

Ai Ozaki / 尾崎 藍

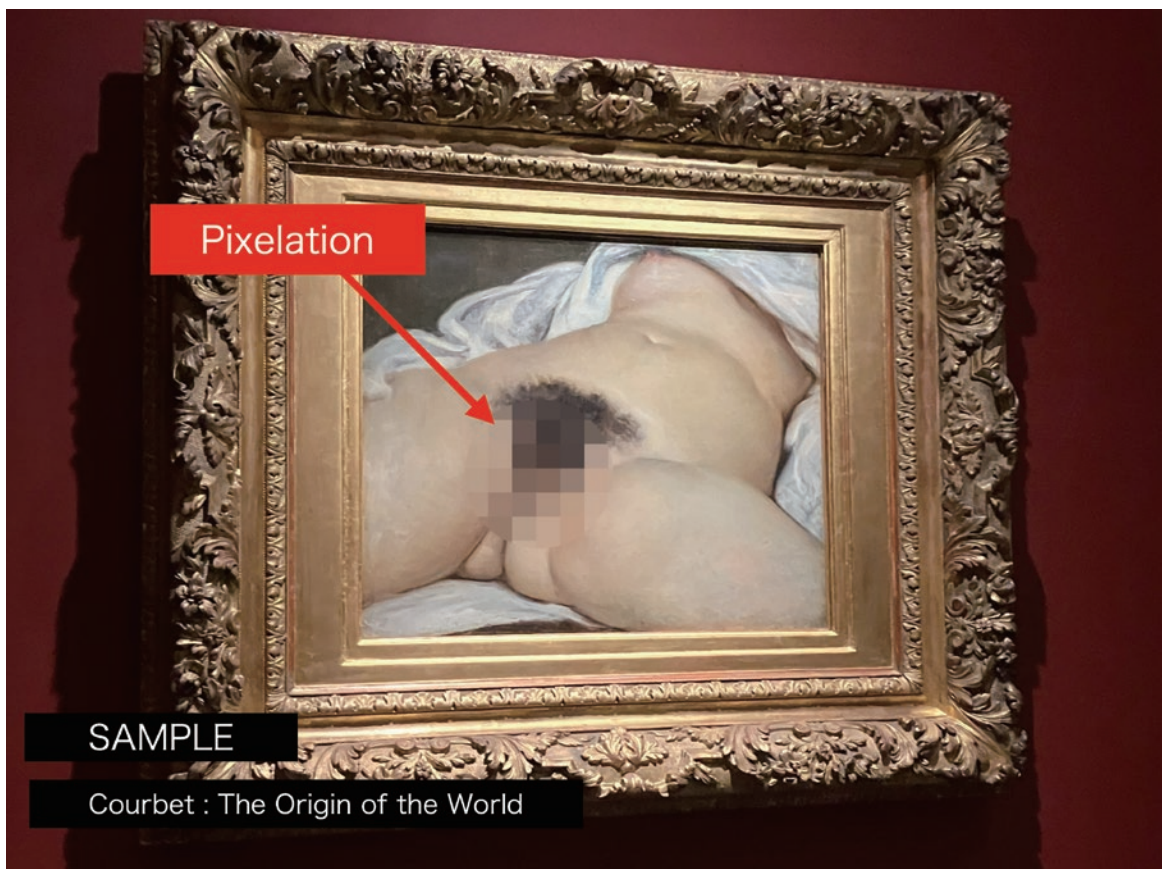


I am a visual artist who works with video, sound, photography, ceramics, painting and text, to investigate the ways my body interacts with 'the Other' . For me, 'the Other' does not only include people, but all living things – and even myself.

I often notice that people do not understand each other, let alone know what birds are thinking, or how our own bodies function – we cannot control our own organs, for example. In my practice I am interested in imagining communication with these close yet so far incomprehensible beings and things.

Based on these interests, I have been researching and producing works around the themes ' 性 : sex/nature' and ' 食 : eating/food/living'.

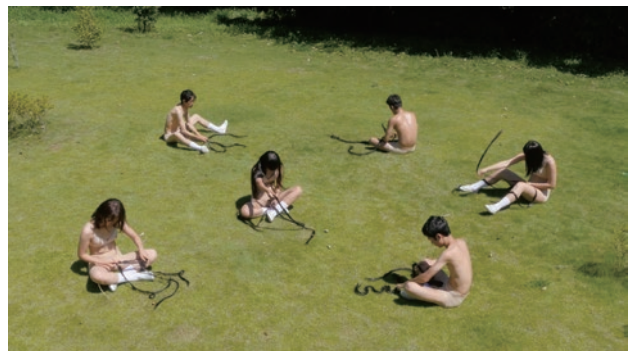
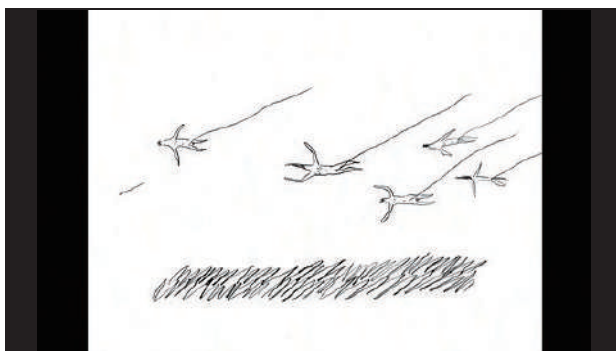
The reason for addressing ' 性 : sex/nature' and ' 食 : eating/food/living', is that everyone has a body, and it also stems from my parents' work, pixelation to hide genital parts of pornographic videos in Japan. Therefore I was surrounded by a lot of pornography since I was a child, without proper sexual education.





