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# *introducing* **ABOUT ME**

Artist for Japanese painting - Nihonga-, from Kobe, Japan. Create works on the theme of "Music". I started playing the piano at the age of five, studied biology at Kindai University and got a job as a chemical engineer after graduating. While working, studied illustration and Japanese painting at private art schools. Started my career as an artist in 2019 and took part in AIR in Berlin 2020. Since autumn 2021, I have been working in Germany as a painter, and am involved in various activities to spread traditional Japanese art, Japanese Painting and Torn Paper Art (Chigirie), such as solo - group exhibitions, joint events with musicians, YouTube, presentations, workshops, etc.

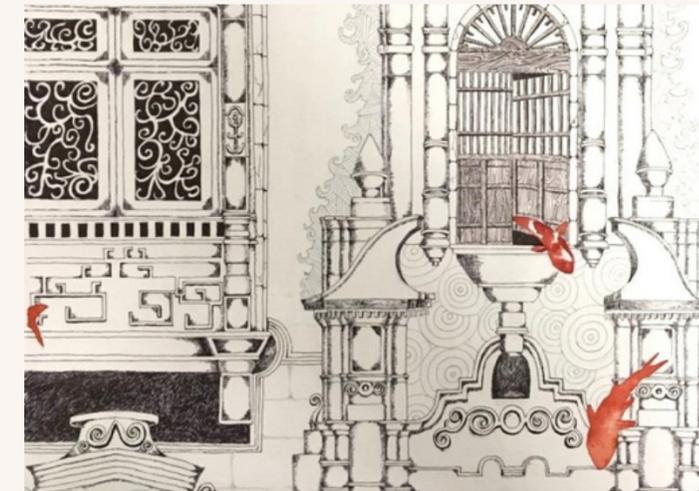


**Sayo Watano**  
Painter

# personal **SKILLS**



**Japanese Painting**



**Illustration**



**Drawing**



**Torn Paper Art**



**YouTube Video**

# EDUCATION

**2017 - 2020**

**Master of Japanese Painting**

Osaka Art School

Fine Art Class (Japanese Painting)

**2013 - 2016**

**Master of Illustration**

Masa Mode Academy of Art

CYD Class (Watercolor)

**2001 - 2005**

**Bachelor of Biology**

Kindai Universty

Faculty of Agricultural Science

# EXPERIENCE

## Solo Exhibition

- 2024 Japanische Schönheit, Kame Japanese Bites, Berlin
  - Blumen und Vögel, Gallery Cafe für schöne Dinge, Berlin
  - Japannischer Frühling, Osterkirche, Berlin
- 2022 Resonanz, Gallely Cafe für schöne Dinge, Berlin
- 2020 Beginning, Gallery Kunstraum Reuter, Berlin
- 2019 Solo Exhibition 2, Za Gallery, Hikone, Japan
  - Solo Exhibition 1, Gallery Irorimura, Osaka, Japan

## Group Exhibition

- 2024 Kunst am Kurfürstendamm, Autohaus König, Berlin
- 2023 48H Neukölln, Gallery Kunstraum Reuter, Berlin
- 2021 Außerirdischer, Luftgarten 104, Berlin, Germany
- 2020 AT arts contemporary art exhibition, Zyougou Temple, Azuchi, Japan
  - Synchronicity, Gallery Armadillo, Leipzig, Germany
- 2019 Shinsotsukaiten 14th, Hyogo Kokan, Kobe, Japan
- 2017 Shinsotsukaiten 13th, Hyogo Kokan, Kobe, Japan

## Art Fair

2019 Unknown Asia, Osaka, Japan

## Residence

2020 Artist in Residence, Takt Berlin, Berlin, Germany

## Workshop

2024 Japanese Torn paper art – Chigirie-,  
Japanmarkt Berlin and  
Wanowa Moabit, Berlin,

## Presentation

2024 Einführung in die Japanische Malerei, Wanowa Moabit, Berlin  
2023 Einführung in die Japanische Malerei, Japan Deutschland Zentrum Berlin  
Einführung in die Japanische Malerei, Kusntsalon, Berlin,

# Artist STATEMENT

Currently, the main art material I use is Nihonga (Japanese Painting), a traditional Japanese painting technique. This technique dates back about 1,300 years and mainly uses natural materials such as mineral pigments and animal glue.

