

長尾 Nagao
明実 Akemi

Choreographer | Dance Artist | Slowist

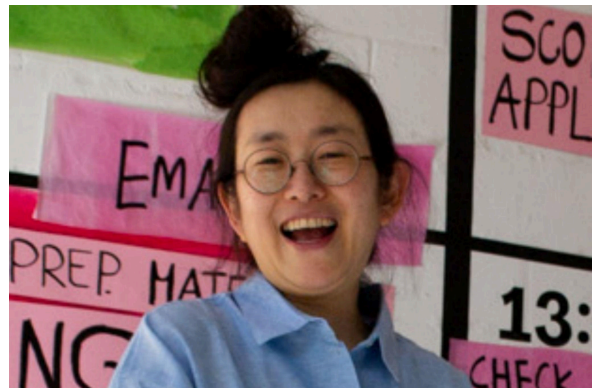
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she/her

Based in Berlin, Germany



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Nagao Akemi (she/her) is a Berlin-based BIPOC choreographer, dance artist, and self-described slowist. Her practice navigates the intersections of somatics, care, and resistance. In 2021, she earned her Master's degree in Choreography (maC) at HZT Berlin. That same year, she experienced burnout and several years of unexplained health challenges, which deeply shaped her focus on rest, care, and embodied self-awareness as political acts and tools for reclaiming agency—especially for bodies marginalized by society.

Since 2015, Akemi has created works probing the political implications of vulnerability, exhaustion, and the body's refusal to perform within oppressive structures. Through choreography infused with pop aesthetics and humor, she challenges normative expectations of productivity and virtuosity, exploring how dance can function as a site of self-repair and collective survival. Rooted in anti-capitalist, decolonial, and feminist practice, her work transforms rest into a radical act.

Education

- 2018 Master Choreography (MaC) at Inter-University Centre for Dance Berlin (HZT), Hochschule für Schauspielkunst Ernst Busch Berlin (HfS) und Universität der Künste Berlin (UdK)
- 2002-2008 Bachelor Human Sciences at Osaka International University

Funding & Scholarships

- 2025 EU-Japan Fest Japan Committee / Project: *Digesting Time*
- 2024 EU-Japan Fest Japan Committee / Project: *Saturday Digestion Research*
- 2024 Mentoringprogramm Einstieg 2024, Performing Arts Programm Berlin
- 2022 #TakeHeart Residenzförderung / Project: *thank you - money*
- 2019-2021 Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes
- 2019-2020 Deutschen Bühnenverein/Landesverband Berlin / Project: *JUICY* ♥ *METAMORPHOSIS* and *DIAMOND – The Crossing Point of Money and Spirituality* at maC, HZT Berlin
- 2018 Deutschlandstipendium
- 2017 5. Internationales Choreografenatelier – space we live, at Tanztendenz Munich, invited by Micha Purucker

Residency

- 2024 ~~Saturday~~ *Digestion*, Research Residency, NPO Dance Box, Kobe, Japan
- 2023 *Grandmothers*, Berliner Residenzprogramm Vertiefungen, Uferstudios Berlin
- 2022 *thank you - money*, Der Denk- und Produktionsort Libken (Gerswalde)
- 2016 *in between*, collaboration with Elma Riza and Aurélie Pertusot, TCRM-Blida Metz

- (France)
- 2015 *collective* ≡ (3), collaboration with William "Bilwa" Costa and Jasmin Schaitl, Kaaitheater (Brüssel), tanzfabrik (Berlin)
- 2014 *collective* ≡ (3), collaboration with William "Bilwa" Costa and Jasmin Schaitl, Kaaitheater Living in collaboration with workspacebrussels (Brussels)

Teaching

- 2020- ~~Saturday~~ *Digestion*, collaboration with Sabrina Huth
- 2025 Afternoon *Digestion*, workshop as part of ~~School~~ Of Performing Art (SOPA), Kunsthaus KuLe, Berlin
- 2024 ~~Saturday~~ *Digestion*, workshop, Shikoku Gakuin University, Kagawa, Japan
- 2024 ~~Saturday~~ *Digestion*, workshop, Dance Box Kobe, Kobe, Japan
- 2023 *Evening Digestion*, weekly class, Sommer Semester, HZT Berlin
- 2022-23 ~~Saturday~~ *Digestion*, workshop, Winter Semester, HZT Berlin
- 2022 ~~Saturday~~ *Digestion*, workshop, Sommer Semester, UdK Berlin
- 2014-15 *listening*, weekly calss, Tatwerk Berlin
- 2014 *Performance Workshop*, collaboration with William "Bilwa" Costa, Universität für angewandte Kunst Wien

Works (selected)

- 2025 *Digestion Time*: collaboration with Sabrina Huth, De Bouwput, Amsterdam
- 2023 *Grandmothers*: collaboration with Johanna Ackva, Evelyn Sayler and Bettina Melte, Vierte Welt, Berlin
- 2022 *BIO-DIVERSE-CITY*: collaboration with Gabriel Galindez Cruz and Tamara Rettenmund, Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss
durch/glas: collaboration with Giovanni Verga and Hannah Grimme, BHROX Berlin
- 2021 *Grandmothers*: collaboration with Johanna Ackva and Evelyn Sayler, Ballhaus Ost Berlin, as a part of Dirty Debüt by Björn Pätz and Sandra Umathum
CLOUDS ON CLEAR SKY: collaboration with Johanna Ackva, Vierte Welt Berlin
DIAMOND – The Crossing Point of Money and Spirituality: HZT Berlin
- 2019 *JUICY ♥ METAMORPHOSIS*: collaboration with Tomoya Yokokawa, HfS Ernst Busch
B O R D E R S?: HfS Ernst Busch Berlin
GOLDEN DELUSIONS: collaboration with Biliana Voutchkova, Hans Peter Kuhn and Wada Junko, Supported by EU-Japan Fest, SKLAD, Plovdiv
- 2017 *Dictum of Nature*: collaboration with Anna Kubelík, Akademie Schloss Solitude Stuttgart, Martin-Gropius-Bau Berlin
Dead End: Secret Journey. State 1-2: collaboration with Yoshiko Chuma, Dock11 Berlin
- 2016 *Aba*: collaboration with Min Oh, Seoul Art Space Mullae, Seoul, Korea
Introspective and *Cortex*: collaboration with Choy Ka Fai, tanz haus nrw, Düsseldorf
- 2015 *The Choreography of Things*: collaboration with Choy Ka Fai, Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin
CONVERSION_2, After Afghanistan: collaboration with costa compagine, Scharoun Theater Wolfsburg, Ballhaus Ost Berlin, KAMPNAGEL Hamburg, Goethe Institute NYC, Frances Daly Fergusson Dance Theater in Vassar College (Poughkeepsie, NY, USA), FFT Jutta Düsseldorf, Theater am Lend (Graz, Austria), Theater and Orchestra Heidelberg