Joy of life

2016, 5 min 41 sec, single channel video



In this video, people are knitting their pubic hair and tying it together and circling around. My parents' job is making pixilation to hide genital parts of pornographic videos. Therefore I was surrounded by a lot of pornography since I was a child, without proper sexual education. I wanted to make a video of sex, not to only excite our body. The appearance of knitting one's or another's pubic hair is similar to animal grooming.

Related images of 'Joy of life'



Image of "Grooming" searched by Google



Photo I took at the zoo



Dance - Matisse

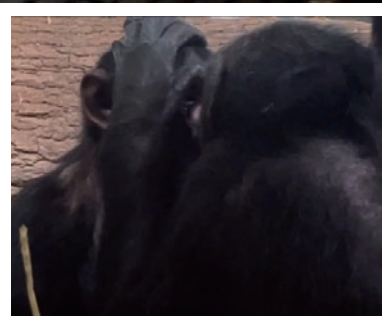
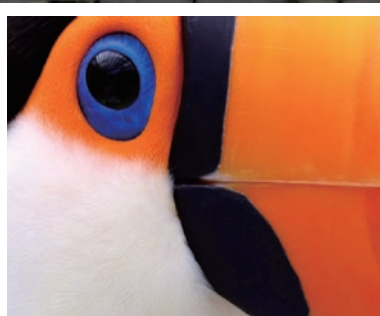
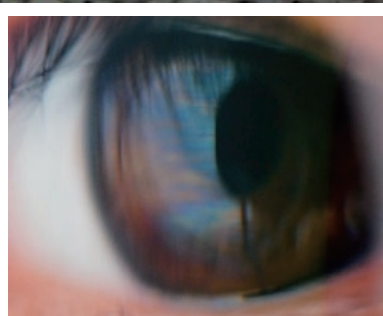


Joy of life - Matisse



At the Zoo

2023, 1 min 9 sec, single channel video (loop)



Blink and Gaze video. Animation of naked drawings over people in a zoo.

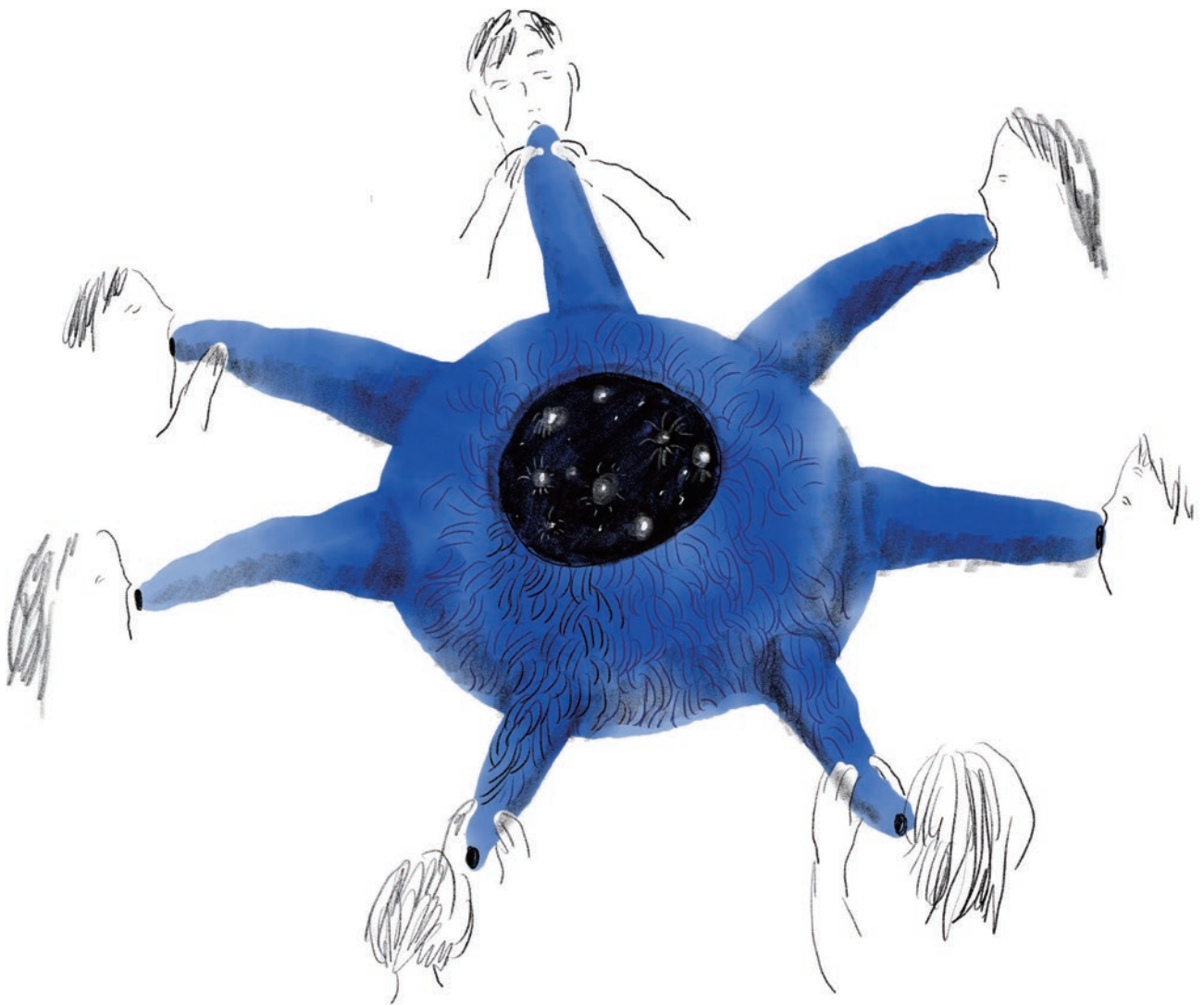
*Someone told me
It' s all happening at the zoo
I do believe it
I do believe it' s true*

*Somethin' tells me
It' s all happening at the zoo
I do believe it
I do believe it' s true*

From Simon & Garfunkel, 'At the Zoo'

This is my favorite song and always remember when I visit a zoo.

