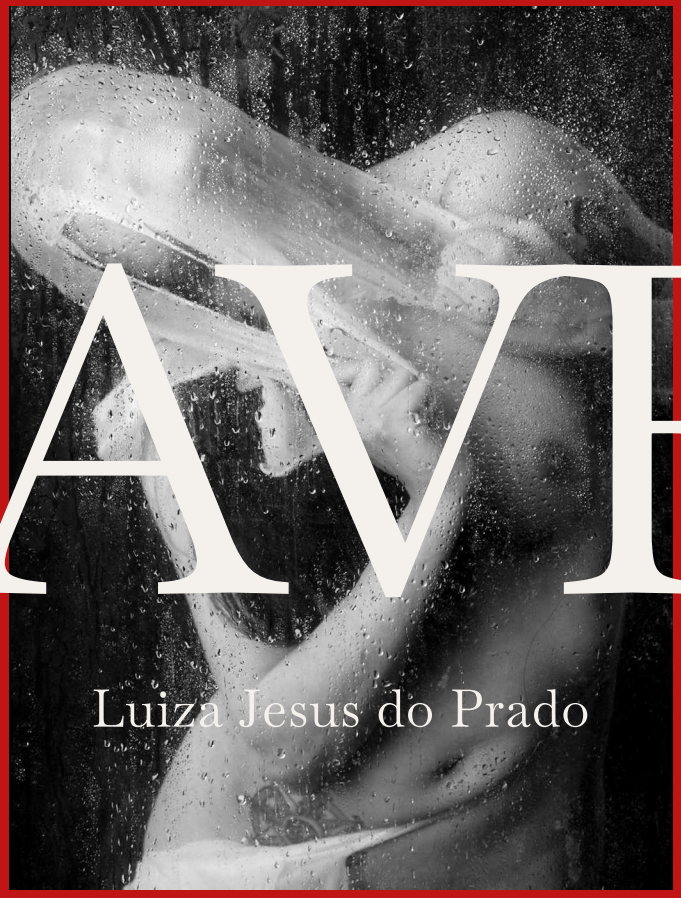
MAVRA



Luiza Jesus do Prado

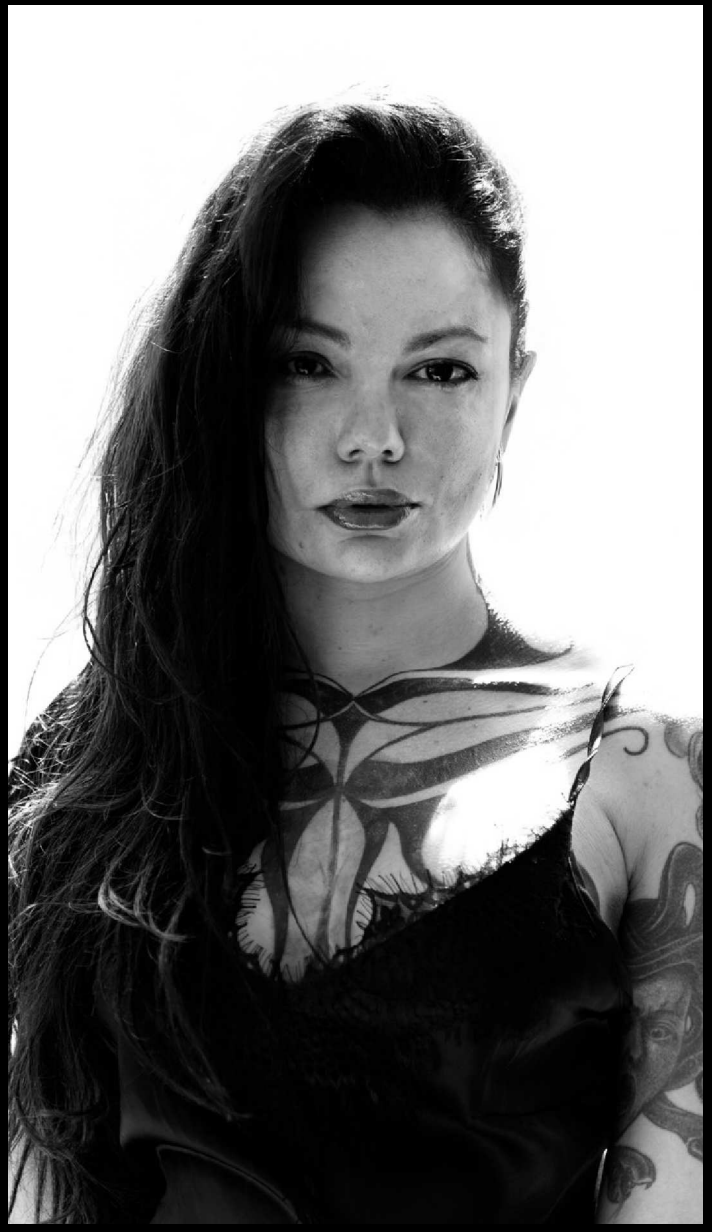


PHOTO: MAURIZIO MANCIOLI

BIO · LUIZA JESUS DO PRADO

MAVRA

MAVRA, a pseudonym of Luiza Jesus do Prado used in selected body-based works, develops a performative practice that articulates absurdism, BDSM, ritual and the hyperbole of sexual stereotypes as dispositifs for the investigation of memory.

Influenced by butoh and traversed by the figure of the matuto, her practice invokes a rural, archaic body displaced from hegemonic centres. This body carries territorial and ancestral memories, articulating precarity, spirituality and death as continuous processes of transformation.

Her performances assume a ritual character, treating the body as symbolic code and liminal organism. Corporeality emerges as an animalistic and agender territory, prior to fixed categories of identity, where memory is not merely recollection, but physical inscription and sensorial transmission.

She has performed at EURIX in Berlin, Forte Antenne in Rome, Theatro Municipal de São Paulo (Praça das Artes), Ópera de Arame in Curitiba, SSA Mapping, and LovNox and Central Galeria in São Paulo. Her work has been shown at CCBB, Museu do Amanhã, MAC Bogotá, the Off Biennale Cairo and EXXXPUESTOS in Costa Rica, the video performance Symbiogenesis received the First Honorable Mention of the Pangue Video Performance Award, Museo Arte Al Límite, Chile, 2026, and The Weight of Feeling was an Official Selection of MORPH Film Festival.

