

<https://www.derstandard.at/story/2000137695588/impulstanz-erfrischendes-ueber-den-weltanfang-mit-akemi-takeya>

## **ImpulsTanz: Refreshing about the beginning of the world with Akemi Takeya**

### **Metaphor-rich and refreshing world premiere of "Schrei X8" by Japanese-born Viennese Akemi Takeya at ImpulsTanz.**

Firstly, Akemi Takeya, as the founder of "Lemonism", is probably the only representative of her art movement in the world. Secondly, this Lemonism sees itself as an action against any art movement. And thirdly, the Japanese-born Viennese dancer, artist and singer reminds us that ism inventions could be fun again today after a long absence.

At ImpulsTanz, Takeya (60) is currently showing the world premiere of her new piece "Schrei X8" at the Odeon Theatre. It features a meter-high lemon juicing machine, dancer Evandro Pedroni, percussionist Didi Kern and a grand piano that perhaps seems a bit sour because its keys remain untouched the whole time.

The title is borrowed from the album "Schrei X" (1996) by U.S. vocal art giant Diamanda Galás, to whom Takeya also briefly pays her vocal reverence during the performance. It becomes clear how well Galás (66), who celebrated her career highs in the 80s and 90s, fits the times again. One can hope for an overdue revival. Should that come true, Takeya will have foreseen it.

### **Deep bow**

Likewise, she bows to Yoko Ono, Joseph Beuys, Marina Abramović, Andy Warhol, Nina Simone and Maria Callas, among others, all of whom have provided her with artistic references. This has its logic, because in "Schrei X8" Akemi Takeya makes her life story dance. She holds back with her own singing, originally wanting to become a singer.

In her characteristic mixture of power and fragility, Takeya demonstrates how strongly all of our lives are determined by formative influences and how far a character is shaped by their moderation. Evandro Pedroni appears in the Japanese-looking costume of, say, a lemon ghost: He's a good one, challenging but also protecting. Text passages, pixel images and spotlights deliver dances, a short story is told: about the beginning of the world, when there was only air and birds.

### **Culture shock in Vienna**

Takeya moved to Vienna in 1991 and immediately had a culture shock. In this respect, the yellow in Lemonism can be seen as a reference to the fact that Europeans once assigned the skin color yellow to the indigenous people from the Asian region. The lemon juicing machine supports this image. Towards the end of "Schrei X8", its contents are pumped through a dress made of transparent tubes into which the performer has squeezed herself.

Since 2015, ImpulsTanz audiences have regularly learned about the reflective levels of citronism, and how refreshing it can be to work through the historical. As a metaphor for art, the lemon provides an apt spectrum of meanings: the signal color, the healthy vitamin, but just as much an acid.

(Helmut Ploebst, 7/24/2022)