When I look at the behaviour of animals and living things, it looks like a microcosm of life. That is very attractive to me and makes me feel like I'm in a part of a big rhythm.



My work comes from daily life. My body, cooking, dead insects on the balcony, people living with me, conversations with friends, everything affects me. In human history, cultures, myths, images, these things are loosely and strongly connected all over the world. They come from human life. I imagine how they are connected.

I am interested in how personal things such as the body, experiences, and emotions can connect and be shared with the other. I also consider how images generated in people's lives have been related to each other across different times and cultures, and how they can be expanded in the future.



Jars 壺

2023~, ceramic, wood, stone, salt, some vegetables

I made these jars to use as vessels for making pickles. They are also urns for bones, burial jars, and vessels for life, including our bodies. When fermentation occurs, the jar becomes a habitat for microorganisms. When making pickles, I put some vegetables and salt into the jar and press them with weight. The water from the vegetables then seeps out, and the salty water overflows from their eyes.

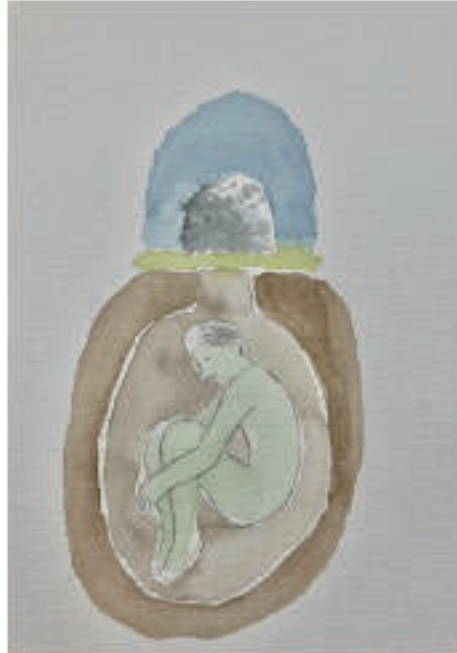
I remember picking up my grandfather's bones with chopsticks after the cremation. This is called 'Kotsuage'. After that, we had a banquet together, talking about our grandfather and eating with chopsticks. It felt as if the Kotsuage was still going on, and the urn was a part of our body.



Related images of 'Jars'



Earthenware with face, Japan. when the grave have to move, bones placed in this jar and moved.



my drawing



Grave stone



Burial jar, Turkey, image is from Wikipedia



This grave illustrates the normal method of adult burial in the Protoegeometric and Early Geometric periods. The body was burned on a pyre together with vases containing offerings of food and drink. The ashes were gathered into an urn and set into a small pit. In and around were stacked other offerings, in this case tools and weapons of iron and terracotta vases. Finally, the burial place was protected and marked by a mound of earth. From Ancient Agora of Athens.



*These are images of making fermentation seasoning and food
Making MISO(left) and making pickles(漬物). Searched by Google

