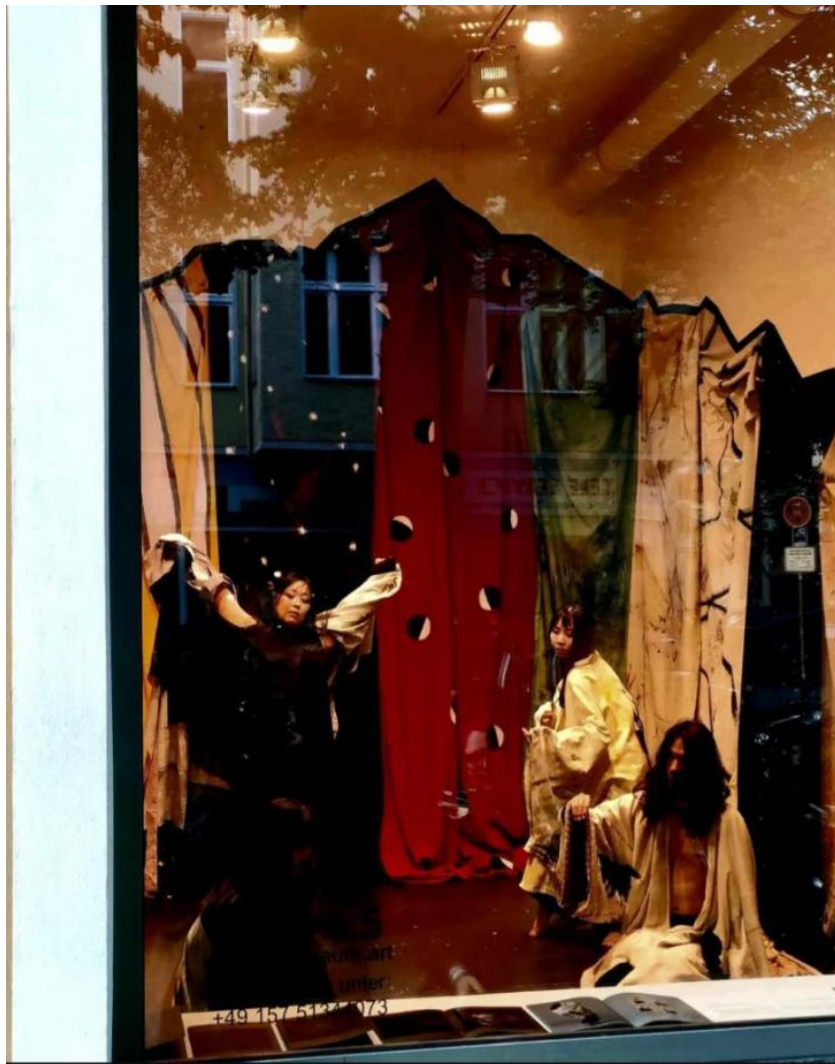
VideoLink:

<https://vimeo.com/1066883751?share=copy>

2025: -Berlin Fashion Week 2025 -Farewell, Again- (Berlin, Germany)(Direction by Daniel Kujawa)



2024:-Gallery weekend "Privatraum -Schaufenster Performce-"
(Berlin, Germany) (Direction by Daniel Kujawa)



2024: -"Klamotte, Tanz, Schlagzeug" (Essen,Germany)(Direction by Daniel Kujawa)





Photo by Adrian Serini

2023/22: -"Würde und Liebe"(Berlin, Germany) (Diretion by Ren Saibara)

I served as choreographer and dancer in "Würde und Liebe". Set in a stylized greenhouse, the performance features a protagonist caring for a life-size, amorphous object. Through glass, the audience grapples with questions about identity and relationships within caregiving. This piece explores modern caregiving challenges from Japanese and German perspectives, in collaboration with director Ren Saibara and voice artist Eva Löbau. Combining spoken word, documentary, and Butoh dance, the performance immerses viewers in emotions like fear, love, and hope, supported by sound and video installations. It is funded by Fonds Darstellende Künste as part of NEUSTART KULTUR.

Video link: <https://vimeo.com/753155277>



2022: -"The Memory of Varna" Water Tower Art Residency #5 (Varna, Bulgaria)

"The Memory of Varna" was presented at the Water Tower art residency program #5 in Varna, Bulgaria. This project focused on observing the city through the five senses. I explored Varna, using touch, smell, taste, hearing, and sight to capture my experiences in words and create an installation and performance. As a mentor during the residency, I led Butoh workshops, inviting three participants to join the project. They explored the city, gathering sensory memories like I did. For the installation, they described their feelings, places, and dates, assembling their collected memories based on bodily sensations. The installation was displayed in an old bunker, accessible to the public. In the performance, I structured movements based on the collected words, allowing the body to recreate those memories. I actively participated in the residency as a mentor throughout this creative journey.

