

# Why does a human body apt to be Vertical like a line ?

## Artist Statement

“TA CHI TA SA\_” (“the urge to stand”) is an ongoing series of performances that explore the urge of the human body to stand upright. In each documented performance, I trace the transition from lying on the ground to standing upright, focusing on every detail of every movement required. I am conscious about finding the equilibrium between the ground, weight, balance, gravity, and my body throughout the performance. The location of the performance is also an important element, as an exploration of how my body moving towards an upright position relates to the movement or positioning of environmental elements, whether it be a smokestack, the sunrise, or the surface of a lake. I also perform with musicians on occasion, in front of an audience.

I have also curated group shows, in 2011 and 2014, at Makii Masaru Fine Arts, Tokyo, titled “TA CHI TA SA\_ Collaboration Exhibition” in which other painters, video artists, performers, and photographers created their own work that explored and interpreted the idea of responding physically to the environment, verticality, or the notion of “standing upright.” These experimental group shows demonstrate the diversity of how this seemingly simple subject matter can be interpreted.

My artistic practice began in painting, but my interest in the body has led me to create these performances. Experimenting with the relationship between painting and performance is something drive me to explore further in my practice.

Barnett Newman’s paintings express verticality and space, with their straight, vertical lines that defy gravity yet hold spatial depth. This relates to the concept of the “TA CHI TA SA\_” series.

In 2016, I carried out the performance “*Ta chi ta sa* ” *Confronting Barnett Newman in Amsterdam* in front of “*Cathedra*”(1951) at Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Netherlands. This evoked me a way to once again explore the core of the concept.

### Ta chi ta sa

- ☐ To stand up listening to how the body wants to stand up.
- ☐ To feel the inner strength and desire to stand vertically against gravity and the body which follows it .
- ☐ To experience the horizontal plane with the weight of the body and the impulse of the vertical direction at the same time.
- ☐ To feel the space around the body which would be changed while standing upright .



“Ta chi ta sa” Confronting Barnett Newman in Amsterdam (2016)  
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Stand up with Jellyfish (2014)



Stand up against the horizon of Kanto Plain (2011)



Stand up as the sun rises (1997)

## BIOGRAPHY

Takako Ihoda / Tachitasa\_

Born in Sumida-ku, Tokyo. Studied painting.


Participated in the Toru Iwashita Dance Workshop in '94.

Engaged in improvisational dance, exploring the body as a device.

Started a performance series "Ta chi ta sa\_" in '95. The performance begins from the position lying on the ground on the back, leaving the body to the mercy of gravity, then gradually rises the body paying attention to minor movements in rising, sometimes stops and goes back, to a standing posture finally. This procedure takes about sixty minutes. Performed in various environments since then. Report display, Installation, Collaboration, Art event participation.

\* Toru Iwashita dance/improvisation , sankai juku

## Main exhibitions and performances

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- 2011 ● **July 15 - 26 "Ta chi ta sa\_" Exhibition 2011 Collaborated works exhibition**
  - 2014 ● **June 6 - 16 "Ta chi ta sa\_" Exhibition 2014 Collaborated works exhibition**  
Gallery : MAKII MASARU FINE ARTS (Asakusabashi, Tokyo)  
**"Ta chi ta sa\_" performance 2014**
    - **June 13** «Official trip! ☆Otona-Disco AKEMI☆=We will certainly comply with your request, Miss Ihoda» Produced by Mayu Takagi
    - **June 15** «Stand up in Improvising Space» Collaborators : Toru Iwashita (dance / improvisation) Kenichi Takeda (electric taisho-koto, texts)
  - 2016 ● **December 5 Performance (closed) "Ta chi ta sa" Confronting Barnett Newman in Amsterdam Ta chi ta sa vs Cathedra**  
Venue & Cooperation : Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam (Netherlands)
  - 2017 ● **June 28 - July 8 "Ta chi ta sa\_" Exhibition 2017**  
**"Ta chi ta sa" Confronting Barnett Newman in Amsterdam**  
Gallery : Ningyo-cho Vision's (Nihonbashi Horidome-cho, Tokyo)  
Screening the movie of the performance on a wall screen, Display photographs and documents
  - 2018 ● **December 6 Performance "Ta chi ta sa" Confronting Barnett Newman in Basel Ta chi ta sa vs White Fire IV, Day Before One**  
Venue & Cooperation : Kunstmuseum Basel (Switzerland)
    - **November 27 - December 11 "TA CHI TA SA\_" Ausstellung 2018**  
**"Ta chi ta sa" konfrontiert mit Barnett Newman in Amsterdam**  
Gallery : Philosophicum / Druckereihalle (Basel)  
Screening the movie of the performance on a wall screen, Display photographs and documents
    - **February 23, March 15 Performance (closed, photograph documentation) , April 30 Open Performance "Ta chi ta sa" vs Rock Balancing**  
Collaborator : Chitoku Ishihana Site : Riverbank at Kaminagatoro, Saitama