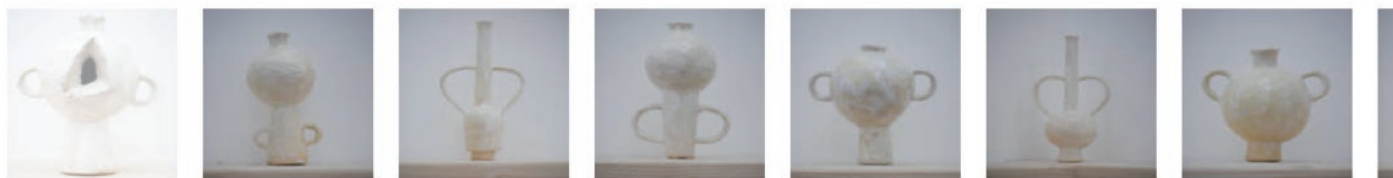
Weight 重石

2024, ceramic, stone

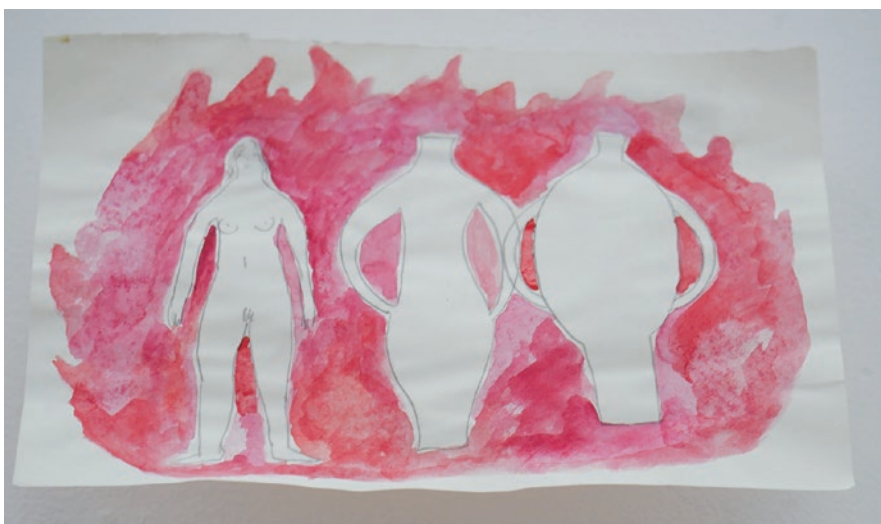


2018, ceramic, wood



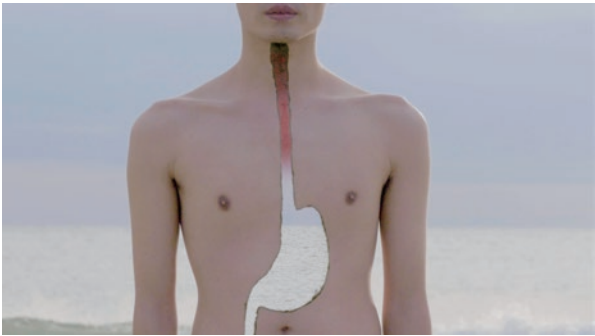


Tear catcher 涙壺 2018~, ceramic



Digest

2019-2020, 6 min 23 sec, single channel video



In this video, I tried to open up a personal experience of eating and digesting. The moving objects in the video are 'the piece of important things' of the two people.

When I went to Yuriage Beach, an area that was severely affected by tsunami, I found a beautiful small piece of debris. I see the surface of the piece, it looks like a part of tile. Entrance, bathroom and kitchen. It is glazed, so it was probably used as a wet area. The edges of the piece still remain sharp. I imagine the memory of this piece. The earth is piled up, the breakwater is built, and the time around is moving, but This piece is slow as if it were stopped. It is a close and far piece of reality, and out of nowhere, I felt that piece stuck in the back of my throat.



LIVE ON

2020, 11 min 28 sec, single channel video



In this video, people are picking up items that have washed ashore on the beach.

People cook before they eat. cut into small pieces or make into a paste or boil or bake. If it is to make food edible and digestible, cooking is part of digestion.

Stones colliding with each other in the sea waves and shaving little by little reminds me of the bird' s digestion. Birds have no teeth. They grind the swallowed food with sand and pebbles in a digestive organ called a gizzard. Indigestible pebbles help digest food. Then the sea began to seem like a large digestive organ.



The image of KOTSUAGE. Searched by Google



About Birds

This is my parakeet. I had been with them for around 20 years.

Because of my parents' work, pornography was very much around me from a young age. It was commonplace for me to act as if I couldn't see what I could see about sexuality, and by extension, my own body.

A quick look at a parakeet's body does not reveal its gender characteristics. Since witnessing the parakeet performing mating behaviour with my hand in the living room, where my family was also present, it felt as if something inside me had started to move. Not only because of that experience, I have been working with bird motifs since then.



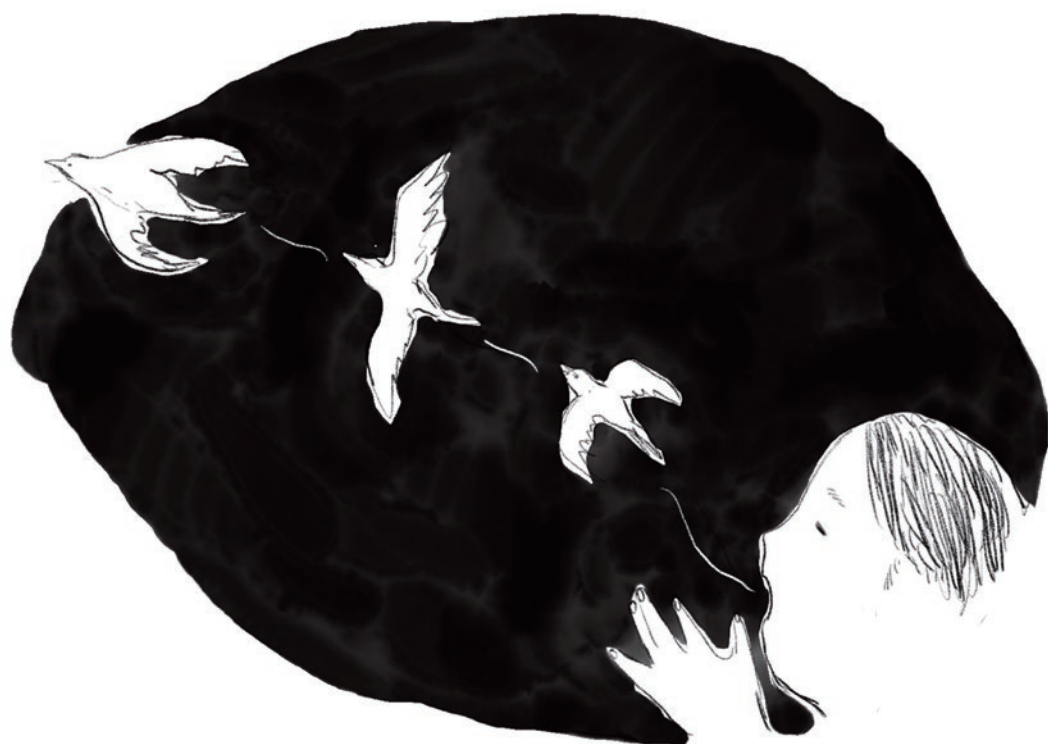
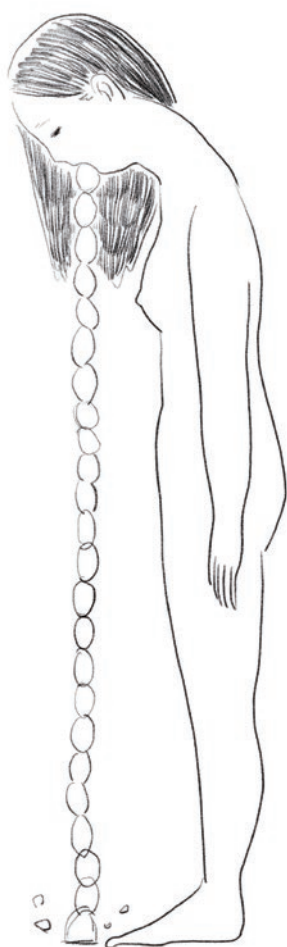
Bird human series