FULL WORKS MAVRAYVYUNA.COM

01

MAIN RESEARCH LINE

The Body as Technology, Ritual and Psychosomatic Device

Decolonization · Embodied technology · Ritual · Psychosoma · Trance · Ancestral memory

02

Eroticism, Dissidence and the Economy of the Body

Sexuality & Gender · Economy of desire · Decolonization of the body

03

Decolonization and Mental Health

Colonial trauma · Memory · Necropolitics · Anti-asylum struggle · Ancestral healing

04

Prosthetics, Robotics and the Post-Human Body

Wearables · Exoskeletons · Chains · Fire · Body-instrument

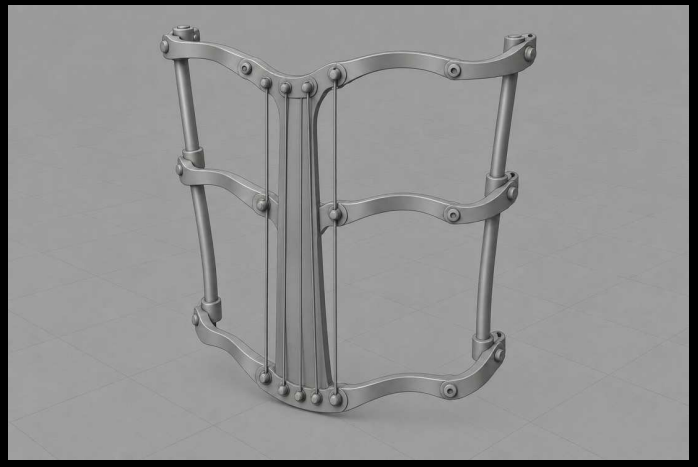
05

Ecology and the More-than-Human Body

Symbiosis · Interspecies · Ocean · Water · Environmental collapse



MEDUSA · 3D MODEL





BODY-SOUND · 3D MODELS OF THE BACK PIECE AND A LIMB PIECE

DEVICES · 2026

DEVICES

AERIAL AND WEARABLE APPARATUS · IN DEVELOPMENT

MEDUSA · patent pending

Modular aerial apparatus: continuous steel chain loops suspended from a single anchor point, meeting at a central ring for rope ties, with optional side rings for lateral ties. It allows chain suspension and shibari to be combined in a single rig.

Body-Sound

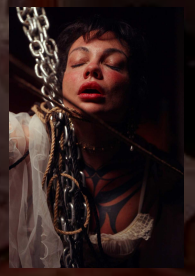
Wearable exoskeleton in metal, leather and cello strings. Strapped to the torso and limbs, it keeps the strings under tension: breath, posture and weight shifts change their pitch, and they can also be played with bows and metal objects by other performers or the audience. Object under construction, technical drawings in process.

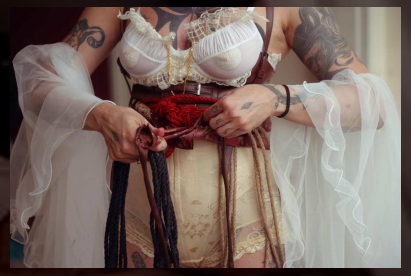
CHAINS · 2026

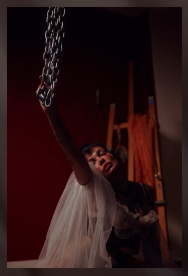
The Weight of Feeling

Pain, perception and the way inner states become matter, built around MEDUSA, a hybrid device of aerial chains and shibari.

OFFICIAL SELECTION · MORPH FILM FESTIVAL











RITUAL · 2023

Fetus

with Maurizio Mancioli

A capsule as an in-between space, sealed off from a saturated outside world. The bodies do not act out birth: they hold suspension, attention and active waiting, a regenerative system of organic and technological matter that shows how one stays alive when the world around seems to demand a symbolic death.

VIDEO PERFORMANCE · SINCE 2022

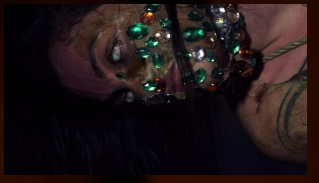
Symbiogenesis

A dystopia built on symbiogenesis. Beings from six kingdoms ask whether a humanity blind to the web of life is heading for a collapse that takes every kingdom with it.

Below: Animalia, film stills. Concept, performance and direction: Luiza Jesus do Prado.

FIRST HONORABLE MENTION · PANGUE VIDEO PERFORMANCE AWARD · MUSEO ARTE AL LÍMITE, CHILE, 2026






BUTOH · SINCE 2023

Butoh Caipira

A peasant Butoh: a body shaped by place, collective memory, religious syncretism and local beliefs about land and water.





VIDEO PERFORMANCE AND INSTALLATION · 2024

Dive

with Maurizio Mancioli

A video performance and installation made at Acquabox on the ocean, sinking bodies, the unconscious and the inner abyss. Going under on purpose: breath held, weight given up, the surface left behind for a while. Shown at Década dos Oceanos, CCBB, 2024, and Rio Ocean Week, Museu do Amanhã, 2025.





SHIBARI · 2025

Frame

with Hajime Kinoko

A rope frame built between steel trusses by the Japanese rigger Hajime Kinoko, with the body held inside it.





POLITICAL · 2021

The State

Discourses of Necropolitics · Castration, the object

A performance that faces the State as an apparatus of control, with bureaucratic, surgical and domestic instruments and the flag used as both fabric and restraint. Castration, the object, shows the instruments through which law, morality and religious fetishism decide what a body may do.







CHAINS · 2025

Entities

Ogum · Ogum & Oyá with Gabriel Bacury

A cycle of aerial chain performances dedicated to the orixás Ogum, of iron and paths, and Oyá, of winds and storms. Ogum & Oyá is a duo with Gabriel Bacury. Below: Ogum & Oyá, film stills.






