

MEDIA RELEASE
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Transcend

By Haruyo Morita and Jennie Feyen



Left: Part of Haruyo Morita's *Soul Portrait*, sumi and acrylic on Belgian linen; Right: Jennie Feyen's installation *My Core*.

The Japan Foundation, Sydney presents *Transcend*, a collaborative contemporary art exhibition by Sydney-based artists Haruyo Morita and Jennie Feyen. The works will be on display at **The Japan Foundation Gallery in Central Park** from **9 to 30 July** as part of the gallery's Contemporary Art Mini Series.

Morita and Feyen's collaboration brings us a **soulful and ethereal** collection of works in various media from their individual art practices. Morita's paintings resonate with spiritual energy while Feyen's dream-like video creations draw inspiration from Japanese art and tradition.

The exhibition will feature a series of Morita's paintings called *Soul Portraits* created using **sumi** (calligraphy ink), acrylic, **gold leaf**, and shell powder. In contrast to traditional portraits, *Soul Portraits* look beyond physical representations. Morita uses her background in the spiritual healing art of reiki to meditate on a portrait's subject. She then translates the colours she sees into paintings of orbs on canvas.

Soul Portraits was created with the intention of **focusing on our spiritual similarities** as human beings. Haruyo Morita says, "Just because people believe different things, they are no better or less – we are just made differently to keep the balance in this universe." Through art, Morita invites the viewer to reflect on the oneness of our universe.

Transcend will also showcase Feyen's film installation called *My Core* and a series of experimental video works titled *To Dream in Japanese*. *My Core* uses motion capture to create the moving image of a woman projected onto a bed of cotton balls. The installation draws inspiration from *butoh*, a contemporary Japanese dance form

which often features taboo topics translated into experimental dance techniques. *To Dream in Japanese* is influenced by her experiences in Japan and incorporates elements from Japanese folklore.

Jennie Feyen shares, “Some concepts are based on personal experiences, such as language learning and cultural integration, while other concepts are incorporated because they are completely foreign to me as an Anglo-Saxon, such as animal spirits and envious demons.”

Morita and Feyen’s new collaborative installation created for *Transcend* will encourage audiences to interact with the art works.

Morita will lead a calligraphy meditation class as part of *Transcend*.

ABOUT JENNIE FEYEN



Jennie Feyen is a Sydney-based video artist who is also passionate about short films, documentaries and interdisciplinary art. She holds a Bachelors Degree in Creative Industries from Edith Cowan University in which she studied Film and Video, Visual Arts and Japanese. To date, Feyen’s body of work consists of video installations and a selection of short films and documentaries, some of which were conceptualised and produced in Tokyo, Japan. The majority of Jennie’s work is strongly influenced by Japanese culture and folklore, and often explores femininity.

ABOUT HARUYO MORITA



Haruyo Morita is a contemporary Japanese artist based in Sydney. She studied painting at National Art School in Sydney, and at Villa Bastille Patric Fouilhoux Art School in Paris. Morita works with sumi (calligraphy ink), traditional mineral pigments, gold leaf, shell powder, acrylic and oil paints.

Morita’s art uses colour and composition, a palette of human emotions, and life experiences. She is driven by nature and the need to portray the beauty of the present. Through layers of traditional Japanese colours and gold leaf, Morita’s paintings communicate energy, inviting the viewer into a calm meditative space.

ABOUT THE CONTEMPORARY ART MINI SERIES

The contemporary art mini-series of exhibitions by The Japan Foundation Gallery showcases contemporary works by both Japanese and Australian artists. The series will feature two exhibitions and showcase three different Sydney-based artists who work across various media: Chris Yee (illustrator), Haruyo Morita (painter), and Jennie Feyen (video artist). Their works are influenced by modern interpretations of Japanese tradition, showcasing the fusion of Japanese and Australian art and culture.

ABOUT THE JAPAN FOUNDATION, SYDNEY

The Japan Foundation, Sydney is the Australian arm of The Japan Foundation, which was established by the Japanese government to promote cultural and intellectual exchange between Japan and other nations. It runs a diverse range of programs and events, including exhibitions, talk events, grant programs and Japanese language courses for all levels from beginner to advanced. The Japan Foundation was established in 1972 and currently has a global network of 22 offices in 21 countries. The Australian office was founded in 1978.

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Gallery hours

Monday – Thursday: 10am – 8pm*
Friday: 10am – 6pm
Select Saturday (25 July): 10am – 3pm

** Open 10am-5pm on 9-10 July*

Closed Sundays & Australian and Japanese Public Holidays (20 July)

Special Events

25 July 2015

Calligraphy Meditation (*ensou* / 円相) Workshop

at The Japan Foundation, Sydney

Three sessions:

11am-12nn (Japanese)

1pm-2pm (English)

3pm-4pm (English)

Venue:	The Japan Foundation Gallery The Japan Foundation, Sydney Level 4, Central Park 28 Broadway Chippendale NSW 2008
Admission:	Admission is free RSVP essential for special events
RSVP:	http://transcendworkshop.eventbrite.com.au
Enquiries:	event@jpf.org.au / 02 8239 0055
Website:	www.jpf.org.au



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