What exactly defines art? For some, art has the meaning of energy, passion, and raising issues in society. For me, art is "Beauty." Expressing pure beauty is my joy. And the crystallization of pure beauty is "music" for me, so music is the theme of my work. I express the impressions, rhythms, and melodies of classical music using Nihonga techniques and traditional Japanese patterns. As those who has been studying the piano since childhood, classical music is a source of inspiration for me, and traditional Japanese art is the origin of my aesthetic sense. Also, most of my works feature animal motifs. I have been interested in animal conservation since I was a child, and studied biology at university. In particular, I have a strong interest in activities to care for animals abandoned by humans, and participated in such activities as a volunteer during my student days. My cat was once a rescue cat. All living beings have a shining soul, and another theme of my art is to express the brilliance of that life through my works of art. Overall, my art is a visualization of the beauty of music using beautiful motifs such as living beings and Japanese traditional patterns.

My goal as an artist working in Germany is to connect traditional European music and traditional Japanese painting through my work, and to further deepen mutual understanding and bonds between people.

# Art WORKS

**01** **Japanese Painting**  
9 Works (2022-2024)

**02** **Illustration**  
3 Works (2019-2021)

**03** **Japanese Torn  
paper art**  
7 Works (2024)

**04** **Drawing**  
3 Works (2022-2024)

**05** **Orderd Works**  
3 Works (2020-2024)

# Japanese **PAINTING**

Mineral pigment, Mud pigment, Mable flour and silver leaf are common materials for all works. Some of the pieces feature white clay, gold leaf and origami paper.



“Rhapsody in B Minor Op.79-1” by Brahms  
(50x40cm: Wooden board:2024)



“Barcarole” by Chopin  
(100x80cm; Canvas; 2024)



“Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, by  
Rachmaninov  
(92.5x23cm; Wooden board; 2024)

# Japanese **PAINTING**



“Zigeunerweisen” by Sarasate  
(51x50cm; wooden board: 2023)



“Streichquartett Nr.2 a-Moll Op.13” by  
Mendelssohn (50cmφ; canvas: 2024)



“Carmen Fantasy” by Bizet/ Waxman  
(60x57cm; wooden board: 2023)

# Japanese PAINTING

3D WORK



“Four seasons” by Vivaldi  
(10x10x10cm: wood cube: 2022)



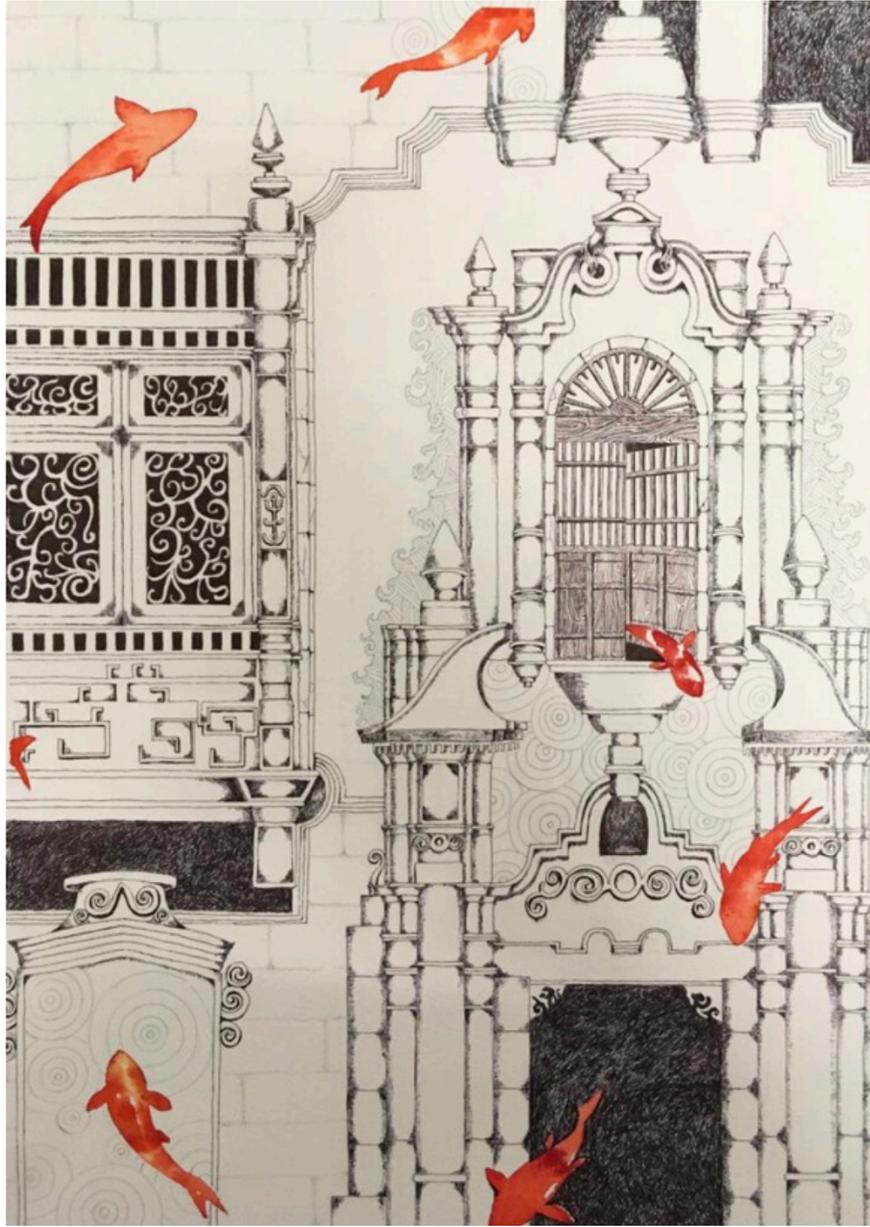
Ensemble-Fire and Water  
(100x20cm; Double side : wood: 2022)