CHAINS · 2025

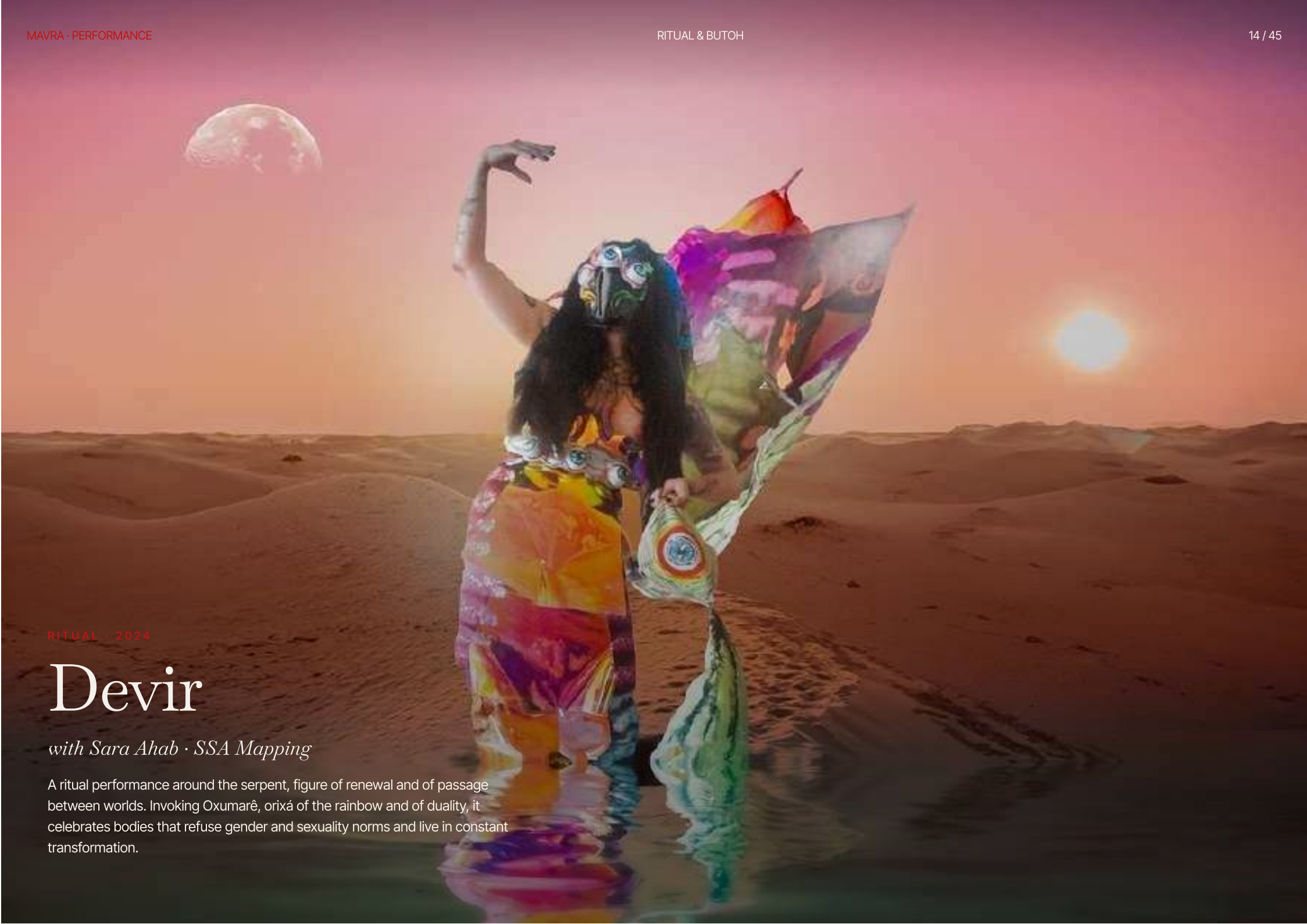
Sacred Profane

with Abitante









RITUAL · 2024

Devir

with Sara Ahab · SSA Mapping

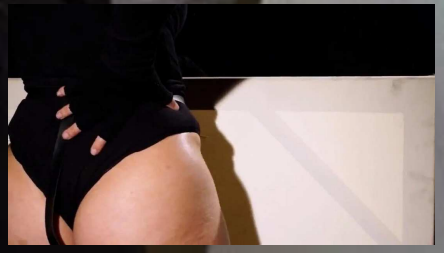
A ritual performance around the serpent, figure of renewal and of passage between worlds. Invoking Oxumarê, orixá of the rainbow and of duality, it celebrates bodies that refuse gender and sexuality norms and live in constant transformation.

POLITICAL · 2017

The Painter

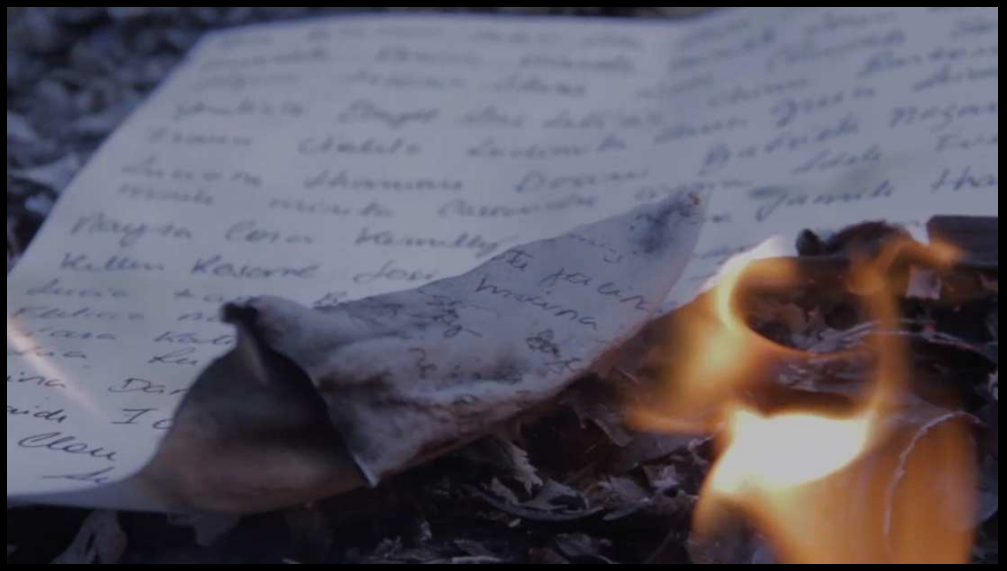
A performance on gender imbalance in art. The white screen stands for the feminine, the queer and the non-binary, and tearing through it is a gesture of ongoing violation.