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- 2019 ● **June 21 Performance in public "Stand up at the summer solstice"**  
Site : Riverbank at Edogawa-ku
- **March 21, April 19 and May 18 Performances in public "Standing under the full moon"**  
Site : Riverbank in Edogawa-ku
- 2021 ● **July 5 Tachitasa Official Website Opened**
- 2022 ● **September 15 Performance "Ta chi ta sa" Confronting Barnett Newman in Washington, D.C. Ta chi ta sa vs The Stations of The Cross, Be II**  
Venue & Cooperation : National Gallery of Art (USA)
- 2023 ● **January 17-28 "Ta chi ta sa\_" Exhibition 2023**  
**"Ta chi ta sa" Confronting Barnett Newman in Washington, D.C.**  
Gallery : Ningyo-cho Vision's (Nihonbashi Horidome-cho, Tokyo)  
Screening the movie of the performance on a wall screen, Display photographs and documents  
Partially subsidized: ASAHI Group Arts Foundation
- **May 27 Standing on the Painter NATSUYUKI NAKANISHI's Horizontal Public experiment performance Tachitasa vs NATSUYUKI NAKANISHI's Horizontal**  
Venue : Tatsumi Hijikata·Nakanishi Natsuyuki Memorial Warehouse Yamanashi
- **August 4-14 blurborders 2023 International performance art exchange Ambient Friction All 4 performances**  
Stand Up with the Time Signal Service/ Touch on the Water, Stand up on the Water/ At a Ravine, Lie down for 10 minutes & Standing for 10 minutes with the Sound of a Cello/ Stand Up in a Market, Tachitasa being Drawn  
Venue, Site : BANGKOK ART AND CULTURE CENTRE Bangkok/ 3 outdoor locations Phatthalung Thailand
- 2024 ● **December 7 Standing with Flames / Candle**  
Venue : FEELSEEN gallery HigashiGinza Tokyo

## Ongoing projects

Live Performance Standing with Music

Stand up with flames (large flames)

Standing while wearing clothes

Stand up in a place of prayer

"Ta chi ta sa" Confronting Barnett Newman in Berlin

Work : Who's Afraid Yellow, red, and blue IV (1969-70)

Venue & Cooperation : Nationalgalerie Staatliche Museen zu Berlin Germany

"Ta chi ta sa" Confronting Barnett Newman in Ottawa

Work : Voice of Fire(1967)

Venue & Cooperation : National Museum of Canada

## “Ta chi ta sa \_” Confronting Barnett Newman Tours; Performance, Documents and Exhibition

Takako Ihoda "Ta chi ta sa \_" 2023

September 2023

In 1995, I started an series of act in nature and in various environments with taking records of them and named these activities "Ta chi ta sa ", and along with these I have collaborated with artists, musicians, photographers, metteurs-en-scène, and dancers to produce and represent the works. Takako Ihoda, who has been executing these performances, is trying to confront the paintings of Barnett Newman, who influenced me the most as an artist and gave me the starting point of this activity, with the act of standing slowly. I will visit Newman's works all over the world, stand in front of them, and record the performance with video images and photographs. Besides the performance, the tour holds my one-man show that displays the records so far as an integral work.

After tens of minutes taken to stand up finally, how does the vertical line standing through the body resonate with space and time created by each Newman's painting and its vertical line? Can you feel what Newman called "Sublime" in this act of "stand" and "standing" that most people do everyday?

About "Ta chi ta sa ," late Kunio Motoe (former professor of the Tama Art University) described the performance as a process becoming a vertical line called a zip that appears in Newman's paintings, saying that while the "space is essentially public," the "time is utterly private" for Newman, who emphasized the "work of the physical sensation," and asked if Ms. Ihoda's indigenous and physical gestures are wonderful realizations of that. "

What physical changes occurs depending on his work I face, country, and location? How do they accept Newman's work in each country? How do you feel and understand the act of "Ta chi ta sa"? What do you see in that?

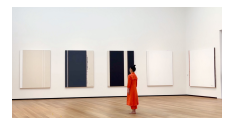
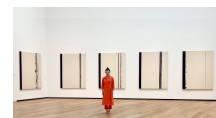
Since Newman's works are few, I am organizing this tour to make Newman and his works appreciated by the larger public. I am planning this tour with the intention of myself confronting Newman first, and then taking them around to various countries!



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2016 | December 5 Ta chi ta sa vs Cathedra (1951)

Venue & Cooperation : Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Netherlands

2017 | June 28 - July 8 "Ta chi ta sa\_" Exhibition 2017 Gallery: Ningyo-cho Vision's / Tokyo

"Ta chi ta sa" Confronting Barnett Newman in Amsterdam

2018 | December 6 Ta chi ta sa vs White Fire IV (1968), Day Before One (1951)

Venue & Cooperation: Kunstmuseum Basel, Switzerland

| November 27 - December 11 "TA CHI TA SA\_"Ausstellung 2018

Gallery: Druckereihalle/ Philosophicum/ Ackermannshof / Basel

"Ta chi ta sa" konfrontiert mit Barnett Newman in Amsterdam

2022 | September 15 Ta chi ta sa vs The Stations of The Cross, Be II (1958-66)

Venue & Cooperation: National Gallery of Art Washington DC, USA

2023 | January 17-28 "Ta chi ta sa\_" Exhibition 2023 Gallery: Ningyo-cho Vision's / Tokyo

"Ta chi ta sa" Confronting Barnett Newman in Washington D.C.

