



Ibuki Kuramochi

ARTIST INTERVIEW



What inspires you artistically? (Other artists, poetry literature, places, feelings etc.)

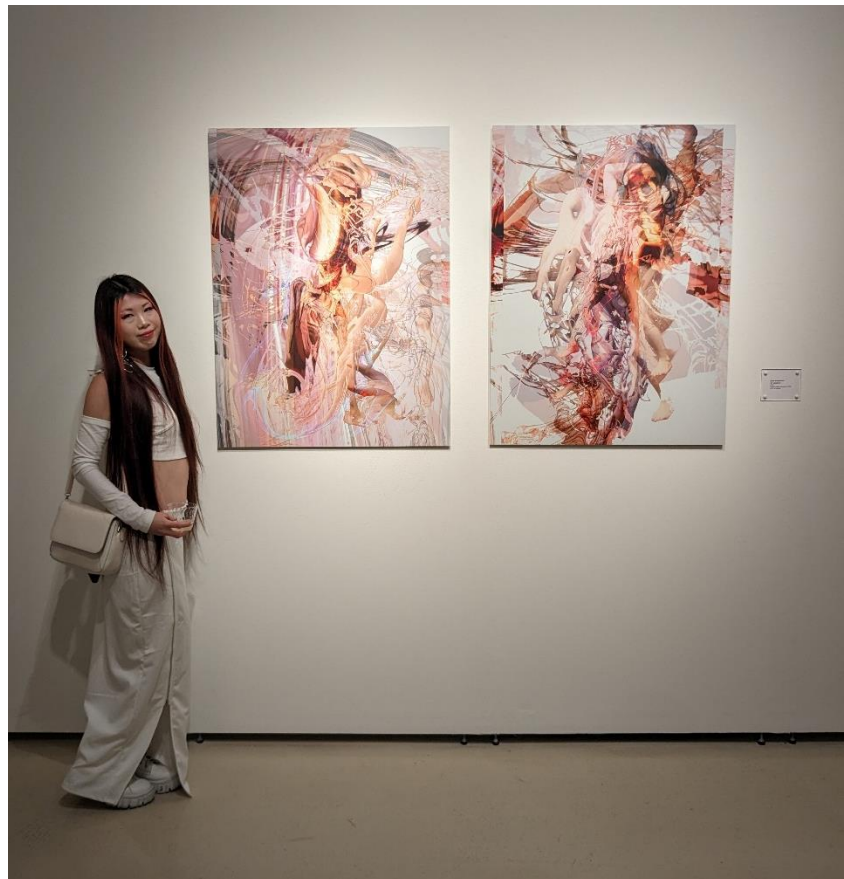
I am mainly inspired by the books of Donna Haraway on Cyborg feminism and Rosi Braidotti on Post-human feminism. Also Freud's Id is a very important concept in my work. Id contains the psychic content related to the primitive instincts of the body, notably sex and aggression, as well as all psychic material that is inherited and present at birth. Also, Marina Abramović's *AN ARTIST'S LIFE MANIFESTO* is always on repeat when I get stuck.

Have you always worked in your medium, if not briefly explain your artistic journey?

In my early years, I mainly used pencil to create paintings. I have since experimented with Japanese painting and mixed media works. I believe that an artist should experiment with all mediums before finding their own medium. My first performance was during a school festival while I was in art school. Currently, my materials are mainly performance-based video art and digital painting works, however I think the underlying theme that I have always featured the female body and performed with the body has remained the same.

Please briefly explain your process?

My digital paintings consist primarily of stills from movement shots of performances. The work currently on exhibit in the Co/Lab show is a reconstruction of a dance self-portrait piece taken in 2015. I discovered this data when I returned to Japan in January of this year, and it was lying dormant on my old PC. The process of reassembling and reconstructing my old physical record was interesting.



How has globalization and international exchange impacted your practice?

I was born and raised in Japan, a mono-ethnic country, but my grandfather worked as an interpreter for the U.S. military and I was exposed to English and American culture from an early age. I have exhibited and performed in France, England, Taiwan, and Australia. My performance art is deeply related to body-identity. It is very interesting to learn about the differences in other countries, because the differences in language structures can lead to differences in the nature and culture of people, and it gives me a chance to relearn the nature of my own cultural structure. Since I have lived in the U.S., I have been projecting more identity politics and feminist contexts into my work.