POLITICAL · 2017

I MISS YOU

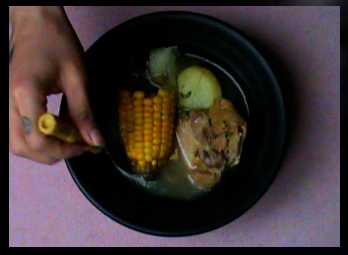
COLONIZED SEXUALITY

A fire ritual performance from Colonized Sexuality, a series on how colonial and patriarchal power structures shape desire and the body.

POLITICAL · 2023

Fetiche

A body sealed in latex becomes an anonymous, fetishized surface for the projections and consumption of others. Eating feijoada, pamonha, ceviche and sancocho, foods of colonial histories and cultural resistance, the work sets the sexual consumption of marginalized bodies beside the exploitation of territories. In dialogue with Frantz Fanon, the black mask carries an identity that has been consumed, exoticized and turned into a fetish. Shown at EXXXPUESTOS, San José, Costa Rica, 2025.







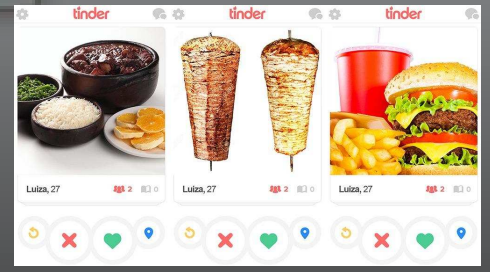
POLITICAL · 2016

Corrupted System

Appropriation

Part of Appropriation, a body of work on sex work and the pleasure economy. Corrupted System looks at the platforms where bodies are sold and consumed online, such as camming, dating apps and adult video sites, through screen captures of a live webcam session and of profiles on these platforms.











POLITICAL · 2017

PUDOR

COLONIZED SEXUALITY

A video performance from Colonized Sexuality on vaginismus and Christianity. Pudor (modesty) looks at how religious guilt, shame and the cult of purity are inscribed in the body until desire turns into involuntary contraction: a closing of the body learned as virtue.

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1. Video installation, exhibition view
2. Still from the video
3. Still from the video



POLITICAL · 2021

The Body State

Discourses of Necropolitics

A posthumous performance that uses absurdism to portray the State as a necrophile, deciding which lives matter and keeping control of bodies alive and dead. Under Brazilian Law No. 9,434, art. 4, organ donation depends on the family's consent: the work asks who owns a body, through necro-citizenship and religion.





FIRE · 2026

ESU

RITUAL PERFORMANCE

Costume designed in 3D by Luiza Jesus do Prado and Alma Sereno

Esu is the orixá of paths, crossroads and communication, the messenger who opens and closes the way between the worlds. In this ritual performance fire becomes his language: torches, a harness and a body that crosses the stage turn the gesture into an offering, holding movement, heat and stillness inside a single red field.

PERFORMANCE · 2025

Fog

with Maurizio Mancioli







BUTOH · 2024

Butoh Matuto

Part of the Butoh Caipira research: country, sertanejo and caipira bodies that dance syncretism and popular memory, a Butoh rooted in rural Brazilian land and water.

















POLITICAL · 2017

RESISTÊNCIA

DISCOURSES OF NECROPOLITICS

A map of Latin America tattooed along the central axis of the spine: the countries walk together and strain together, and the tension spreads through the whole body. The red ink, standing for blood and revolution, is pressed onto white cloth and raised like a flag.



RITUAL · 2012

Foreign Body

A performance on sexual abuse, queer theory and the erasure of the body, built from the personal accounts of street and sex workers. The title comes from Guacira Lopes Louro's book Um Corpo Estranho (A Strange Body).

