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NATSUMI SAKAI

the will to reach an 'other', and its futility

My practice begins from a sense of sadness and pain, towards what is dismissed because it cannot fit into the framework of words. At the same time, words are an integral part of my practice, because I find beauty in the desperate action of twisting words to tell the untellable. This aspect of expression harbors the will to reach an 'other', and its futility. This 'touch' manifests in my work not necessarily in the physical sense, but rather a question of how an artwork can be a system of relations, an ecology, that includes or invites the audience to participate. To create an ecology within the art, I aim to be sensitive to what compromises the sensory experience of the work and create pathways for the audience to enter the work. Sensory experience is an individual and intimate knowledge. In this intimacy, I wish to 'meet the other'. Words accompany me in the process and presentation. In the process, they are tools for internal, reflective research. I employ words for a poetic silence - a break with the larger society, an incomprehensiveness. Such words are warped to touch upon what cannot be clearly defined, and they function as an opener of various paths rather than explain. I seek a connection that is indirect but in-depth. It is through my internal exploration, of what cannot be communicated in clarity, that I search for the other. I wish to be in contact with an intimate and intuitive part, of myself and the 'other', in the work's ecology.

WEBSITES

Personal artist website

natsumisakai.hotglue.me/

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.instagram.com/natsumixart/profilecard/?igsh=MXU1eW9kOW84Z2htOA==

MEMBER OF ARTISTS' INITIATIVE/COLLECTIVE/INCUBATOR

()in the Mountain

EDUCATION

2023 - Performance art Dear Shapes in Space IV
2023

2022 - Master of Arts in Fine Art and Design
2024 Utrecht, HKU faculteit Kunst en Vormgeving
diploma

2018 - Bachelor Fine Art Den Haag, Koninklijke
2022 Academie van Beeldende Kunsten diploma

EXHIBITIONS

PROJECTS

- 2024 How to Build a House (Windows and Doors) Cas-co Leuven, Belgium The exhibition concludes our residency at Cas-co, as the collective () in the mountain. In the context of the residency at Off the Grid (Cas-co), we will develop How to Build a House with a second Chapter titled Windows and Doors. We ask ourselves, when we look outside the structure of a home, what are we looking for? cas-co.be/activiteiten/in-the-mountain
Group
- 2024 (Dis)comfort Narratives: Moving with the Feeling BAK, basis voor actuele kunst Utrecht, Netherlands The diverse range of graduation projects sheds light on the tensions and proximities inherent in the interplay of eco-socio-cultural pressures and intimate, relational dynamics, from multiple perspectives and diverse contexts and backgrounds. Within the shifting relationalities of reality, comfort and discomfort can never be entirely separated. From the social and communal to the personal realm of the mind and body, political dynamics are always at play. To come to terms with oneself, these young artists pose a question: What are alternative ways of storytelling, connecting, and living in current eco-socio-political climates? In their presentations, they bring together the complexities of the relationship between society and the self — to exemplify displacement, alienation, relocation, and coexistence — asking the pivotal question: what does it mean to 'connect'?
Group
- 2023 Dear Shapes in Space IV Neck of the Woods III Rotterdam, Netherlands Students from Willem de Kooning academy Sint Joost, KABK and HKU, young artists from divers disciplines like dance and film and photography and professional performance artists, will present their performance art pieces during this three hour long celebration of performance art. With their works, the artists share their visions, hopes and critical comments, regarding for the future, 50 years from
- 2023 Mindful Silliness Hogeschool voor de Kunsten, Utrecht Utrecht, Netherlands In this seminar, we will explore alternative ways of learning from each other, rooted in the idea of playful exchanges. We will use MINDFUL-SILLINESS as a way to connect with each other. It will be about physical activities, nonsensical explorations, and simply having fun together. At the same time, within this 'silliness,' we try to emphasize the importance of considering others.
- 2022 Barefoot Collective Barefoot Collective was an online journal for text-based works by artists.

now. Sharing their perspectives, representing the new generation of artists, working with this ephemeral medium.

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2023 SchoK Hoek Heereweg 132 Schoorl, Netherlands Smeerlaan 22:30 F.I.R.E. Performances, ontmoetingen, verhalen en onderzoek naar vuur door Christina Della Giustina IT, Karen Vanvelt BE, Jay Mistry UK et.al. Van zonsondergang tot zonsopkomst om 05:30

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2022 Taal (concept) in Beeld Projectruimte Westend Den Haag, Netherlands Een tentoonstelling van nationale en internationale kunstenaars van verschillende generaties die de taal vanuit diverse standpunten in hun werk verbeelden. Van concept tot visuele poëzie. Er is werk te zien van Ludo de Kort, Walter Swennen, Robert Barry, Janneke Stofmeel, Sophia Wester, Jia Xian, Joseph Kosuth, Rosaire Appel, Ben Faydherbe, Wim Nival, Thomas A. Clark en Pim Piët. Performance Natsumi Sakai sandstorm, Not speaking

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INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES/RESIDENCIES

2024 Cas-co Leuven, Belgium A group residency as the collective () in the mountain. In the context of the residency at Off the Grid (Cas-co), we will develop How to Build a House with a second Chapter titled Windows and Doors. We ask ourselves, when we look outside the structure of a home, what are we looking for? cas-co.be/kunstenaars/in-the-mountain

PUBLICATIONS

2023 Barefoot Journal Issue #1 Opacity Book Barefoot collective Barefoot Collective Netherlands

2023 Story of a person who wants to be a stone, and others Book Page Not Found Natsumi Sakai Den Haag, Netherlands



Following Objects, 2024
Performance



Listening For (Excerpt), 2023
00:39



Listening For, 2023
Participatory Performance



Father, 2023
Performance



Proximity Exercise 1, 2023
Participatory Performance



Proximity Exercise 2, 2023
Participatory Performance



Proximity Exercise 3, 2023
Performance



Proximity Exercise 4, 2023
Performance



Varied Proximities, 2022
Participatory Performance



The Body Disappears, 2022
Performance