Video link: <https://youtu.be/ujuGxYFI1vU>



2021: -“SPIRALE -Wenn Der Körper nicht streikt-”(Berlin, Germany)(Direction by Ren Saibara)

I participated as choreographer and dancer in “SPIRALE-wenn Der körper nicht streckt” in Vierte Welt, Berlin, Germany, in collaboration with the director Ren Saibara and the dramaturge Viola Köster, the dancer makes stress and career pressure visible on stage and questions the often self-chosen exploitation with seriousness and humour. “Does my job really make me happy?” Starting from this question, the film does its best to put the subject under the microscope with the help of three languages (Japanese, English and German), thus questioning how to stay socially hip and in a good mood between the office, the fitness studio and the Instagram selfie account. “Is there a way out of the spiral? Or does it always go on like this?” The choreography was based between a desk, a chair and a laptop (or an i pad spread three-dimensionally across the desk), exploring the impact of unbounded work on the body, movement and human nature. In addition, the choreography uses the presence of the four pillars that are characteristic of the theater space to show the flow of emotions as people switch between work and private life, or as they become unable to maintain them. This production by Ren Saibara, funded by Fonds Darstellende Künste with funds from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media as part of NEUSTART KULTUR and supported with funds from Projektförderung Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg.

Video link: <https://vimeo.com/589829154>



2019: "Zen mondo (Zen dialogue)" Water Tower Art Residency #3 (Sofia, Bulgaria)

"Zen mondo (Zen dialogue) " is a performance about the question of Who I am and Why I am here through studying Zen philosophy and Zen mondo (Zen dialogue). Zen mondo means questions and answers about the teaching of Zen between a Zen master and his students, Zen trainers, or sometimes what is not a person.

This work was performed as a solo performance at Water Tower Art Residency program #3 in Sofia, Bulgaria. It has been redesigned to allow the audience to participate in installations and performances. I created different installations inspired by Zen Gardens in the former boiler ruins building and the gallery in Sofia and performed in those. This interactive work in Sofia aims to make the audience realize their own existence again and to see what others are by measuring and observing the distance between objects and their own bodies as well as by interacting with things. This way, the installation happens and changes every moment by everybody who is taking part in it. The audience can participate in the work by following a simple task. By using the given choreography, the audience can pick up and move the objects in the space, which are known as everyday life-objects, objects I picked up in the streets in Sofia, and I collected at the former boiler ruins building. As a result, they can feel the changing space by that. Also, in the performance, a dancer as a guide appeared in a certain period of time and created a time where not only the object and themselves but also the existence of others can be felt by moving the object in the workspace with the audience. Trailer link: <https://youtu.be/O8mFzJ3OxOo>



Performance
at ONE gallery





Performance at Tec

Research project

2022:-"Research in the RYTHM: the relation between OBJECT-SPACE-BODY -MOVEMENT"

In a research project in 2022, I created a dance score inspired by John Cage's work "Ryoanji", which contains many elements of improvisation, making movement from the rhythms created by the changing relationships between objects and space. This was done to further develop my installation performance work "Zen mondo", an exhibition format that participates in Zen thought by feeling the relationship between objects and space through the instructions presented in 2019. This project is supported by Fonds Darstellende Künste with funds from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media within the framework of NEUSTART KULTUR. The scores produced in the study can be viewed at the following link:

Link:https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17r6klmHvkO1R-5x4IMcZSVS9CTNWWtx9?usp=share_link

2021: -"The smell of floating memories: The new research for a new choreography method as an original style dance score that incorporates smelling elements"

In a research project at the end of 2021, I researched a dance score that incorporates elements of smell as a new form of choreography based on butoh technique. In this research, I researched the mechanism of Kumiko, a traditional Japanese game that incorporates scent, and the Butoh-Fu (Butoh dance score) created by Tatsumi Hijikata, in order to incorporate the element of smell, visualise the images that emerge from it, and explore my own form of Butoh-Fu. This research project was funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media in the programme NEUSTART KULTUR, aid programme DIS-TANZEN of the Dachverband Tanz Deutschland.

The scores produced in the study can be viewed at the following link.

link:https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1F5ACZ5PxoduemmLRxYp_RGGW8dg65FI3?usp=sharing

Organized event

2024 Jan- : Free improvisation jam session # Encounter the free feeling in Berlin

The aim of this project is to bring together people of all genres, not only dancers but also musicians, actors, performance artists, visual artists, etc., to exchange ideas and actions that emerge from the sessions and to share the moment and the space. For each improvisation session, a guest host is invited and a theme is presented to the participants, which is then used as the basis for the session. So far, themes such as scent, text, shout, silence and light have been used to create a space that evokes free ideas and associations in the participants. Participants have included not only dancers, but also writers, musicians, fashion designers, visual artists, actors, models and others from a variety of backgrounds.

Photos during the event