SHIBARI · 2025

Cube

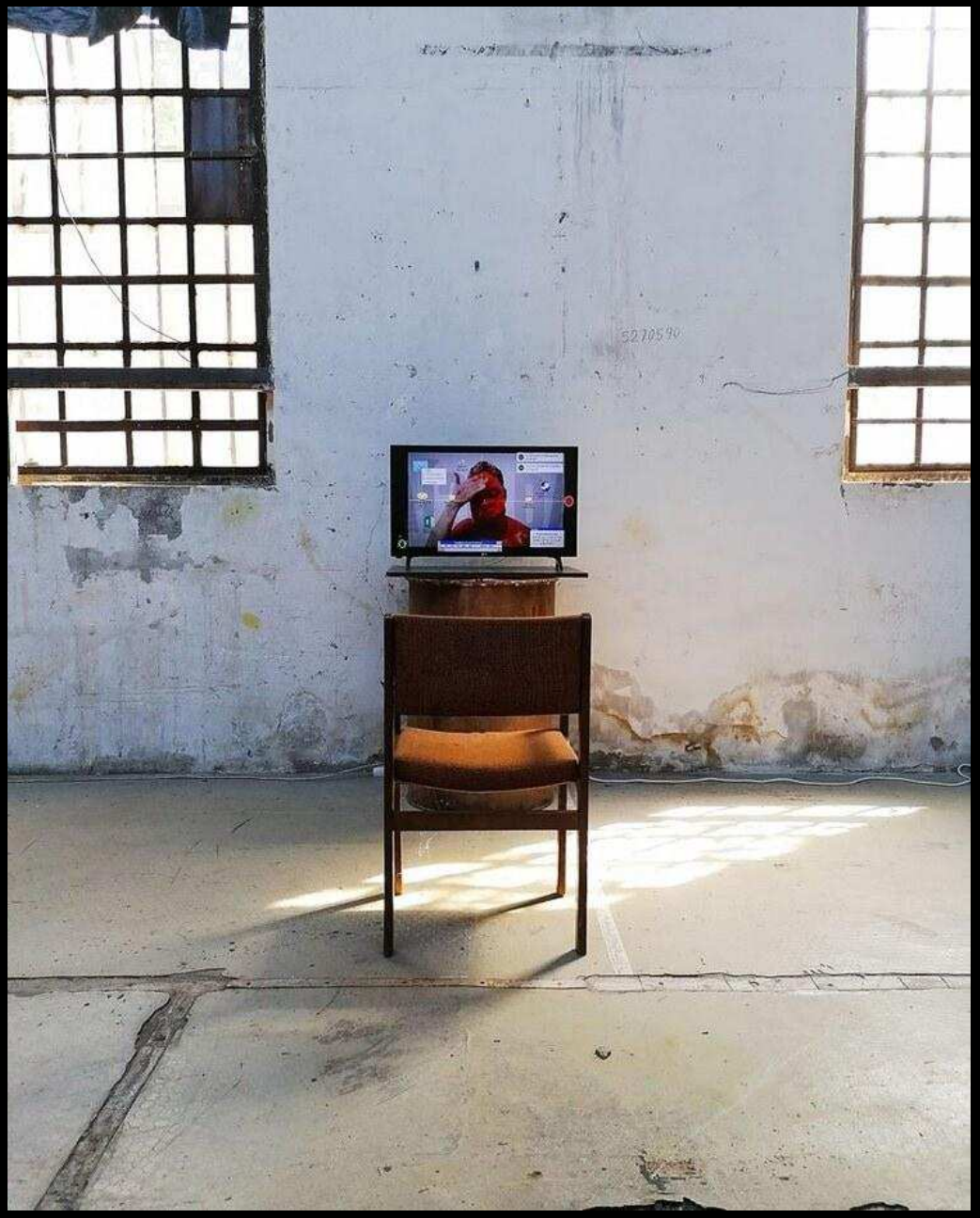
with Hajime Kinoko

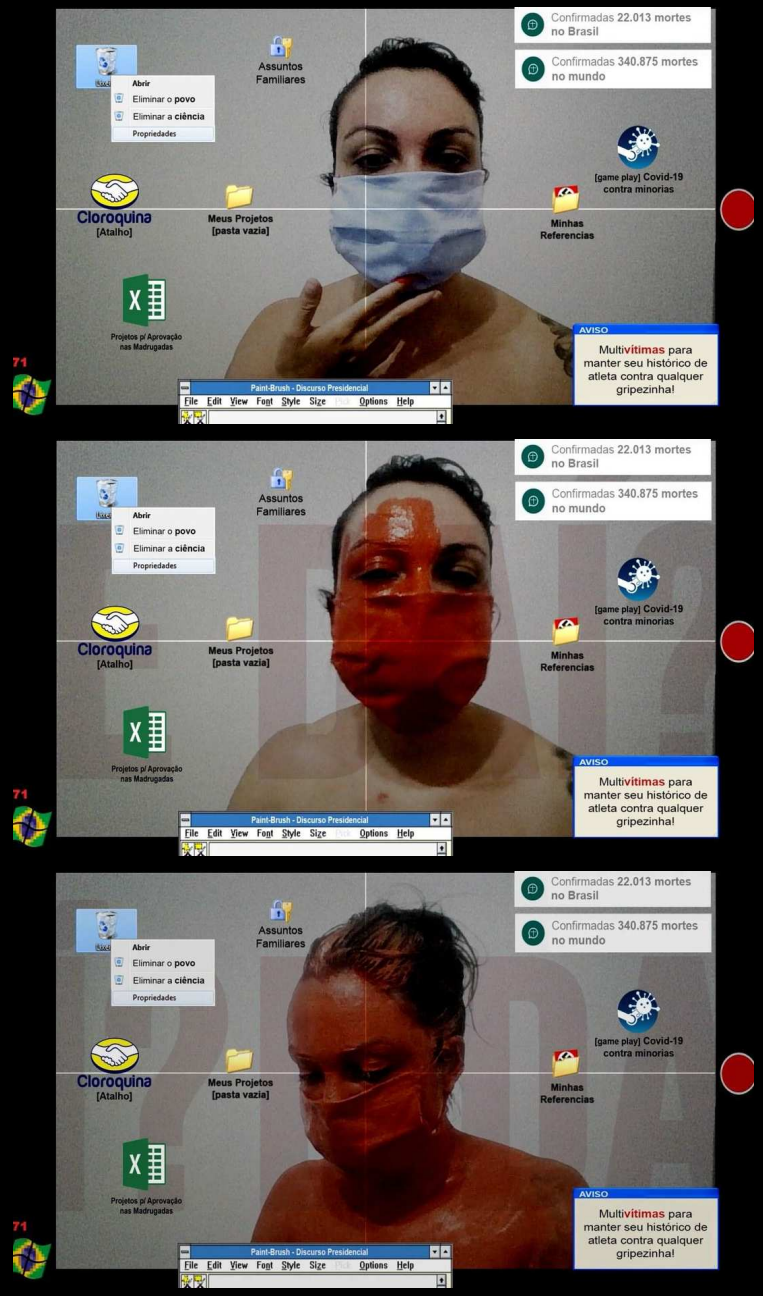
Suspension inside a rope web stretched across a tilted steel cube, rigged by Hajime Kinoko. Three nights at Ópera de Arame.











POLITICAL · 2020

E DAÍ?

DISCOURSES OF NECROPOLITICS

Video performance and installation. Made during the COVID-19 pandemic. The title, “E daí?” (“So what?”), quotes Jair Bolsonaro’s 2020 reply when asked about the rising number of COVID-19 deaths.

POLITICAL · 2014

Pai, Afasta de Mim Esse Cálice

A performance from Colonized Sexuality, a series on how Christian, patriarchal and Eurocentric norms sever pleasure from spirit and the body from history. The title echoes the prayer of Christ and the song Cálice (1973) by Chico Buarque and Gilberto Gil, where cálice (chalice) sounds like cale-se (be silent), a protest against censorship under the military dictatorship.

