



Fernanda Mascarenhas is a textile artist, natural dyer, art instructor, performer, and graphic designer from São Paulo, Brazil. She began her artistic journey through dance. After graduating from the University, she started working as a graphic designer. At the same time, Fernanda cultivated her artistic career as an interdisciplinary performer, before falling irrevocably in love with natural dyeing.

In 2007, she joined the Fu Bu Myo In group directed by Toshi Tanaka, a Japanese performer and teacher. For over 12 years, she has researched body, voice, costume, and scenic elements through *seitai-ho*, a Japanese body technique, and *Noh* theatre. This enduring experience consolidated her career as a performer.

In 2016, she started researching natural dyeing to develop a costume for her performance work. 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 been focusing on making textile art based on ancient techniques of natural dyeing with plants. Whilst a large inspiration comes from Japanese culture, locally grown plants have been the main material and passion for her.

In 2019, Fernanda opened a new avenue as an art instructor. Since then, she has shared her passion, teaching in several workshops in Metro Vancouver, Canada, and São Paulo, Brazil. Fernanda also launched her website and online store, www.fernandamascarenhas.com, to sell pieces dyed with plants. In 2020, she started writing the [Plants and Colours blog](#) to spread her research on plants, natural dyeing, and art. She launched 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.

Engaging with the slow process of natural dyeing in urban areas and time, she has respected the generosity of nature, its cycles and changes, while intending to reclaim the lost knowledge of plants, such as their medicinal use.

Workshops and lecture

[Eco Printing Wool Socks with Plants](#) – 2025: West Point Grey, Roundhouse and Trout Lake Community Centres, and Surrey Art Gallery – Metro Vancouver, BC

[Natural Dyes & Shibori](#) – 2025 / 2024: Anvrl Arts Centre, Richmond Art Gallery, Surrey Art Gallery, and West Point Grey, Roundhouse, Trout Lake, Douglas Park, Strathcona and Moberly Community Centres – Metro Vancouver, BC

[Eco Printing with Fall Leaves](#) – 2024: Douglas Park and West Point Grey Community Centres – Vancouver, BC

[Dyeing a Shawl with Plants](#) – 2024: Luminous Studio – Vancouver, BC

[Tatakizome Workshop](#) – 2025 / 2024: Richmond Art Gallery, and West Point Grey, Roundhouse, Trout Lake, Coal Harbour, West End, Strathcona and Dunbar Community Centres | Spring and Summer Camps for Kids at Trout Lake and Moberly Community Centres – Vancouver, Canada | 2022: FestA! (Learning Festival), SESC (Social Service of Commerce) and Pernambucanas Co., São Paulo, Brazil

Botanical Contact Printing Workshop – 2024 / 2023: Van Dusen Botanical Garden, Coal Harbour, Douglas Park, West Point Grey and Roundhouse Community Centres, and Mountain Rain Zen Community – Vancouver, Canada | 2022 / 2019 / 2018: SESC (Social Service of Commerce), my own studio, and Casa das Rosas Studio, São Paulo, Brazil.

Listening our Bodies: Meditation and Movement – 2024 / 2025: West Point Grey Community Centre – Vancouver, Canada | 2016: Casa do Sertanista Museum, São Paulo, Brazil.

With Colours of Nature – 2021: on-line presentation for the Eco Creative Cluster – Rockfield Centre, Oban, Scotland, UK



A w a r d

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.

T r a i n i n g a n d e d u c a t i o n

In textile art, Fernanda has a self-directed apprenticeship. In Brazil, she studied with the Japanese textile artist Hisako Kawakami, the Argentine natural dyer Luciana Marrone, and the Brazilian fashion designer Flávia Aranha. In Canada, she attended the programs listed below:

- The Natural Dye Workshop with Charllotte and Shophena Kwon (Maiwa School of Textiles) - 2023/24
- *Blue Nettle Fibre Program* with Sharon Kallis and Anna Heywood-Jones (EartHand Gleaners) - 2023
- 10-week Business Skills Training Program – Employ to Empower - 2023

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 with Isabel Marques (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.

E x h i b i t i o n s

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

Street Flora Tatakizome – participation as an invited artist in this project, which was inspired by Fernanda’s lecture, Rockfield Centre, Oban, Scotland, UK, 2021.

The Festival of Quilts – virtual exhibition, category “Quilt Creations”, Birmingham, UK, 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](#).

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.

Performances



[Between Rivers – a sketch](#) | dance-performance by Fernanda Mascarenhas presented in VOAF – Vancouver Outsiders Art Festival | Roundhouse Community Centre, Vancouver, 2024.

Soft gaze | opening performance created by Luciana D’Anuniação in collaboration with Roundhouse Community Dancers for her photography exhibition | Roundhouse Community Centre, Vancouver, 2023.

[Each Step](#) | 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.

[Iki-Breath 2](#) | 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 Nogaku, a non-profit organization that gathers amateurs Noh theatre groups and practitioners in Brazil | Tucarena, São Paulo, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

[Iki-Breath 1](#) | dance-performance by Toshi Tanaka in collaboration with the Fu Bu Myo In group | SP School of Theater, Tucarena and Guarani Krukutu Village, São Paulo, 2013.

[In the luminous water 2](#) | performer | dance-performance by Toshi Tanaka in collaboration with the Fu Bu Myo In group | 10th Urbain Seeights – 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.

[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.

Contact

femasca@gmail.com
(236) 516-4600

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