

Mai Endo (1984-, born in Hyogo)

Based in Tokyo, Mai Endo is an artist, actor and researcher whose work operates at the intersection of embodied knowledge, marginalized archives, and queer-feminist practice. Through a synergy of research and performance, she investigates how overlooked choreographies can be inherited and re-enacted. Her ongoing project *Re-dancing the Empire: The Gaze of Teiko Ito and the Forgetting of Asian Dancing Bodies* (ROHM Theatre Kyoto Research Program, 2025–) traces the history of Teiko Ito, a Japanese-American dancer who traveled to Indonesia in the 1930s to study local dance and continued performing "Oriental dance" in Japan and the United States.



Endo completed her Ph.D. at Tokyo University of the Arts in 2021. In her dissertation and the project *Resembling Snake*, she offers a queer re-reading of interspecies marriage tales from coastal East Asia, transmitted through oral tradition and transformed by local ecosystems and human migration. In 2022, she conducted archival research at Franklin Furnace in New York, supported by the Agency for Cultural Affairs' Overseas Study Program. Recent highlights include *Ritual for Omega and Alpha* (The National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo, 2024), a video performance created in collaboration with odoriko (dancer) Natsu Usami, reinterpreting Japan's postwar striptease culture.

Collaboration and collective thinking are central to Endo's approach. In 2018, she co-founded the art zine *Multiple Spirits* with critic and curator Mika Maruyama. Endo is also an instructor at Bigakko (est. 1969, Tokyo), where she leads the course *Unbecoming: Shadow Feminist Art Practice*, fostering the sharing of feminist knowledge and practice across generations.

EDUCATION

2021. Ph.D. in Painting at Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo, Japan

2018. Exchange student at Vienna Art Academy (Prof. Marina Gržinić), Vienna, Austria

2013. MA in Painting, Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo, Japan

2011. BA in Painting, Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo, Japan

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

Research:

Research on Archives in the Performing Arts: *Re-dancing the Empire: Dialogical Practices around Teiko Ito and Asian Dancing Bodies*, a research program at ROHM Theatre Kyoto, 2025-

International Research Project: *Kinship Across Geographies—Foregrounding Feminist Ecologies in Denmark and Japan* (Copenhagen, South Korea, Tokyo, Chiba, Nagano, led by Helen Nishijo Andersen and Karen Vestergaard Andersen with Yoshiko Shimada and Multiple Spirits) 2024 -

Visiting Researcher at Franklin Furnace, New York, USA, 2022

EXHIBITIONS (SOLO AND GROUP)

Roppongi Crossing 2025: What Passes Is Time. We Are Eternal at Mori Art Museum, 2025, Tokyo, Japan

Eros of Our Own at hARTslane, 2025, London, UK

To the Freedom, We Dance at Wałbrzyska Galeria Sztuki BWA, 2025, Wałbrzych, Poland

Aoi the Gallerist & Leila the Villainess: A Glamorous Contract for a Second Life at TAV Gallery, 2025, Tokyo, Japan

Elle empêche les choses de dormir at 40mcube, 2025, Rennes, France

Redevelopment of Development Vol. 8 Multiple Spirits: Anytime Lunatic – Family Abolition at Gallery αM, 2024, Tokyo, Japan^{*ms}

Feminism and the Moving Image at The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, 2024, Tokyo, Japan

Connecting Bodies: Asian Women Artists at The National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea, 2024, Seoul, Korea

Does the Future Sleep Here?—Revisiting the museum's response to contemporary art after 65 years at The National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo, 2024, Tokyo, Japan

Susukino Night Triennale at Okura Building, 2024, Sapporo, Hokkaido

Actuality on the Rooftop at TAV Gallery, 2023, Tokyo, JAPAN

Attractively Idling at Tokyo Dome City, 2023, Tokyo, JAPAN

MOMAT Collection at The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, 2023, Tokyo, Japan

The City Breathes in the Interior of Buildings at mhProject NYC, 2022, New York, USA

Hinohara Art at a wide area of Hinohara Village, 2022, Tokyo, Japan

La Clausura del Cuerpo at Las Cigarreras Centro Cultural, 2022, Alicante, Spain

Harboring a Burning Passion at SA • KURA (Satellite Gallery of Aichi University of the Arts), 2021, Aichi, JAPAN

Feminisms at 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, 2021, Ishikawa, Japan

New ways to grow: Artists envision a post-Covid world at the University Art Museum, 2021, Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo, Japan