2015~



2023, resin, 15cm





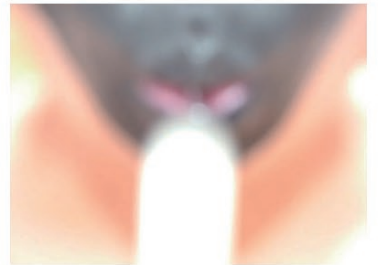
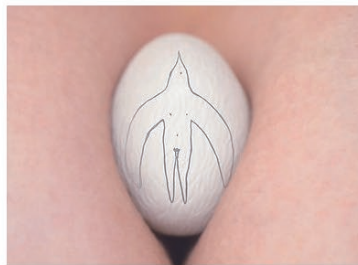
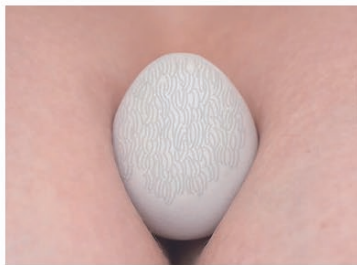
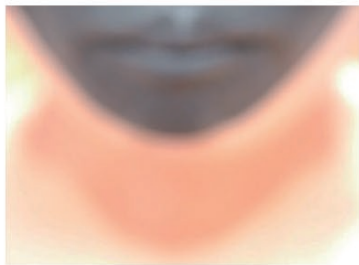


*ongoing improving this piece

Human poetry

2017, resin, ceramic





Human egg

2017, 4 min 11 sec (loop)

Imagine a human egg.

Warm the egg out of the mouth.

The egg wrapped in the skin becomes increasingly patterned.

The patterned egg overlaps a bird-shaped human, and it returns to its mouth.

People who talking words of birds

2017

3'29" video (loop)



Even if we use the same language and word, sometimes get out of sync with each other little by little. It seems that various kinds of birds are gathering and talking in each way of singing. The two people in the video are discussing something. They occasionally exchange physical affection and then continue their conversation.

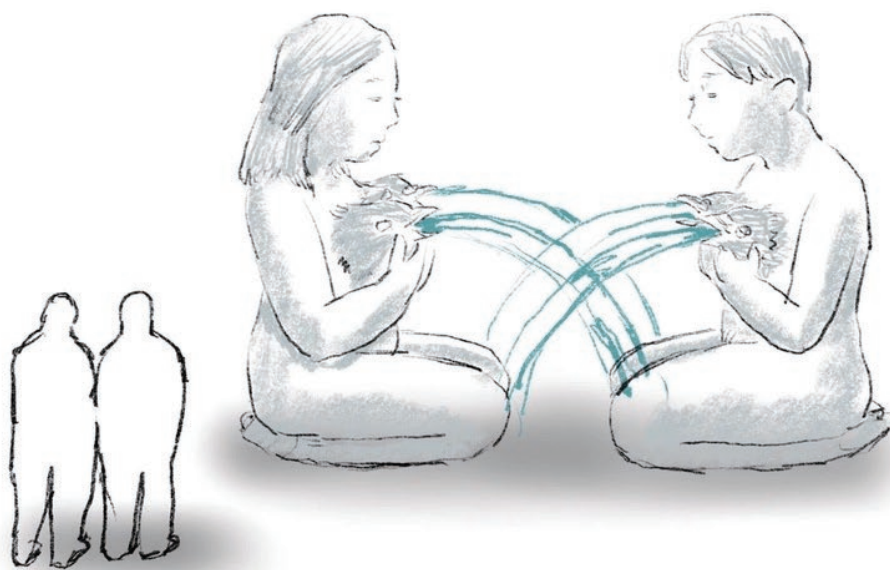


Fountain

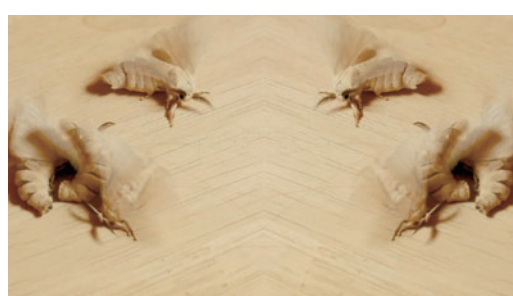
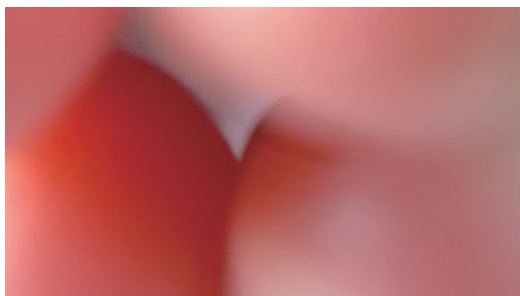
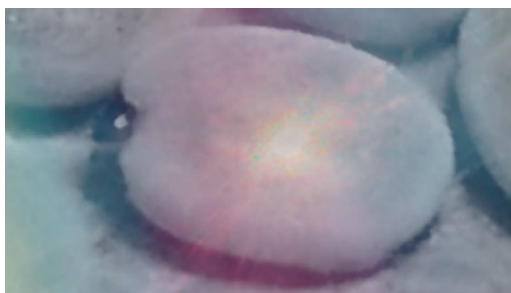
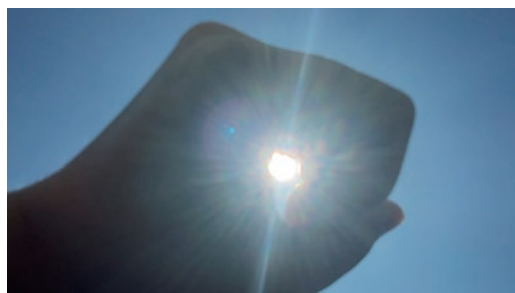
2023, ceramic, electric cable, moter, water, white ink



In 2022, I moved to Amsterdam. It was the first time I had lived abroad. Among so many unfamiliar sights, the pigeons I always saw around the city looked more familiar than before. This piece was initially imagined as a large public sculpture, but I created this smaller version, like the size of a bird's water fountain.