“Piano concerto no.5 Emperor” by  
Beethoven  
( 90×25 cm: Double side ; wood: 2023)

# ILLUSTRATION

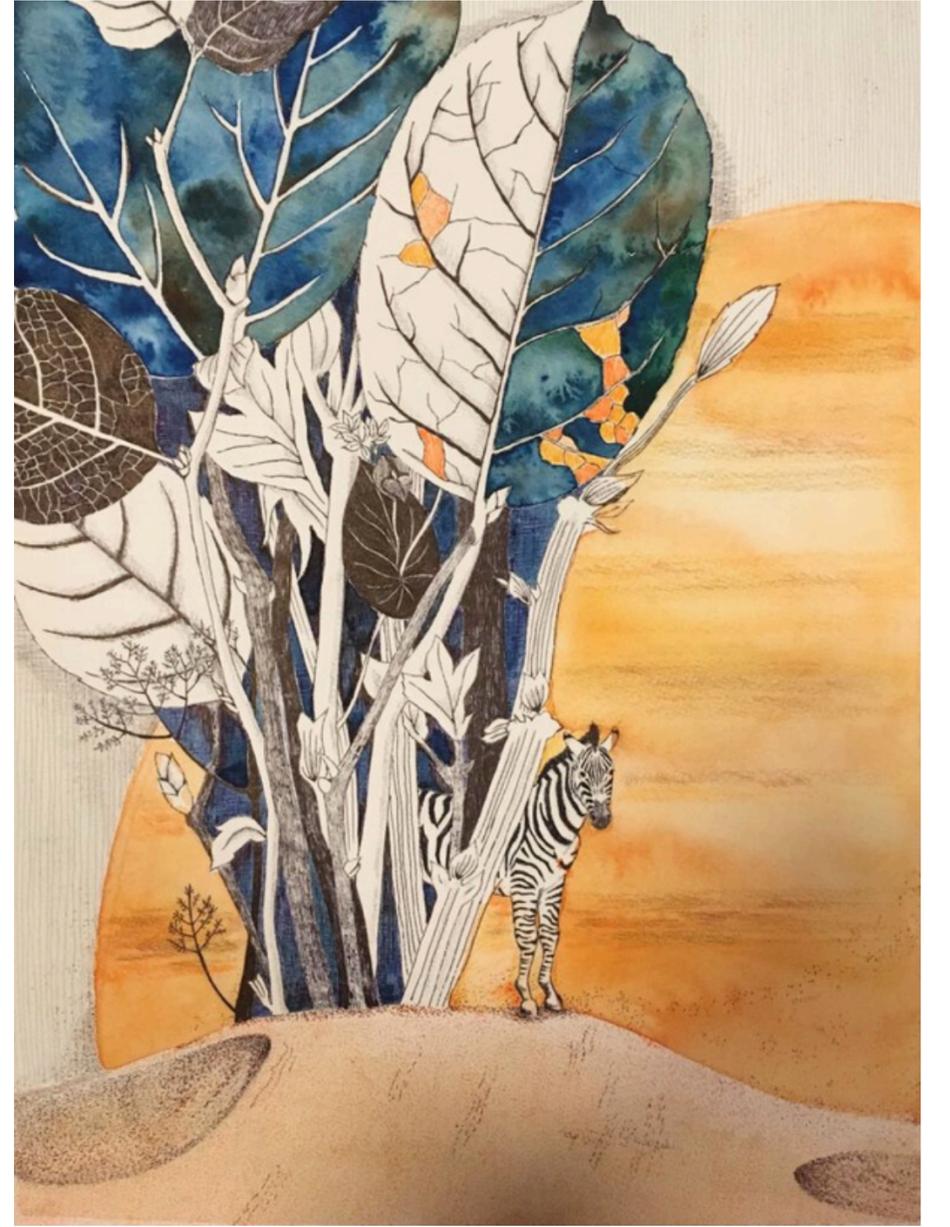
WATERCOLOR AND BALL POINT PEN



