

Ibuki Kuramochi

Artist



"KAKIZOME" (Paper, Sumi Ink) 2015



"vayu" (Acrylic, Pencil, Canvas, 1167x910cm) 2015



"Body Painting-Black-" 2016



Performace in Paris

Artist Ibuki Kuramochi paints about life, death, and human spirituality. While conventional painting might involve landscapes or still life models on a piece of canvas, to Ibuki, the word 'canvas' takes on a much more fluid meaning. The majority of her artwork is monochrome and drawn using only black ink. Her intricate line work and lively designs makes her work incredibly expressive and eye catching. In April of this year at a Paris, France venue Ibuki conducted a live improvisational painting of a massive three-meter-tall white fabric to the accompaniment of traditional Japanese Shamisen music. The audience watched on as stroke after limber stroke was painted into the fabric creating a flowing and alive looking canvas of wriggling lines that waved in a way resembling long hair in the wind. This novel blend of movement, music and painting is her way of encapsulating the spirit of performance art.

She has been conducting her work primarily in Japan until only just recently, but Ibuki's made her international debut in JAPAN EXPO Paris, France 2016. Since then, she has gone onto to conduct performances of her music and live painting throughout Europe and Asia. Starting late last year, Ibuki has also been captivating audiences with another new and imaginative form of performance art which fuses the beauty and craft of her live painting with the soul and rhythm of contemporary dance. "I love art that is created on the spot." She says. "When I am painting in front of a crowd to music, the collaborating instruments influence my drawing and allow me to feel the mood of my surroundings and make it one with the audience's. My performances are only a short 30 minutes, so it's easy to focus all my strength into each piece. You could say that that is the most fun part of improvisation for me."

Ibuki's work expresses themes of eroticism, and the primordial existence of the universe in a multitude of ways. But the curiously entwined black lines of her pieces also project a uniquely Japanese aesthetic and outlook on spirituality. We asked her what artists have influenced her own art philosophy and what lead her to enjoy creating work that delves into concepts of the human spirit. "The first time I felt incredibly moved by art was during my adolescence when I first saw Silk Road (a series of paintings by Japanese painter Ikuo Hirayama). About three years ago, I wanted to re-live the feeling of seeing his work for the first time, so I visited Yakushiji Temple in Nara." The inside of Yakushiji temple is famously decorated with one continuous 13 piece wall painting by Hirayama called the Great Tang of the Western Regions. It is 49 meters long, took him 30 years to complete and incorporates motifs of life and death, and the existence of the soul. "I felt this art

really draw me in. It made me feel warm and nostalgic. I want to illicit these same feelings with my own art."

Ibuki Kuramochi says that she has experienced a lot of inspiring events around the world during her travels, and wishes to continue expressing her own unique and Japanese outlook on human souls and emotions through her work. Each piece of her artwork is a vivid expresses of both the delicate sensibility of the Japanese people as well the distinctive strength possessed by women.

Ibuki Kuramochi
<http://www.ibuki-kuramochi.com>
Email: kuramochi.ibu@gmail.com
Facebook: [ibuki.kuramochi](https://www.facebook.com/ibuki.kuramochi)
Instagram: [ibuki_kuramochi](https://www.instagram.com/ibuki_kuramochi)