Public art image.



Silent tango

2021, 12 min 14 sec, single channel video

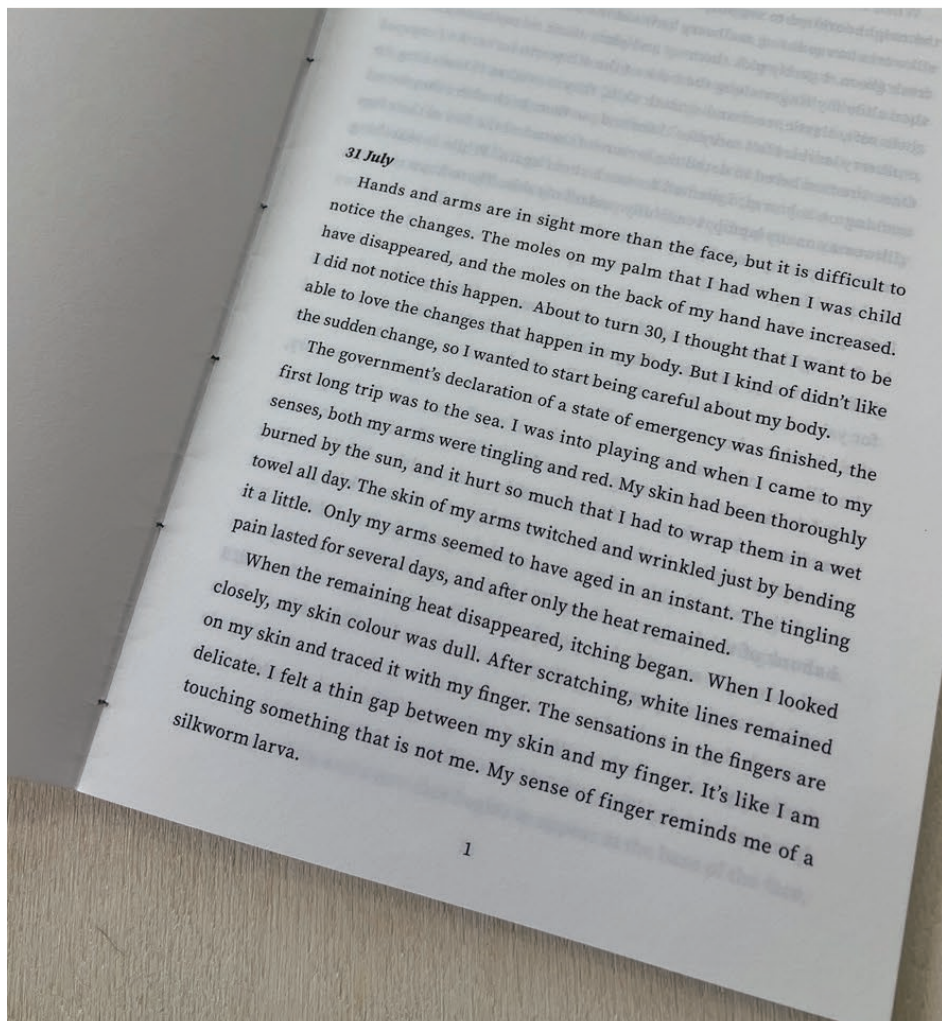
I got a bad sunburn when I went to the sea. The skin just before peeling was similar to the silkworm I touched before.

I connect the body of a silkworm which changes greatly in a short time with my body which has recently started to notice small changes.

I wrote texts which is silkworm observations and my body observations.

This video was made to go back and forth with this text.

“The silkworm’s skin”