Rules? at 21_21 DESIGN SIGHT, 2021, Tokyo, Japan

Tokyo University of the Arts Doctoral Program Final Exhibition at The University Art Museum, 2020, Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo, Japan

Listen to Her Song at The Chinretsukan Gallery, Tokyo University of the Arts, 2020, Tokyo, Japan

New Crystal Palace by Mai Endo × Aya Momose at Talion Gallery and VOU, 2020, Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan

Pangea on the Screen curated by Issei Yamagata at TAV Gallery, 2020, Tokyo, Japan

TAV GALLERY 5th Anniversary Exhibition MID CORE at TAV Gallery, 2019, Tokyo, Japan

Teratoter Festival 2018 Walls at Harmonica Alley Mitaka, 2018, Tokyo, Japan

history in art pop up show at MAHO KUBOTA GALLERY, 2017, Tokyo, Japan

I am not a Feminist! at Goethe-Institut Tokyo, Festival/Tokyo 17, 2017, Tokyo, Japan

MOT Annual 2016 Loose Lips Save Ships at Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, 2016, Tokyo, Japan

I got pregnant with the God's child at TAV Gallery, 2015, Tokyo, Japan

I am a Feminist! at Gallery Barco, 2015, Tokyo, Japan

13 Days of Premium Drifting at The National Museum of Art Okutama, 2014, Tokyo, Japan*22

ORGANIZED EXHIBITIONS BY MULTIPLE SPIRITS

TSUKIYOMI: Archives from Near and Far at PARA, 2023, Tokyo, Japan

The Snake & the Archive at KODA House, 2022, New York, USA, and Pengerukatu, Helsinki, Finland

When It Waxes and Wanes at the Austrian Association of Women Artists (VBKÖ), 2020, Vienna, Austria

PERFORMANCE / EVENT

Stilllive 2025 at EASTEAST_TOKYO, 2025, Japan

WE ARE THE HOUSE at Kyoto Art Center, 2025, Kyoto, Japan

触手の約束 □ ***Tentacle Cross*** at 36th Bienal de São Paulo: INVOCATION #4:Tokyo in the 5th floor, Sogetsu Kaikan, 2025, Tokyo, Japan

32nd Higashikujo Madang at former Toka Elementary School, 2024, Kyoto, Japan

Stilllive 2024: Kinetic Net at Creative Center OSAKA, 2024, Osaka, Japan

The City Breathes in the Interior of Buildings at mh Project NYC, 2022, New York, USA

Sumi-Yume: Under the Hazy Moon at Sumida Park, 2022, Tokyo, Japan

Stilllive founded by Yuki Kobayashi, Goethe-Institut Tokyo, 2019, Tokyo, Japan

TERATOTERA Festival at various locations along the Chuo-Line, 2018, Tokyo, Japan

PERFORMING ARTS

21st AAF Drama Award Winning Performance: ***The Chicks would be Dead if they were Salmon*** directed by Shiroshima Hitsujiya at Aichi Prefectural Arts Theater, NAMIKI SQUARE, and ConCarino, 2023, Aichi, Hukuoka, and Sapporo, Japan and Indonesia

"Load?" in another skin by Ayu Permata Sari and Mai Endo at BUoY, 2021, Tokyo and Lampung, Japan and Indonesia

Messy Fuss at Haisen: art preparation room, 2021, Shiga, Japan

George Bataille's Bathrobe by Yubiwa Hotel at Naebono art studio and BUoY, 2019, Sapporo and Tokyo, Japan

scratch settlement by Kishii Daisuke, 2014-2018

CityIII by Kageyama Kishodai at Shinsekai and Kamoe Art Center, 2017, Tokyo and Shizuoka, Japan

Isla! Isla! Isla! by Yudai Kamisato(Okazaki art theatre) at Mie Center For the Arts, 2016, Mie, Japan

What if you know who shows up from the corner of room 51 at 9 in the morning by Tasuku Ohigashi(Large, Small and Ref. Co. Ltd.), Ichirota Suzuki(Large, Small and Ref. Co. Ltd.) and Kaori Nishio(Bird Park) at World Theatre Festival, 2015, Shizuoka, Japan

Double Seduce at blan Class, 2015, Kanagawa, Japan

Hit a Person in the Eyes at 22:00 Gallery, 2014, Tokyo, Japan

Hit a Person in the Eyes at TRANS ARTS TOKYO, 2013, Tokyo, Japan

Manchuria there used to be, still I don't know at Edamitsu Theatre Festival 2013, Iron Theater, 2013, Fukuoka, Japan

