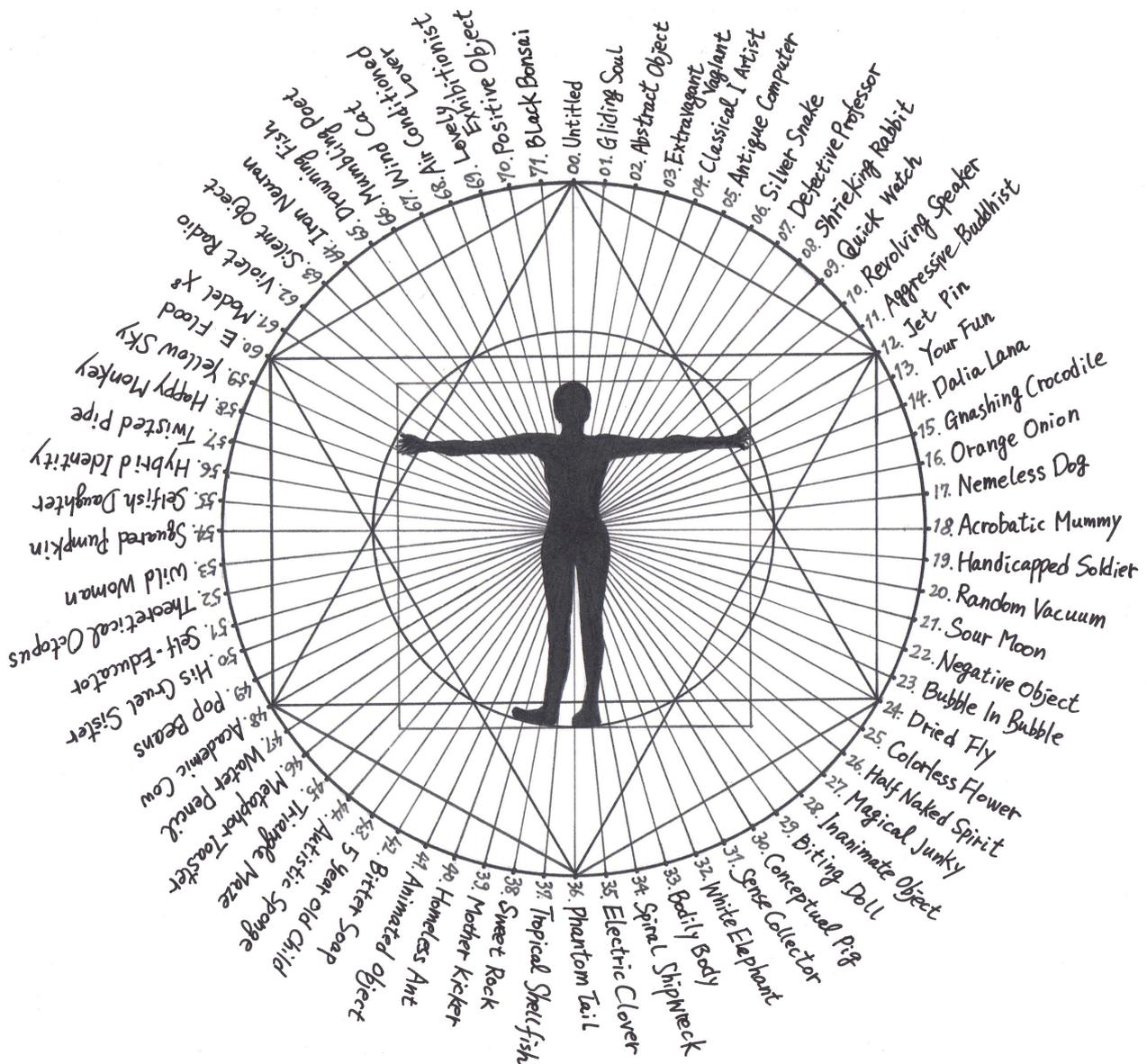


# AKEMI TAKEYA | LEMONISM x ACTIONISM

2017/2018 - Installation & Performance

Video installation: 18 monitors, video projector and circle construction with 72 lemons



## Installation

*“The body is the last frontier of art. Eighteen plus two men at the limits of human experience: fifteen still alive, five eventually dead. The connection between Akemi Takeya’s action and Géricault’s “The Rafts of the Medusa” lies in their extreme physicality.”*

Takeya’s flesh of the human body and the bodiless video image: those worlds are connected in her installation. The choreographer’s performance “LEMONISM x ACTIONISM” – an energetic exploration of Viennese Actionism through the lively body of the female performer. An image conserving the reality on stage. Takeya picks eighteen plus two

actions and dedicates them to the shipwrecked in Géricault’s painting.