Prose poetry book
2024

Text and photos
17 pages in English
17 pages in Japanese
+ some photos

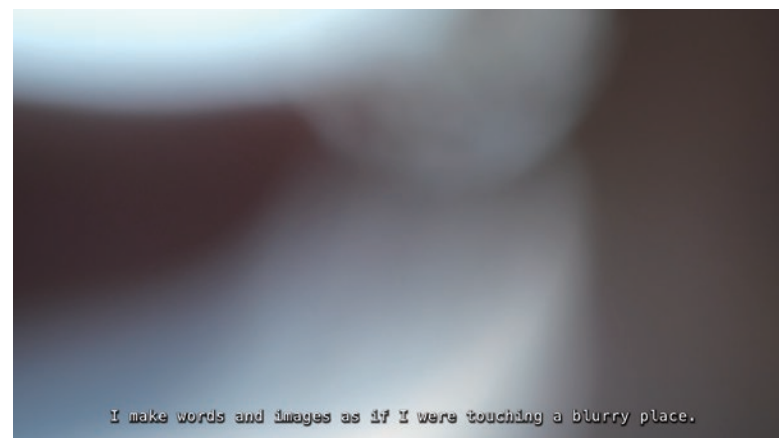
Text written in 2020-2021

SPINNING

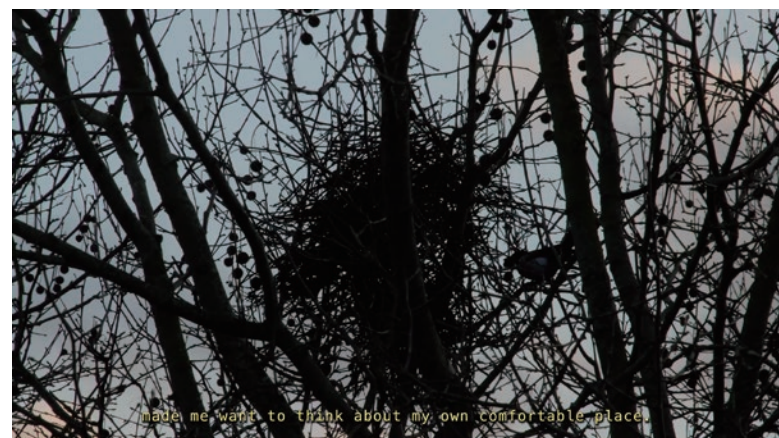
2023, 11 min 23 sec, single channel video




so seeing the softening light through the cloth made me feel like
I was making a cocoon.




I make words and images as if I were touching a blurry place.



made me want to think about my own comfortable place.



The starfish that leave her hands become shooting stars
and return to the sea.



If I were a pigeon,
would I be the least bit afraid to join a group of pigeons?

I became so absorbed in observing silkworms that I found it hard to distance myself from them for a while. A video about the life surrounding me in a new land—homes, cocoons, nests, and cages.

Licking sap

2024, loop animation



I take photos and videos, and write text on a daily basis. So that I can ruminate on the daily touch.



Talking about mosaics while making pickles

2024, 7 min, video installation



My parents' job is pixelation to hide genital parts of pornographic videos. In Japan, we call this pixelation 'mosaic'. Therefore, I feel this word has the image of blurring and hiding. In English, it is the image of fine fragments coming together to form one thing. I take photos and videos, and write texts on a daily basis. So that I can ruminate the texture of daily life. This video is about the ongoing progress of my journey to reach my "mosaic".







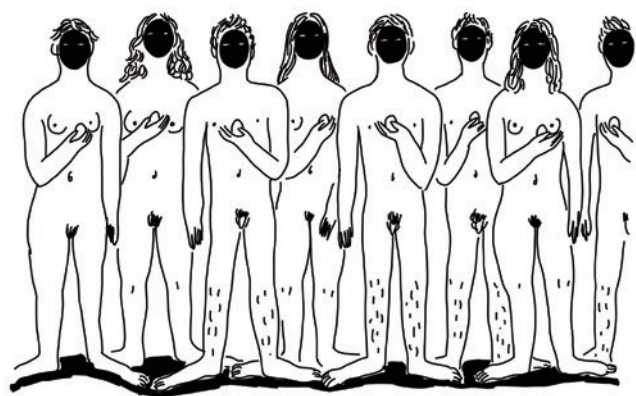
Dance of life

2018, 6'03" single channel video

Rabbits lack vocal cords. Instead of a voice, they stamp their feet to warn their group of danger. Similarly, when frustration becomes overwhelming, some people instinctively stamp the ground. Joy can make emotions leap, sometimes bringing an urge to skip. To find calm, legs may shake involuntarily. The body is a constant source of movement—vibrations from the heart pumping blood, rhythms that are both personal and universal.

After sprinting at full speed or facing a wave of nerves, the heart pulses so strongly it feels as if it's shouting, though the sound remains unheard outside the body.

This video explores the act of stamping to the beat of one's own heart—a shared rhythm that confirms, transmits, and resonates beyond the individual.



Love

2016

0'55" loop

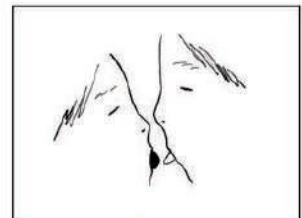
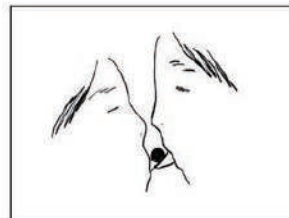
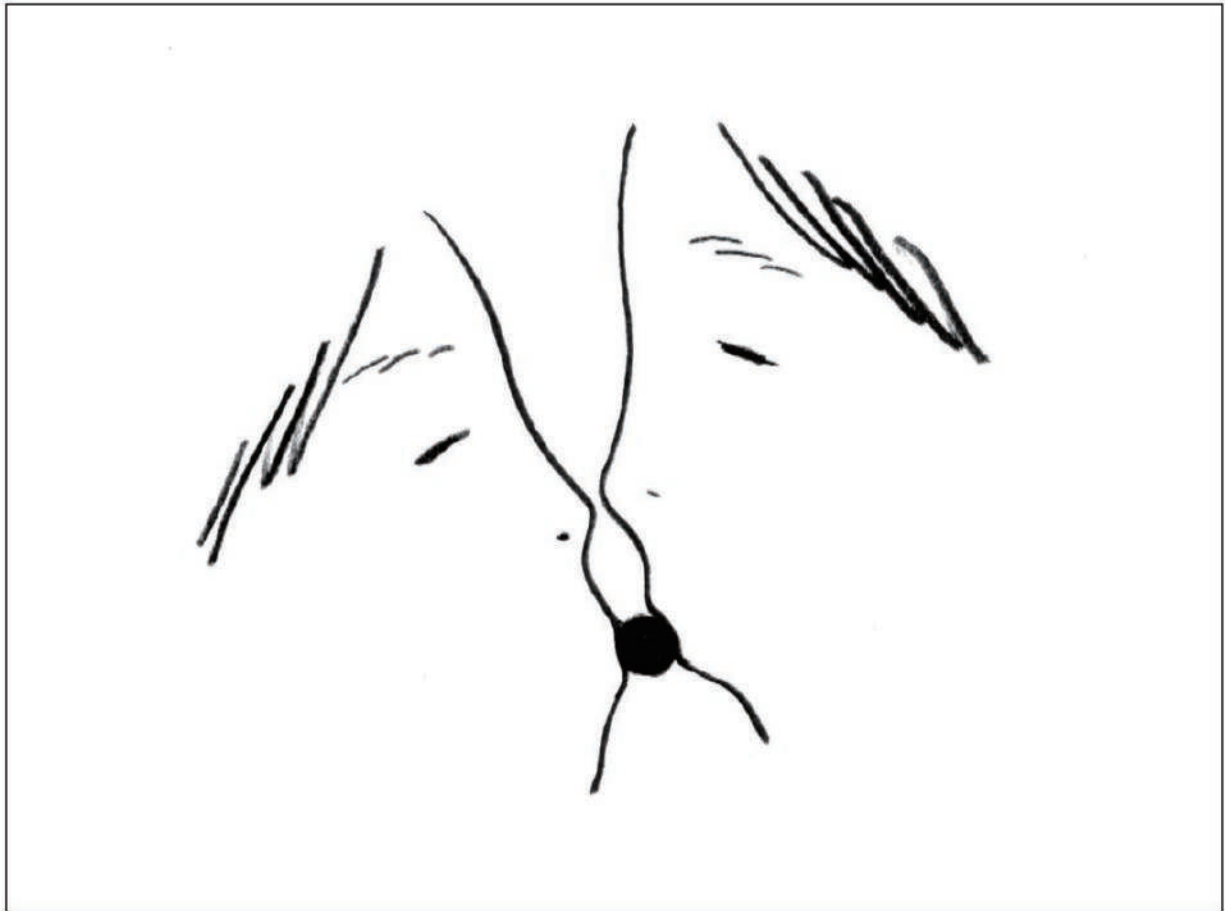