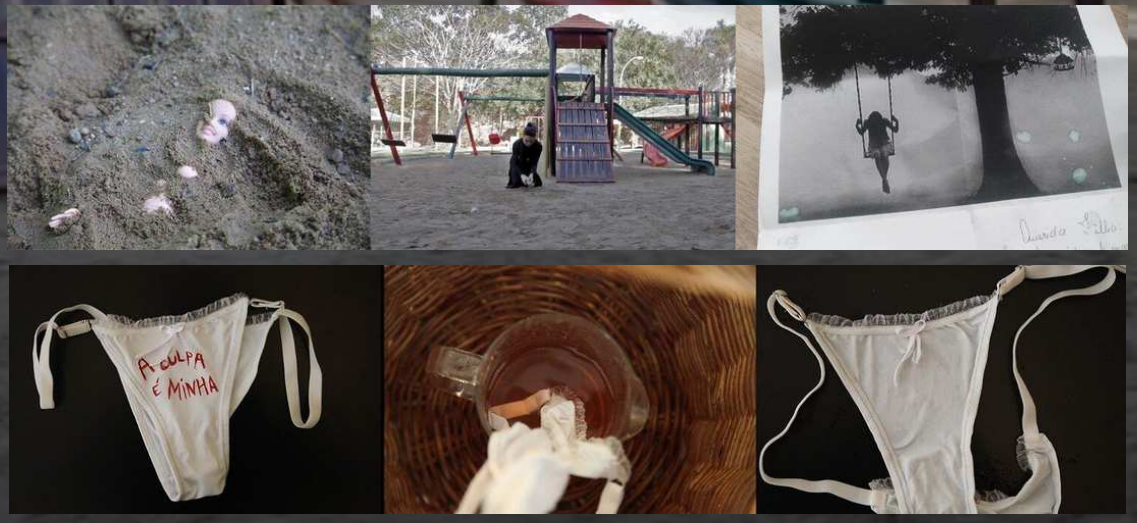




POLITICAL · 2014

To Curate Yourself

Part of Colonized Sexuality, presented through the videos Tenro and Estender.









EMPOWERING AND FEMINIST WORKSHOP MADE BY MALE PHOTOGRAPHERS

APPROPRIATION

A performance against sexual abuse in the photography scene and the appropriation of feminist speech. Every sentence spoken in the video comes from research with nude art models, and all of it really happened.

SHIBARI · 2026

Magdalena

with Mysaki









POLITICAL · 2017

No Faces and No Hair

A performance on the resilience of women in the face of historical tragedies, bringing art and reflection into the public space of the city. Presented in the free open span of Praça das Artes, as part of Permeable Presence, a programme of the Theatro Municipal de São Paulo.



DANCE · 2014

At Eye Level

with Natália Coutinho · Performatus #1, Central Galeria, São Paulo

SHIBARI · 2026

Drowning

with Fenix Phoenix









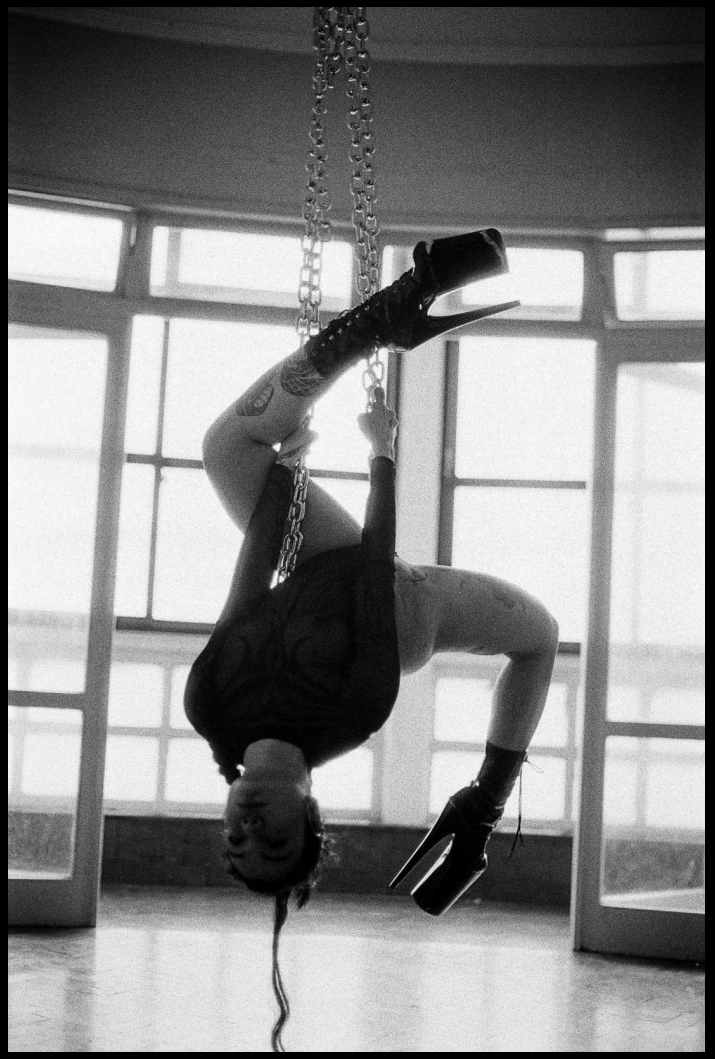


HYBRID · SINCE 2026

HYBRID

CHAINS · SHIBARI · AERIAL

A hybrid suspension system that combines aerial chains and shibari. The chain rig carries the load and rope ties are attached to it, allowing positions and transitions that neither technique offers alone. The research led to MEDUSA, a modular chain apparatus with integrated rope-connection points (patent pending).