This is 100 at HAGISO, Tokyo, Japan

Hit a Person in the Eyes at BankART Artist in Residence OPEN STUDIO, 2013, Kanagawa, Japan

GRANT

2025. Research Grant, ROHM Theatre Kyoto Research Program, Japan

2025. Networking Grant, Chishima Foundation for Creative Osaka, Japan

2024. Travel Grant, Ogasawara Memorial Foundation, Japan

2021. Fellowship under the Japan Government Overseas Study Program (for 1 year), Japan

2019. Creation grant, Arts Council Tokyo, Japan

2017. Traveling Scholarship, ISHIBASHI Foundation - GEIDAI Oil-Painting Department, Japan

WRITING

In English and Japanese:

Mai Endo "We Who Need No Frames", *ILLUMINA* vol.8, 2024

Mai Endo "Silhouette of a Marriage", *Feminisms*, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, 2022

Mai Endo "I AM NOT A FEMINIST!", Goethe-Institut Japan, 2017 [online article](#)

In Japanese:

Mai Endo "The Politics of Telepathy and the Chant of 'Indomitability'", *Art Review Japan*, 2026 [online article](#)

Mai Endo "Ritual for Omega and Alpha", *ILLUMINA* vol.8, 2024

Mai Endo "Marriage and Shadow Feminisms", *RELATIONS*, 2021 [online article](#)

INTERVIEW

In English and Japanese:

"Mai Endo and Mika Maruyama of Japan-born queer art zine *Multiple Spirits* on Japan's 'gender dispute' and its effects", *TOKION*, 2021 [online article](#)

Interview with Pato Wiesauer and Mai Endo "When Manga and Anime Fall on Fashion", *Multiple Spirits*, 2019 [online article](#)

In Japanese:

"Excessive Repetition and Subtle Difference — Unpacking the Villainess Reincarnation Genre: A Conversation with Kiritorimederu, Mai Endo, and Koji Shirae", *Media Arts Current Contents*, 2026 [online article](#)

"Who made me afraid of feminists? -Strongness and Extremeness" interviewed by Yutaka Shiokura, *The Asahi Shimbun*, 2024

Interview with Mai Endo, lecturer for "Unbecoming: Shadow Feminist Art Practice", *Bigakko*, 2023

Takumi Fukuo "Long interview with Mai Endo: How to veil keeping someone from unveiling", *monkey waking up in the afternoon*, 2019 [online article](#)

Nakako Hayashi "I Am Not A Feminist!", *Sheros*, 2018 online article

Minori Suzuki "Question your relationship with your husband, family, and the world", *FT Focus*, 2017 [online article](#)

ARTICLE

In Japanese:

Kiritorimederu, "Multiple Spirits | Anytime Lunatic, Family Abolition", *Gallery aM*, 2025

Natsumi Araki "Expressing 'the intersection of human and snake' by Shojo-Manga style: Women artists breaking the framework", *The Asahi Shimbun Blobe+*, 2020 [online article](#)

Nonoka Sasaki "Two works on 'creating' family and sexuality in an age when 'the norm' is being shaken", *QJWeb*, 2020 [online article](#)

Nodoka Odawara "A world where female genitals are not chosen: exhibition review of 'New Crystal Palace'", *Bijutsu Techo online*, 2020 [online article](#)

Ren Fukuzumi "Gender and sexuality in art now!", *Bijutsu Techo: Gender is over!?*, *Bijutsu Shuppan-Sha*, 2017

PUBLICATION

In English and Japanese:

Scraps of Defending Reanimated Marilyn, oar press, 2023

Feminisms, edited by Ritsuko Takahasi, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, 2022

Our Freedom of Expression and Internalization of Censorship, edited by ARTISTS' GUILD and Arts Commons Tokyo, torch press, 2016

In Japanese:

Does the Future Sleep Here?—Revisiting the museum's response to contemporary art after 65 years, *Bijutsu Shuppan-Sha*, 2024

CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

Multiple Spirits (Mika Maruyama, Mai Endo), "Printed Revolutions: Feminist Magazines and Movements in Japan and Beyond through Queer Reading," *Unruly Visions: Art, Activism and Intersectionality in East Asia*, Lecture Theatre, Faculty of History, University of Oxford, December 2024

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

Mai Endo, "From 'Feminist' to 'Snake': A Study of Complex Practices Performing Representation and Narrative", Tokyo University of the Arts, March 2021

Public collection

The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo

Nagoya Institute of Technology, Aichi