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Fernanda Mascarenhas is an artisan, 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 the dance. After graduating at the University, she started working as a graphic designer with expertise in books, publications and exhibitions. At the same time, Fernanda cultivated her artistic career as an interdisciplinary performer, participating in dance and theatre projects. In 2007, she joined as a performer in the *Fu Bu Myo In* group directed by Toshi Tanaka, a Japanese performer and teacher. Together with the group for over 12 years, she has researched body, voice, costume and scenic elements through *seitai-ho*, a set of Japanese body techniques, and through the traditional *Noh theatre*. This enduring experience consolidated her career as a performer.

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In 2016, Fernanda began her research in natural dyeing to develop the costumes of her performance [Each Step](#). This costume won an award, which allowed the artist to travel to Japan in 2017 to learn more about traditional forms of natural dyeing and weaving, besides knowing her teacher's *seitai-ho* masters. There, the artist visited the Ars Shimura School of the "Living National Treasure" textile artist 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. She also attended classes with the *seitai-ho* master Masanori Sasaki in Tokyo, and with Kazuhiro Sunami (*Seitai Association/Physical Education Research Institute*) in Kyoto.

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. Nowadays, she is researching the Canadian dye plants by herself, and attending workshops at Earthand Gleaners Society led by Sharon Kallis at Trillium Park and Maiwa School of Textiles, in Vancouver, BC.

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. She started an [English version](#) 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.

Fernanda runs courses and workshops to teach natural dyeing techniques, such as Botanical Contact Printing, and organizes workshops related to the body, meditation and sensibility.

Exhibitions



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

Street Flora Tatakizome – participation as inviting artist in this project, which was inspired by her lecture, Rockfield Centre, Oban, Scotland, UK, 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.

Awards

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.

Lecture and workshops

[Botanical Contact Printing Workshop](#) - Mountain Rain Zen Community, Vancouver, BC, August 2023.

[With Colours of Nature](#) – on-line presentation for the Eco Creative Cluster, Rockfield Centre, Oban, Scotland, UK, 2021.

[Botanical Contact Printing Workshop](#) - SESC Vila Mariana, São Paulo - SP, July 2022.

[Tatakizome Workshop](#) - Festival de Aprender - FestA! (Learning Festival) - SESC Florencio de Abreu and Casas Pernambucanas, São Paulo - SP, June 2022.

[Botanical Contact Printing Workshops](#) – at my studio, 2021 and 2018 and at Vila das Rosas Atelier, 2019, São Paulo, Brazil.

Listening to the Movement Workshop – the creative process of performance *Every Step* through the practice of *zazen* and *do-ho*, Casa do Sertanista Museum, São Paulo, 2016.

Performance history



ROGÉRIO ORTIZ

Softgaze | dancer | opening performance created by Luciana D'Anuniação in collaboration with Roundhouse Community Dancers for her photography exhibition | Roundhouse Community Centre, Vancouver, 2023.

Each Step | creator and performer | dance-performance by Fernanda Mascarenhas in collaboration with the Fu Bu Myo In group (contemplated by the *Fomento à Dança de São Paulo*) | Casa do Sertanista Museum, São Paulo, 2016.

In the luminous water 2 | performer | dance-performance by Toshi Tanaka in collaboration with the Fu Bu Myo In group | 10th Urbain Seeighs – International Festival of Dance in Urban Landscapes in the Arts Square, São Paulo, 2017.

In the luminous water 1 | performer | dance-performance by Toshi Tanaka in collaboration with the Fu Bu Myo In group (contemplated by the *Fomento à Dança de São Paulo*) | Casa do Sertanista Museum, São Paulo, 2016.

Inland river | performer | dance-performance by Ciça Ohno in collaboration with the Fu Bu Myo In group (contemplated by the *Fomento à Dança de São Paulo*) | Casa do Sertanista Museum, São Paulo, 2016 | SP School of Theater, São Paulo, 2016.

Iki-Breath 2 | performer | dance-performance by Toshi Tanaka in collaboration with the Fu Bu Myo In group | VIII Dance Promotion Show at Sala Paissandu – Galeria Olido, São Paulo, 2015.

Imim Noh – Nohgaku Meetings | performer (*shimai*/dance and *utai*/chant) and producer | Eight meetings organized by ABN – Associação Brasileira de Nohgaku, a non-profit organization that gathers amateurs Noh theatre groups and practitioners in Brazil | Tucarena, São Paulo, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Iki-Breath 1 | performer | dance-performance by Toshi Tanaka in collaboration with the Fu Bu Myo In group (contemplated by the *Fomento à Dança de São Paulo*) | Olido Gallery, Oswald de Andrade Cultural Workshop, SP School of Theater, and Tucarena and Guarani Krukutu Village, São Paulo, 2013.

Under fog | dancer | dance-theatre by Raquel Ornellas (contemplated by PAC Dança 2007 - São Paulo) | Teatro de Dança in São Paulo-SP, Oficina Cultural Grande Otelo in Sorocaba-SP, and Fernandópolis-SP, 2008 | Sesc Ipiranga and Teatro João Caetano, São Paulo-SP, 2009.

Moon's Path | performer | dance-performance by Toshi Tanaka in collaboration with the Fu Bu Myo In group (contemplated by PAC Dança 2006 - São Paulo) | Casa do Vento, Embu das Artes-SP, 2007.

Commonplace | dancer | created by Isabel Marques and Fábio Brazil | Caleidos Institute, São Paulo, 2005.

Coreológicas III | dancer | created by Isabel Marques | Caleidos Institute, São Paulo, 2004 and 2005.

Art-City | dancer | coreography by Suzana Yamauchi | Sesc Pompéia, São Paulo, 1997.

Training

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.

Performance art and dance

- *Seitai-ho e do-ho* with Toshi Tanaka, Japanese performer and teacher - 2006-2019
- *Noh Theatre* with Jun Ogasawara, director of Shoyokai Amateur Group - 2013-2016
- Laban studies of movement and improvisation techniques with Isabel Marques at Caleidos Institute - 2003-2005
- Classical ballet at the School of Dance, Municipal Theatre of São Paulo - 1980-1988

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

Selected [design graphic projects](#)



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

[Local Memory at School Project](#) – 31 exhibitions and more than [30 publications](#) resulted from the Local Memory at School project by the Museum of Person, that runs in many Brazilian cities, 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

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

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

Contact

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