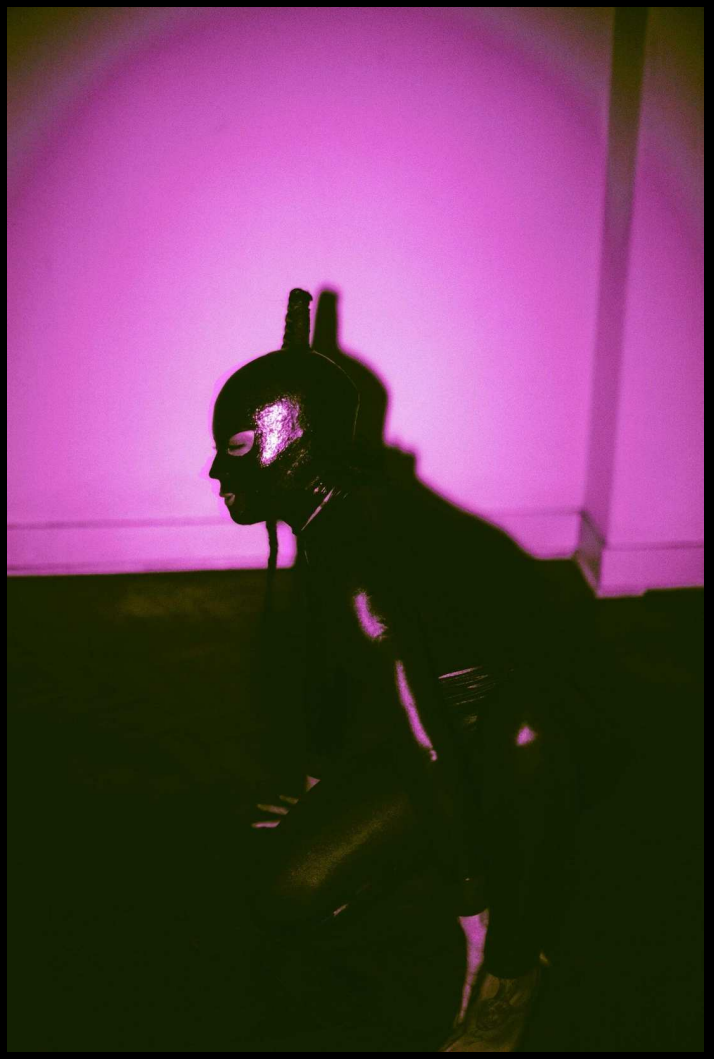
CHAINS · SINCE 2025

CHAINS

AERIAL · FLOW · EXOTIC · RIGGING · EXPERIMENTAL

Aerial chains practice: aerial, flow and exotic work on suspended steel chains, plus experimental studies on applying the technique to contemporary performance. Also works as a chain rigger, designing and installing chain rigs for her own pieces and for other performers.







BUTOH / RITUAL · SINCE 2010

BUTOH / RITUAL

BUTOH · RITUAL · FOLKLORE · SYNCRETISM

Butoh training combined with ritual references from many traditions, mainly Indigenous and Afro-Brazilian practices, Brazilian folklore and religious syncretism. Performances are built from ritual structures (invocation, offering, passage) and use slow movement, repetition, trance states, masks, membranes and natural materials such as clay, water, fire and plants.







POLITICAL · SINCE 2010

POLITICAL

LIVE ACTION · VIDEO PERFORMANCE · INSTALLATION

Performances that use the body to address power structures: colonialism, patriarchy, the State and the market. The Colonized Sexuality and Discourses of Necropolitics series work with absurdism, decolonial thought and the hyperbole of sexual stereotypes, through live actions, video performance and installation.







EXPERIMENTAL · SINCE 2010

EXPERIMENTAL

MASKS · MEMBRANES · LATEX · LIGHT

The experimental works treat the body as technology. Membranes, masks, latex, threads and coloured light act as prostheses that dissolve the human silhouette into animal, object or creature, testing identity before fixed categories of gender and species. Absurdism works as a method: the strange image becomes a way into memory, trauma and the unconscious.







STAGE · SINCE 2013

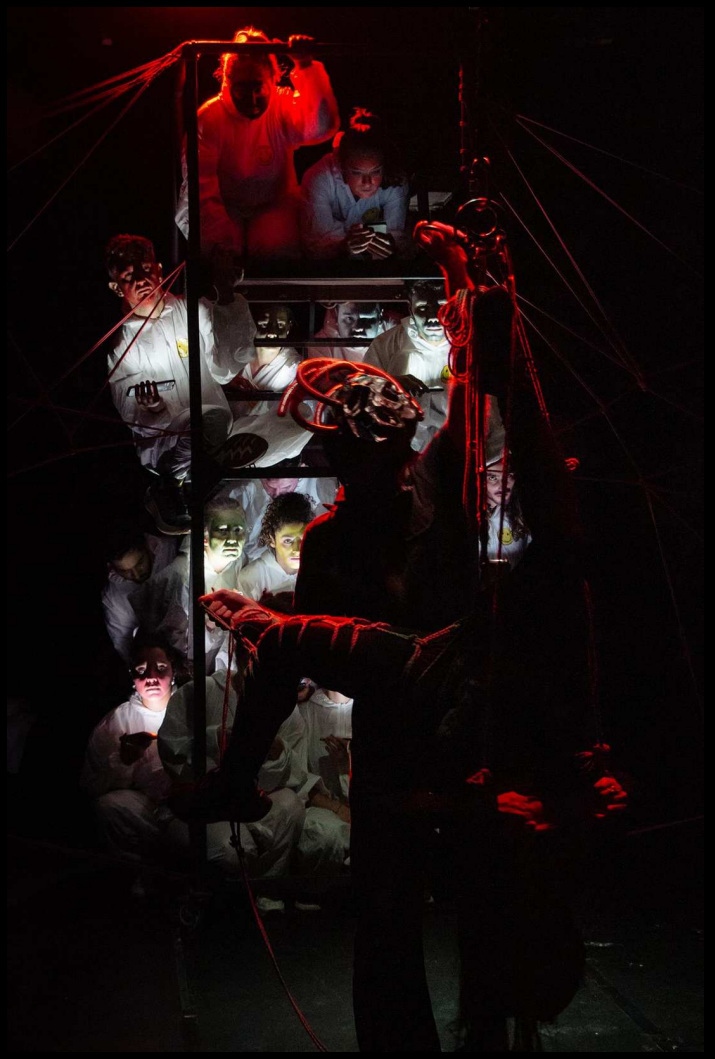
STAGE

ROPE · CHAINS · STAGE RIGGING

Rope and chain suspension adapted for the stage: rigging to the venue structure, load and safety planning, cues with light and sound, and transitions timed to the choreography and the rest of the cast.