**Rhythm-moderate-**  
**(39x27cm : Paper:2020)**



**Drunkard**  
**(39X27cm ; Paper:2019)**



**OASIS**  
**(37X21cm ; Paper:2019)**

# Japanese TORN PAPER ART

Japanese lucky charm Design

Origami and Washi paper  
on the paper



# Japanese **TORN PAPER ART**

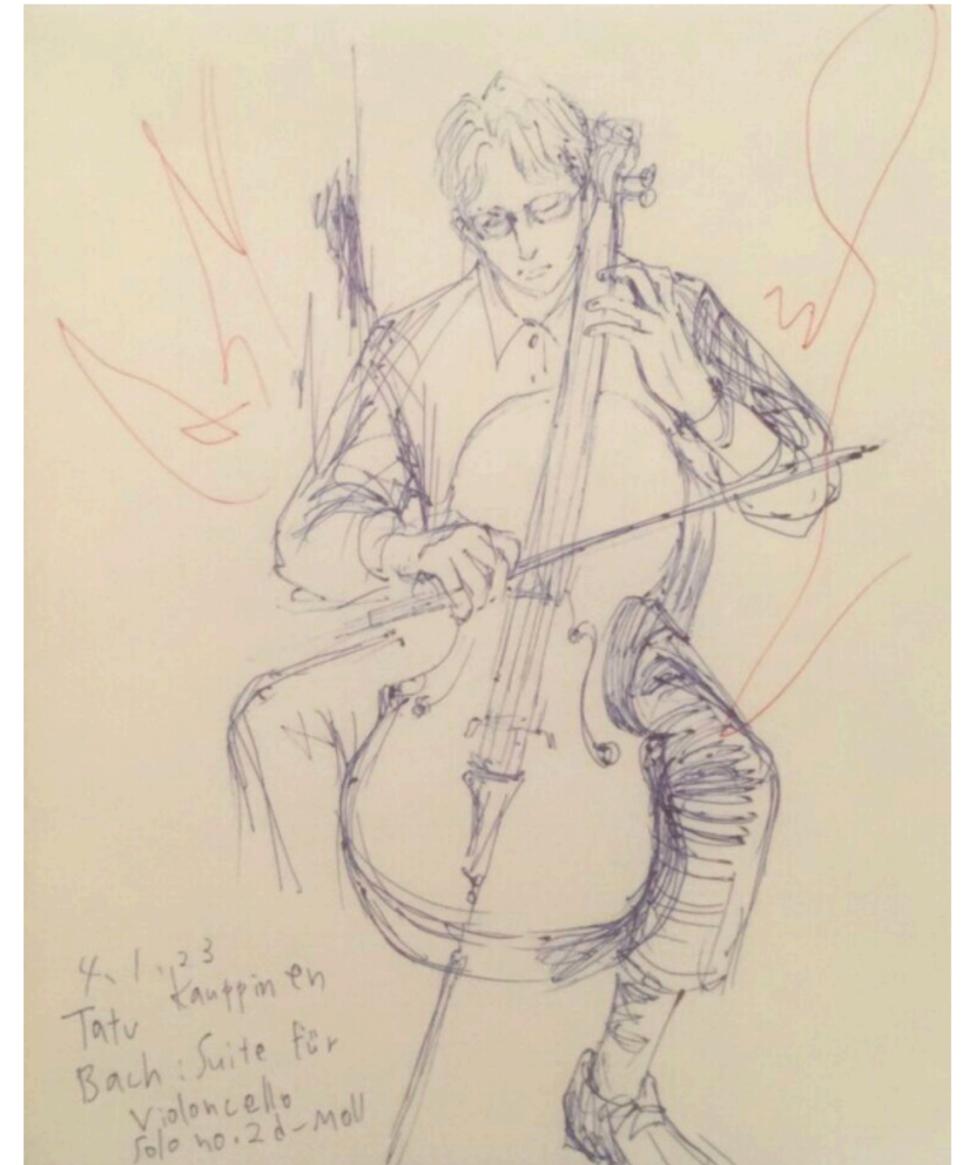
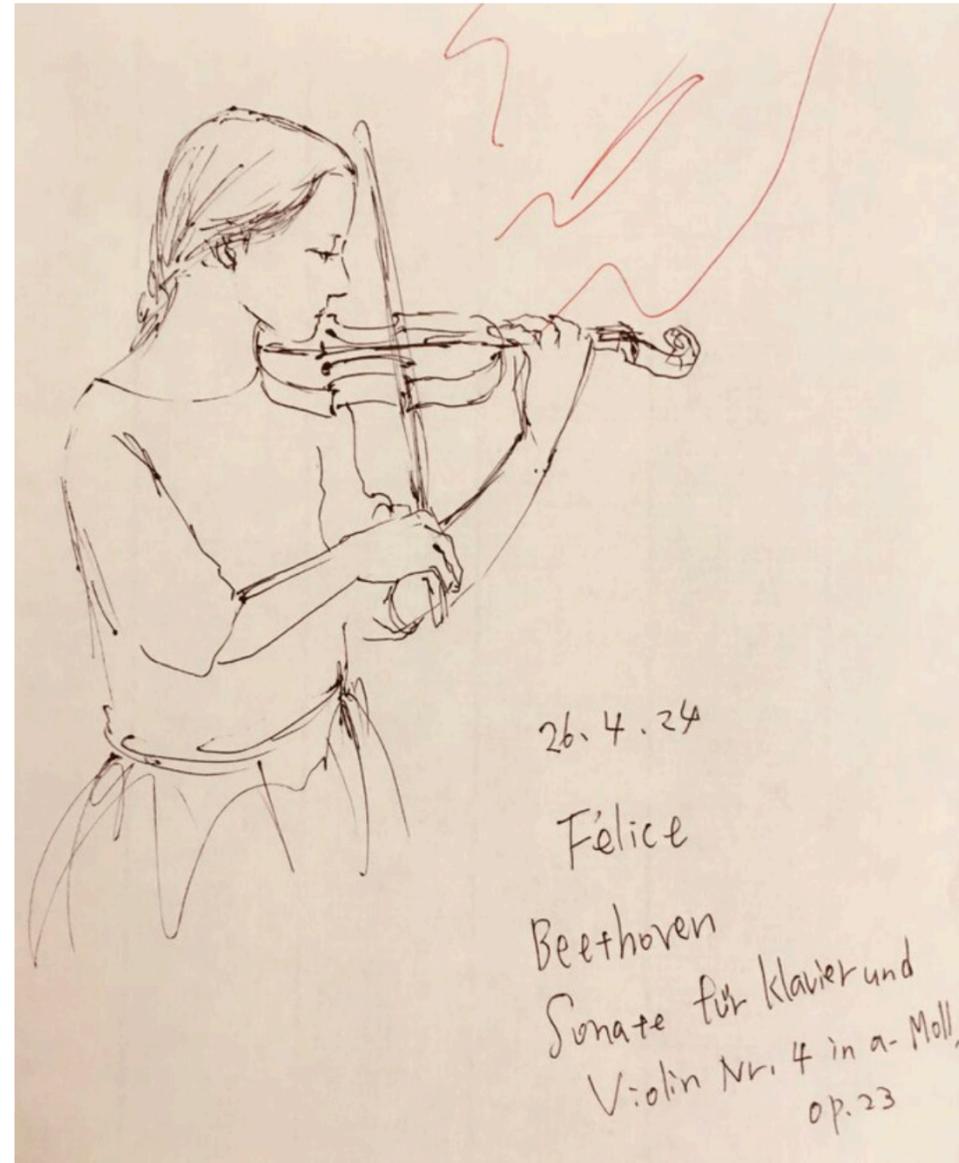
**Origami and Washi paper  
on the paper**

