

Riko Sugama & Ayane Kondo at The Feuerle Collection

With the the finale of The Feuerle Collection Performance Programme, the museum offers a very special opportunity to experience a rare, traditional performance from the ancient Ryukyu Kingdom

The Feuerle Collection Performance Programme 2023

Riko Sugama & Ayane Kondo

Wednesday, 11 October at 7.30 pm

Wednesday, 22 November at 7.30 pm

When Animals Become Art. Leiko Ikemura at The Feuerle Collection

Curated by Désiré Feuerle

On view until 7 January 2024



Image: The Feuerle Collection Performance Program 2023. Riko Sugama on stage, Ryukyu Traditional Dancer (Ryukyu Buyoh - 琉球舞踊) in The Feuerle Collection. Photo: Wai Kung © The Feuerle Collection.

As a part of its interdisciplinary mission to support and cultivate the link between the East and the West, at the start of 2023, The Feuerle Collection inaugurated the first dedicated platform for young Asian performing artists based in Berlin: **The Feuerle Collection Performance Programme**.

For the final two performances of the programme, the museum offers a very special opportunity to

experience a rare, traditional performance from the ancient Ryukyu Kingdom (island of Okinawa, Japan), with dancer **Riko Sugama**, accompanied by the hammered dulcimer, played by musician **Ayane Kondo**.

For the Ryukyu dances, Riko Sugama will wear precious original Bingata costumes, a historical treasure from the Ryukyu textile arts, handmade by **Atelier Eijun Shiroma**, family owned since 15 generations.

The ancient drawings and decorations on her clothing will match the melodic song texts in old Ryukyuan language. Dancing between original, lacquered wood furniture from the Chinese Imperial Court, the artist will also offer an anthology of the most iconic gestures from the ancient dances repertoire, from a contemporary perspective.

The spellbinding, live music played by Ayane Kondo with the hammered dulcimer — a percussion-stringed instrument originating in Central Asia and sharing its ancient roots both with the East and the West — will melt together all elements of the juxtaposition.



Image: Riko Sugama, Ryukyu Traditional Dancer (Ryukyu Buyoh - 琉球舞踊) next to Zeng Fanzhi, *Untitled*, 2009 in The Feuerle Collection. Photo: Wai Kung © RikoSugama.

On **Wednesday, 11 October**, as a special intermezzo between the different dances and music pieces, Okinawan artist and calligraphy master **Sugano Matsusaki**, will present a calligraphy performance, accompanied by a hammered dulcimer improvisation. Matsusaki offers a glimpse into a practice that is traditionally very intimate, contemplative and secret. She will connect the traditional characters from the lyrics of the *Ryūka* (琉歌, lit. "Ryūkyū song/poem") to a contemporary, self-descriptive display of her emotions and interpretations of her cultural heritage.

On the occasion of the finissage on **Wednesday, 22 November**, it will also be possible to experience an original Chinese tea ceremony performance with professional tea practitioner **Lin Wang** (contemporary Chaozhou Gongfu Cha, essential brewing method from Chaozhou), highlighting **Désiré Feuerle's** synesthetic approach and adding a significant element to conceptually relocate the public into the dreamy environment of the ancient performance background, incorporating all of the senses.



Image: Installation view of the second Silk Room exhibition, When Animals Become Art. Leiko Ikemura at The Feuerle Collection. Photo: Wai Kung. Courtesy of the artist. © Leiko Ikemura and The Feuerle Collection.

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The exhibition presents a selection of works realised between 1990 and 2022 by artist Leiko Ikemura. These are juxtaposed with personal plush toys collected by the artist and immersed in a refined, dreamlike scenography, designed by Désiré Feuerle especially for the installation.

When Animals Become Art. Leiko Ikemura at The Feuerle Collection symbolically brings into being an intimate and colourful nest, where precious animal sculptures, made of cast glass, glazed terracotta, patinated bronze, and papier-mâché, interact with small plush creatures from a domestic environment.

As one of the recurring themes chosen by Ikemura throughout her practice, the representation of animals and animal-hybrids will transport visitors into a secret world, leaving the door open for fantasy to interpret possible symbols, metaphors, and enigmatic references to Japanese legends and to the vibrant, pulsating creations of the artist.



Image: View of the interior of The Feuerle Collection.

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