

DYEING, FILM, AND THE FASCINATION OF FLOWERS FROM KYOTO: ENUNDO – Circles of Motion

Upon entering the premises of the *Tenri Japanisch-Deutsche Kulturwerkstatt e.V.* in Cologne, Germany, the boundaries of the surrounding walls seem to almost disappear. In the midst of the exhibition “Färben, Film und die Faszination der Blumen aus Kyoto: ENUNDO – Circles of Motion” (“Dyeing, Film, and the Fascination of Flowers from Kyoto: ENUNDO – Circles of Motion”), a unique cosmos of nature-inspired impressions unfolds. The scent of the finest silk, fragrant flowers, plants, and fresh wood sensually transports us a step closer to Kyoto: the city of origin from the weaving and dyeing artist Akihiko IZUKURA, and the place where he worked until unexpectedly announcing his retirement in the summer of 2021. Now, *Remnant & Co.*, under the direction of Toyoko MOTOJIMA and Mika ICHIKAWA, continues to curate numerous exhibitions and activities around Izukura's legacy and philosophy, providing a platform to connect artists.

This philosophy of unity is reflected in the expression ENUNDO, which signifies a circular motion during the spinning of silk cocoons that was discovered by Izukura. However, it also holds a deeper meaning by encapsulating the natural union of all living things or a circular process of self-preservation and the flow of nature. Izukura, through extensive travels across the continent and encounters with diverse cultures, pondered on how humans, nature, textiles, wearer, and worn connect with each other.

These reflections were explored through installations, textile art, a film screening on his philosophy, and an extraordinary Ikebana live performance in Cologne – Kyoto's twin city of now 60 years – last weekend.



c: Motion Gallery, Kazuki Fujimoto

Izukura's studio was always a space for encounters with people seeking to connect with themselves and find moments and inspiration for a decelerated and nature-oriented way of life, as shared by movie director Kazuki FUJIMOTO (Mont Film) of the documentary movie "ENUNDO – Circles of Motion" (2020) and the creative directors of *Remnant & Co.* in a panel discussion after the film screening on Sunday. Through an auditory and visual form of contemplative immediacy, the film immerses us in the creative possibilities of nature, revealing how the sunlight and natural pigments serve as dyes for textiles created by silk caterpillars. The

movie showcases the "Zero Waste Principle," where nothing of the material is considered inferior, imperfect, or unusable; nearly all plant elements are used for Izukura's fabrics. Following the random principles of nature, as opposed to conventional, precisely structured manufacturing methods, his textile creations harmonize with life itself: "Izukura practiced sustainability in the textile industry long before it became mainstream. [...] All colors produced by nature are beautiful to him." The movie also demonstrates the creation of a gentle form of silk production that avoids the killing of silkworms, although further development is needed for it to be functionalized for the broader fashion industry. Ten thousand silkworms spin in the circular motion of ENUNDO, forming a huge silk ball that now floats majestically above our heads, adorning the exhibition space of the Tenri Kulturwerkstatt. Director Fujimoto hopes that this documentary homage to Izukura's work can positively and sustainably influence many people: "People connect with each other, as I was influenced by Izukura-san, and these people could, in turn, be influenced by the beauty and transience of nature – wind, trees, fire, mountains, water – and develop interest." Not only through the exhibition, but also the workshop on silk production completing this colorful program, a part of this beauty could be transported to and experienced in Cologne.



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Also inspired by Izukura's philosophy, Ikebana artist Ryota HAGIWARA presented an energetic Ikebana performance framed by the movements of light and shadow, accompanied by melodic piano music by Heike Beckmann. The designer with roots in the fashion industry, creates aesthetically exceptional and lively flower arrangements for numerous fashion shows and studios in Tokyo, in harmony with the techniques of the traditional Japanese Sogetsu School for Ikebana, where he earned his master's title. Here, the Buddhist-influenced Japanese connection to nature and a spiritual form of expression become tangible. The artist aims to bring forth the energy and essence of the flowers behind their outer appearance or, rather, to give them space to unfold. In Ikebana, the empty space between the plants is accorded as much importance as the natural dynamic form of the flowers and shrubs. Weightless, like snowflakes, Hagiwara makes Izukura's silk paths appear as a symbol of a snowy landscape, reviving a wintry composition at the end of his Ikebana performance inspired by the seasons. In these diverse aesthetic expressions, we are invited to rediscover ourselves, our place in the world, and our coexistence with people, animals, or nature.

- In celebration of 60 years of partnership between Kyoto and Cologne, "Färben, Film und die Faszination der Blumen aus Kyoto: ENUNDO – Circles of Motion" ("Dyeing, Film, and the Fascination of Flowers from Kyoto: ENUNDO – Circles of Motion") took place from October 20 to 24, 2023, at the Tenri Japanisch-Deutsche Kulturwerkstatt e.V.