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Fernanda Mascarenhas is a textile artist, natural dyer, performer and graphic designer, born and raised in São Paulo, Brazil. She lives in New Westminster, BC since September 2022.

Fernanda began her artistic journey through dance. After graduating at the University, she started working as a graphic designer specialized in books, publications and exhibitions. At the same time, Fernanda cultivated her artistic career as an interdisciplinary performer, participating in collaborative projects with dance and theatre artists. For more than 12 years, she has researched body, voice, costume and scenic elements through Japanese body techniques *seitai-ho* and *do-ho*, and *Noh* theatre. This experience, taken together with the *Fu Bu Myo In* Group directed by Toshi Tanaka, a Japanese performer and teacher, consolidated her career as a performer.

In 2016, Fernanda began her research in natural dyeing to develop the costumes of her performance *Each Step*, contemplated in the 16th *Fomento à Dança de São Paulo*. This costume won an award, which allowed the artist to travel to Japan to learn more about traditional forms of natural dyeing and weaving. She visited the Ars Shimura school of master craftsman Fukumi Shimura in Kyoto, the Little Indigo Museum of textile artist Hiroyuki Shindo in Miyama, and the Japanese Botanical Garden of Dyeing Plants in Takasaki.

Since then, Fernanda has focused on textile art emphasizing the ancient techniques of natural dyeing with plants. Although her great inspiration comes from the Japanese culture, the Brazilian plants of her surroundings have been the main material and passion.

In 2019, Fernanda launched her website and online store www.fernandamascarenhas.com to sell pieces dyed with plants. In 2020 she started the [Plants and Colours blog](#) to share her research on plants, natural dyeing and art.

Fernanda also runs courses and workshops to teach natural dyeing techniques such as Botanical Contact Printing Workshops and Tatakizome Workshop, both held in São Paulo at Sesc Vila Mariana, Sesc Florêncio de Abreu and at the FESTA event in 2022.

In 2021, she was invited to present her work at the [Eco Creative Cluster](#), an event at the Rockfield Centre, a community centre for art and culture in Oban, Scotland, UK. Inspired by her lecture, the Rockfield Centre created the *Street Flora Tatakizome* project, which breathes new life into street weeds through tatakizome, a simple natural dyeing technique.

E d u c a t i o n

Bachelor at the Communications and Art School of the University of São Paulo.

In textile arts, Fernanda has a self-directed apprenticeship. She studied with the Japanese textile artist Hisako Kawakami, the Argentine natural dyer Luciana Marrone, and the Brazilian fashion designer Flávia Aranha.

Also in performance arts, she has a self-directed apprenticeship. She studied seitai-ho e do-ho with the Japanese performer and teacher Toshi Tanaka and Noh Theatre with Jun Ogasawara, director of Shoyokai Group.

Graduated in Laban movement studies at Caleidos Institute and in classical ballet at the School of Dance at the Municipal Theatre of São Paulo.

E x h i b i t i o n s

The Festival of Quilts – in-person exhibition in the category “Contemporary Quilts”, Birmingham, United Kingdom, 2021.

The Festival of Quilts – virtual exhibition in the category “Quilt Creations”, Birmingham, United Kingdom, 2020.

12th Great Art Exhibition of Bunkyo – Brazilian Society of Japanese Culture – Bunkyo, São Paulo-SP, 2018. Works: [Fall in Japan](#) and [Indigo](#).

10th Great Art Exhibition Bunkyo – Brazilian Society of Japanese Culture – Bunkyo, São Paulo-SP, 2016. Works: [Each Step](#) and [Hagoromo](#).

Body of Wind Project – collective installation with artists Toshi Tanaka and Ciça Ohno at Casa do Sertanista Museum in São Paulo-SP, 2016.

Wabi Sabi – participation in this scenic installation in honour of the dancer Dorothy Lenner with the work [Mangrove](#) at Sesc-Ipiranga in São Paulo-SP, 2016.

A w a r d s

Gold Medal Award in the Art Craft category at the **10th Great Bunkyo Art Exhibition** with the work *Each Step*, textile/natural dyeing, 150 x 100 cm, 2016.

Main performances

[Each Step](#) – performance contemplated by the *Fomento à Dança de São Paulo*, created by Fernanda Mascarenhas with the collaboration of the *Fu Bu Myo In* group – Casa do Sertanista Museum, 2016.

[Iki-Breath 1](#) – performance contemplated in the *Fomento à Dança in São Paulo*, conceived and directed by Toshi Tanaka – Olido Gallery, Oswald de Andrade Cultural Workshop, SP School of Theater, Tucarena and Guarani Krukutu Village, 2013. A new version [Iki-Breath 2](#) was made in 2015.

[Under Fog](#) – theatre-dance performance directed by Raquel Ornellas, awarded by PAC Dança 2008 from the São Paulo State Department of Culture.

[Moon's Path](#) – performance directed by Toshi Tanaka, awarded by PAC Dança 2006 from the São Paulo State Department of Culture – Cada do Vento, Embu das Artes-SP, 2007.

Designer graphic projects

[Dancers: São Paulo Dance Company](#) – the photographic book by Arthur Wolkovier, São Paulo-SP, 2022.

[Local Memory At School Project Books](#) – a collection of more than 10 books results from the Local Memory at School project that runs in many Brazilian cities, Museu da Pessoa edition, 2014-2022.

[Suffrage](#) – a magazine by Chloé Autran, Gabriela Groener and Laura Comparato, Lycee Pasteur edition, São Paulo-SP, 2017.

[The House and its Stories](#) – two commemorative books of the House of Culture and Citizenship of Eletropaulo, Museu da Pessoa edition, 2012

[Almanac of Sorocaba](#) – the magazine that is part of the Local Memory project at School, Museu da Pessoa edition, 2012

[Apiáí, a river of stories](#) – the book that is part of the Local Memory project at School, Museu da Pessoa edition, 2011

[Mazzaroppi Museum](#) – the permanent exhibition at Taubaté-SP, 2011.

[Segall and the Ship](#) – an itinerant exhibition at Pedro II shopping center in Campinas-SP, 2010.

[Brazilian Cinematheque: 60 Years in Motion](#) – a commemorative exhibition at Sesc Pompéia in São Paulo-SP, 2006.

www.fernandamascarenhas.com

Instagram: [@fernandamascarenhas.art](https://www.instagram.com/fernandamascarenhas.art)