



## CHIAKI WATANABE

Calligraphy artist and designer

[sumiworks.net](http://sumiworks.net)

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Japanese visual artist, calligrapher, designer based in Copenhagen from New York, her ink drawings blends traditional Japanese calligraphy with abstract expressionism. Drawing inspiration from words, symbols, and nature as motifs, she uses simple ink strokes and expressive gestures to evoke subtle emotions and uncover hidden meanings within these motifs, transforming the ancient art form into contemporary expressive art form. Having lived abroad for much of her life, her diverse cultural experiences have shaped her artistic perspective. In Denmark, she reconnected to her artistic roots, calligraphy along with Japanese culture through a fresh lens after a long hiatus. This renewed inspiration drives her to explore her medium across various formats from paper to motion graphics and to push the boundaries of this traditional art into the realm of contemporary art. She creates, teaches, and performs internationally, with her work has been exhibited at galleries, museums, festivals, and cultural institutions in Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Switzerland, UK, US and Japan.

### Selected Exhibitions

2025 : ARTMUC Kunstmesse, Munich, Germany

2025 : Interior Design Fair / Messe Frankfurt, Tokyo, Japan

2021-24 : Japan Design Festival, Copenhagen, Denmark

2019 : G2 gallery - Solo exhibition, Tokyo, Japan

2019 : Prema Arts gallery - Solo exhibition, Berlin, Germany

2016 : Mapping festival, Geneva, Switzerland

2011 : Nikolaj Contemporary Art Center, Copenhagen, Denmark 2010 : Visual Music Festival, ZKM,

Center for Media Arts, Germany 2009 : Den Frie Udstilling, Group Exhibition, Copenhagen, Denmark

2007 : Visual Arts Gallery - Group exhibition, NY, USA

2006 : European Media Art Festival, Germany

2006 : Mapping Video Festival, Switzerland

2007 : Group exhibition, Brooklyn NY, USA

### Workshops/Lectures

2025 : CPH DOX film festival, Copenhagen, Denmark

2025 : Matsume cup even, Vejle, Denmark

2018-24 : Copenhagen Sakura Festival, Denmark

2020 : Medieval Lab (Nordic medieval music concert), Copenhagen, Denmark

2022 : MUJI Denmark Anniversary celebration - Calligraphy performance, Copenhagen, Denmark

2019 - 22 : Calligraphy workshop at Muji Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark

2021-22 : Muji Denmark Design Market, Copenhagen, Denmark  
2021-Present : Lecture at Copenhagen University, Denmark  
2021 : Culture Night in Copenhagen, Denmark  
2017 - present : Calligraphy workshop for Japanese schools in Copenhagen, Denmark 2017 : Art workshop at Cisternerne Museum, Denmark

2016 - Present : Private & Group Calligraphy lessons and workshops in Copenhagen, Berlin, Tokyo  
2007: Lecture at The School of Visual Arts, MFA Art Department  
2006: Lecture at Bergen Art Academy, Norway

## **Work Experience**

2015 - Present : Freelance Calligraphy artist/designer, Copenhagen, Denmark Clients include Louis Vuitton, CHANEL, Motorola, MUJI EU, Uniqlo EU, Kontrapunkt 2001 - 2010 : Freelance Media Designer, New York, USA  
Clients include MTV Networks, Viacom, CBS, Reuters, News Corporations  
1999 - 2001 : Sr. Designer, Nickelodeon - MTV Networks, New York, USA  
1997 - 1999 : Designer - CBS Interactive, New York, USA  
1996 - 1997 : Designer - Simon & Schuster Publishing, New York, USA  
1995 - 1996 : Designer - News corporation, New York, USA

## **Residency**

2006 : USF Verftet Artist in Residence, Bergen Norway

## **Awards**

2006 & 2007: Finishing Funds from New York State Council on the Arts

## **Education**

M.Sc. in Medialogy, Aalborg University Copenhagen, Denmark  
Creative Art Therapy Certificate, The New School University, New York, USA  
BFA in Computer Art, The School of Visual Arts, New York, USA