Card design with Flowers



# DRAWING

## BALL POINT PEN ON THE PAPER



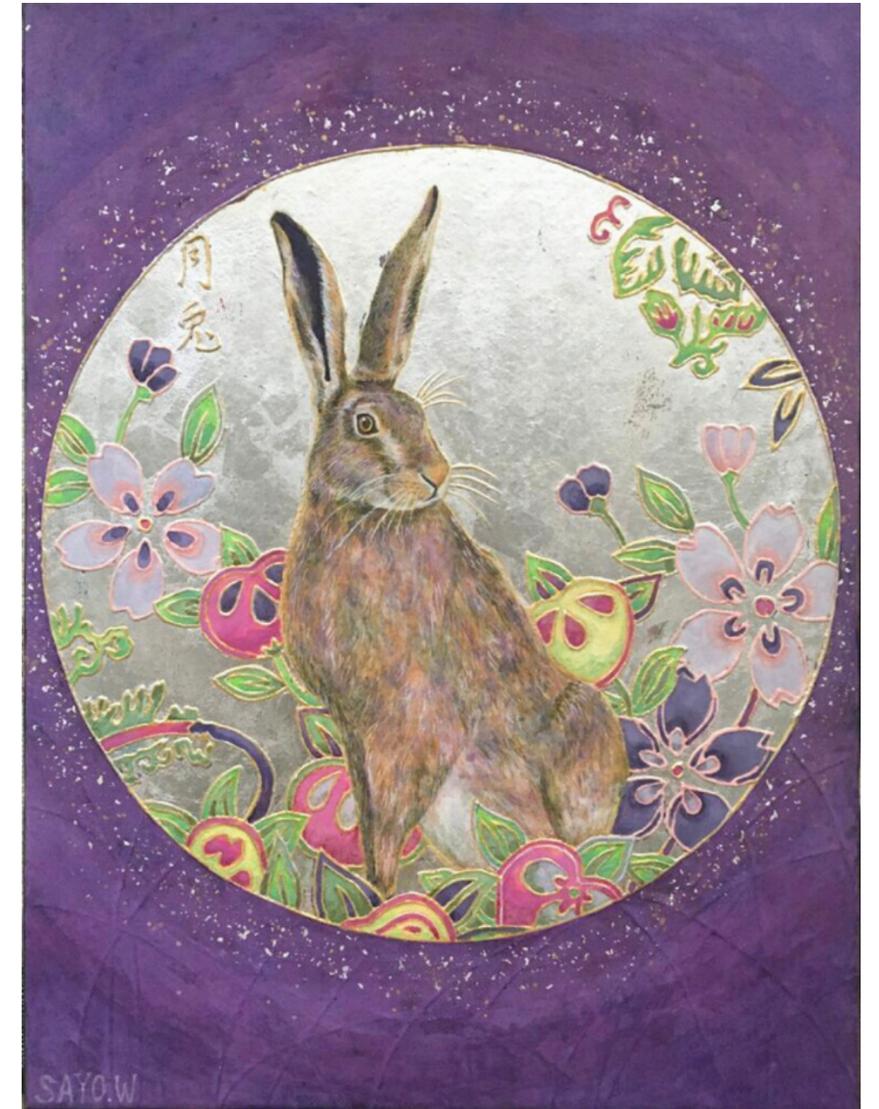
Custom made  
**WORKS**



**Record cover "Buttercup"  
(27x27cm : Watercolor and  
ball point pen on the  
Paper:2020)**



**Private collection  
(140x90cm : Japanese  
Painting materials on the  
canvas:2022)**

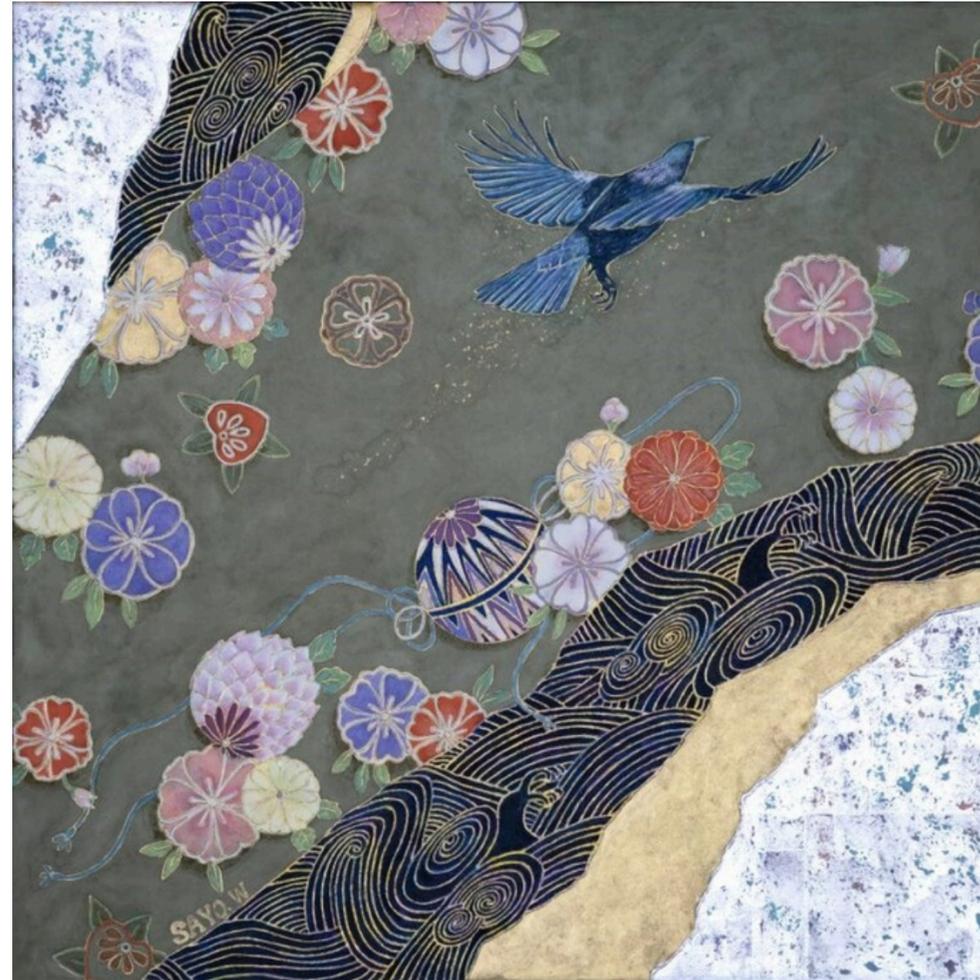


**Private collection  
(40x30cm : Japanese  
Painting materials on the  
canvas:2024)**

Custom made  
**WORKS**



**Book cover  
(30cmφ ; Japanese Painting  
materials on the canvas  
:2025)**



**record cover "Earthworks"  
(40 x 40cm ; Japanese Painting materials  
on the canvas  
:2025)**



**Image for Japanese company  
(30 x 30cm ; Watercolor and  
ball point pen on the  
Paper:2025)**

# My MISSION

Nihonga (Japanese painting) is defined as a technique in which natural materials such as mineral pigments, Shell powder, and metal leaf are bonded together with animal glue, and the outline of the motif is expressed with lines rather than shading. It is difficult to freely control the materials, and it takes many years to master Nihonga. In addition, since the paints cannot be mixed, it is necessary to layer many layers of paint to express intermediate colors. This characteristic makes it take a long time to complete. The number of artists who create Nihonga is steadily decreasing in Japan. The main reason for this is the rising cost of materials and the increase in the number of other art materials that are easier and more flexible to use. I believe that although the techniques of Nihonga are certainly difficult, the beauty of the colors of the main material, mineral pigments, is unique. However, if the number of artists who create Nihonga continues to decrease, there is a possibility that Nihonga itself will disappear. In fact, Nihonga art supply stores are closing down one after another. I am currently creating and exhibiting Nihonga in Germany, and I realize that there are very few people outside of Japan who have knowledge of Nihonga. In order to let foreigners know about Japanese painting, I started a YouTube channel, published the production process, and held presentations and workshops. I hope that in the future many people in Germany and Europe will know about Japanese painting, and European painters will start using Japanese painting materials. I am still a small artist with no influence, but I think it is my mission to spread Japanese painting here. I hope that we can get to know each other through art and create a world of harmony and peace.



**THANKS  
FOR  
WATCHING**

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Sayo Japanese Painting - YouTube