Thus, the installation reminds of questions similar to those asked by “The Rafts of the Medusa”: Where do life and art intertwine? Where can the transient moment of death and suffering be burned into a permanent image?

## Performance - April 11, 2018 at Cultuurcentrum De Grote Post, Oostende

In the performance on stage that is planned to present on April 11, 2018 at Cultuurcentrum De Grote Post, Ostend, she exposes herself to a recurrent ritual: the flesh of the lemon becomes her own flesh; it becomes a metaphor of a transformation. In a position reminding of da Vincis Vitruvian Man, she places herself inside a circle of lemons. Surrounding herself with these pieces of fruit, she creates her own planet, calling it her personal "playground" for experiments. This is where she revives art history of the 20th century and those ISMs that influenced the period. In "the raft – art is (not) lonely", Takeya refers to her exploration of Viennese Actionism.

She picks twenty lemons, each associated with a specific action, and dedicates them to the shipwrecked on Géricault's painting. The twenty

bodily experiences make an existential journey – a journey between real suffering and imitation: Takeya is not just performing for the live audience, but also for a cameraman whose footage is projected to a big screen visible to the audience. Thus, the cameraman captures her actions on the screen, like Géricault captures death on canvas. The dying of the shipwrecked remains a lonely journey – the last steps of life that the artist will not be able to share with the people in the painting. Géricault's painted portrayal of suffering, the actionists' tormenting of their own bodies, subjecting them to ordeals and injuring their skin, Takeya's use of the lemon as her own flesh - this is merely the beginning of the raft's journey.

**LEMONISM X ACTIONISM** is one of the pieces of Akemi Takeya's rhizomatic performance series **LEMONISM**, a bodily investigation of different art movements of the 20th century as Cubism, Dadaism, Minimalism, Symbolism, Japonism et al.

### Credits

Concept, Artistic Direction & Performance **Akemi Takeya** Video & Visual direction **Michael Loizenbauer** Scenery Concept **Hannes Wurm** Lighting Design **Bruno Pocheron** Sound Lemon Synthesizer **Noid** Music **Zbigniew Karkowski** Artistic Advisor **Armin Anders** Public Relations & Artistic Assistant **Joseph Rudolf** Production Assistant **Laura Fischer** Administration **Vladimir & Estragon** Project Management **das Schaufenster** Residence **Troubleyn/Jan Fabre** Cooperation **ImPulsTanz – Vienna International Dance Festival, Leopold Museum, mumok – Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien, WUK – Werkstättenbereich** Support **Wien Kultur** (Department for Cultural Affairs of the City of Vienna), **Bundeskanzleramt Österreich – Kunst und Kultur** (The Arts and Culture Division of the Federal Chancellery of Austria) Production **IMEKA** Curated by **Jan Fabre** and **Joanna De Vos** Commissioned by **Mu.ZEE**

### Biography

Since 1991 Akemi Takeya has been living and working in Vienna. As a choreographer and performer she has collaborated with artists in the fields of dance, theater, film/video, photography and music. She has created numerous dance, video and performance pieces in collaboration with such artists as Paul V. Weihs, Sam Auinger & Rupert Huber, Roberto Paci Daló, Dorfmeister, G.X. Jupitter Larsen, Sergio Messina, Bob Ostertag, Robin Rimbaud aka SCANNER, Jon Rose, Andrea Sodomka, Wolfgang Mitterer, Tom Cora, Werner Puntigam, Christian Fennesz, Tetsuo Furudate, Granular Synthesis (modell 5 / 1994), Ong Ken Seng, Benoit Lachambre, Uchihahsi Kazuhisa, Keiko Higuchi, Tanja Tomic, Noid, Rechenzentrum, Zbigniew Karkowski, Metalycée etc...

She has set up her own performance method and incorporates the thoughts from her journals, dreams, diaries and essays into her performance pieces, ultimately producing an unexpected and visceral fusion of sensory encounters. In her choreographic works she thinks rationally and lyrically, with head and body, in an eastern and western manner, in oppositions, combinations, entanglements, sounds, songs, spaces, movements, words.