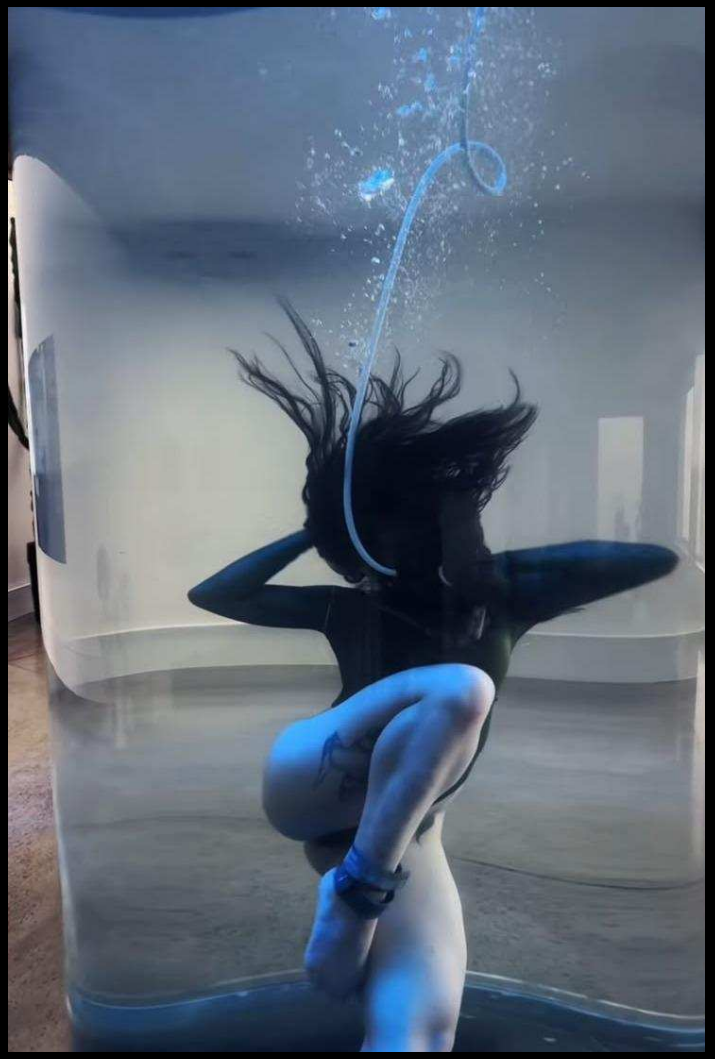


THEATRE · SINCE 2025

THEATRE

PERFORMATIVE THEATRE · PHYSICAL THEATRE

Training in performative theatre, with a growing interest in physical theatre. Focus on body-led dramaturgy, gesture and stage presence, and on integrating rope and chain sequences into staged pieces.







AQUABOX · SINCE 2023

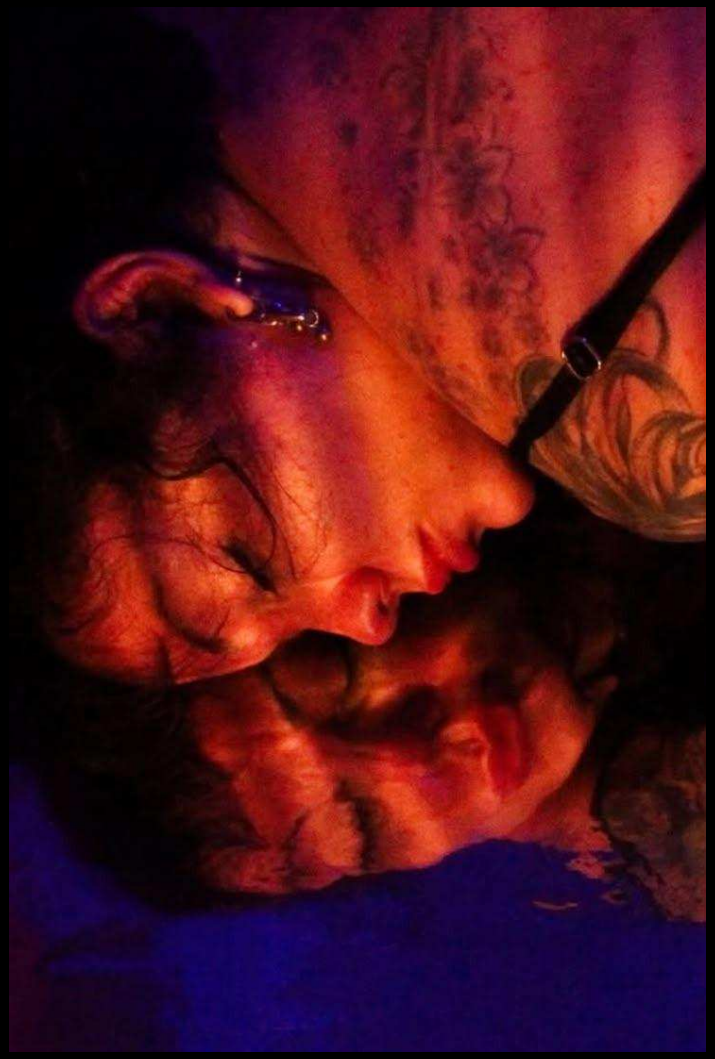
AQUABOX

BREATH-HOLD · BREATHING TUBE · UNDERWATER MOVEMENT

Underwater performance inside a glass water column: breath-hold work, use of a breathing tube, buoyancy control and movement with bound ankles.







DANCE · SINCE 2017

DANCE

BUTOH · TRIBAL FUSION · CONTEMPORARY DANCE

Training in butoh and tribal fusion, currently studying contemporary dance. Floor work, isolations, slow movement and improvisation are applied directly to the aerial, chain and rope work.







SHIBARI · SINCE 2022

SHIBARI

FLOOR WORK · SUSPENSION · AERIAL ROPE

Shibari as a bottom performer and rope model: floor work, partial and full suspensions, aerial rope work and transitions between ties, in studio sessions and stage performances with riggers including Hajime Kinoko, Akira Nawa, Mysaki, Fenix Phoenix, Tati Limati, Nick Yourknots and Ana Vohs. Shibari is also applied as a technique in her own contemporary art creation, in performance, video and installation.

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