Madonna della Misericordia - Piero della Francesca

gift

2016

0'45" loop



A state of licking a candy ball by two people

Human

2016

ceramics



The happy two

2016

ceramics



ceramics

2016



Ai Ozaki 尾崎 藍

Born in 1991, Saitama, JP

Education

2022-2024, Resident Artist, Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten, NL

2017, Graduated from Tokyo Zokei University, Department of Painting, JP

Residency program

2024-2025, In situ Residency programme, supported by Daniel et Nina Carasso foundation & Cité internationale des arts, Paris, FR

2022-2024, Resident Artist, Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten, Amsterdam, NL

Group, duo exhibition

2025 'With a Bird' Onomatopee, Eindhoven, NL

2023 'Faint of Heart' EENWERK Gallery, Amsterdam, NL

2023 'EDITION BOX II -body of concept- Geidai art plaza, Tokyo, JP

2022 'WVlog personal' Art Center Ongoing, Tokyo, JP

2021 'Artists in FAS 2020' Fujisawa City Art Space, Kanagawa, JP

2020 '1GB' Spiral Hall, Tokyo, JP

2020 'EDITION BOX -VIDEO WORKS as MATERIAL-' HIGHURE 17-15 cas, Tokyo, JP

2019 'Decorating the work # 2 VIDEO EDITION BOX' Art Center Ongoing, Tokyo, JP

2019 'Gunma Youth Biennale 2019' Gunma Museum of Modern Art, JP

2018 'Decorating the work # 1 SUPER OPEN STUDIO 2018', Aihara Studio, Kanagawa, JP

2018 'Dawn Strategy' Komagome Soko, Tokyo, JP

2017 'Hu, Human' Nature Art Center Ongoing, Tokyo, JP

2015 'Tokyo Wonder Wall 2015' Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, JP

Screening

2024 REHEARSE, REPLAY, REPEAT Het Documentaire Paviljoen, Amsterdam

Award

2017 Tokyo Zokei University Graduation / Completion Work Exhibition Excellent Work Award (Zokei Award)

2014 TURNER AWARD 2013 Future Award (Prize of Japanese painting material company)

Collection

Rabo bank, Depot in Boijmans Van Beuningen

Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten

VIDEO LINKS (FULL LENGTH)

"Talking about mosaics while making pickles" 2024, 7 min



"Lickink sap" 2024, loop animation



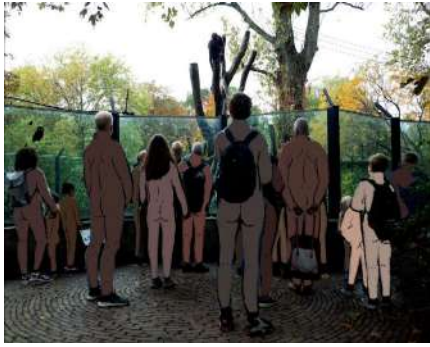
"perspective" 2024, loop video



"SPINNING" 2023, 11 min 23sec



“At the Zoo” 2023, 1 min 9 sec, loop



“Silent tango” 2021, 12 min 14 sec



“LIVE ON” 2020, 11 min 28 sec



“Digest” 2019~2020, 6 min 23 sec



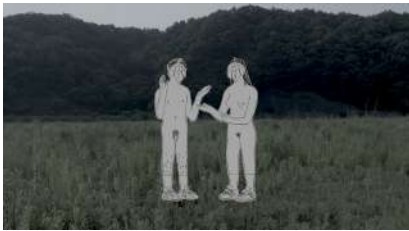
“Dance of Life” 2018, 6 min 3 sec



"Human egg" 2017, 4 min 12 sec, loop



"People who talking words of birds" 2017, 3 min 29 sec, loop



"Joy of life" 2016, 5 min 41 sec



"Love" 2016, 55 sec, loop animation



"Gift" 2016, 45 sec, loop animation



"Kiss" 2016, 35 sec, loop animation

