

## Interview with Yuya Fujinami

Realized by Rose Merriman  
on the occasion of the exhibition

### ***WATER(PROOF)***

11 August – 15 September 2019

At MOMENTUM, Kunstquartier Bethanien, Berlin

<http://momentumworldwide.org/exhibitions/waterproof/>

Curated by Rachel Rits-Volloch & Tainá Guedes

Yuya Fujinami came to the Momentum Worldwide Gallery to do an interview with me and Food Art Week. After filming him dancing around the Kunstraum Bethanien, I joined Tainá Guedes, the founder of Food Art Week and Elena Horgan to interview him. Yuya became involved with Food Art Week through meeting Tainá at one of his performances of *Be Water My Friend*.



“I was dancing like water, with strong movements inspired by water. Tainá came to watch me at the show and afterwards, she wrote to me and explained to me about the festival. I was very interested, and I can relate to the festival. I like how water is very fluid and very dynamic.... She wanted to collaborate with me and create a new solo. I am very happy to be a part of it.”

Yuya is from Japan and has studied in Germany and Italy. He had been working with different dance companies for about ten years. Since moving to Berlin four years ago, Yuya has been working as a freelancer. In 2018, Yuya severely injured his knee while dancing, tearing his meniscus. After surgery to repair his knee, he was told by doctors that he could not bend his knee for six months, something that essentially meant that Yuya would not be able to dance.

“After six months, I started intense rehab. It actually took ten months to get back to dancing again. In January 2019, I started dancing again. I lost a lot last year, a lot of projects and jobs. 2019 is a very special year as I finally came back on the stage. I have done new shows and met many new people, like Tainá. I am really happy to be back, to (be able to) present my shows, my self and what I like.”

In Yuya’s dance, he likes to combine many different aspects in his performances from different sources; “I like to combine contemporary dance and I also had a classic background. I also studied gymnastics. My family, my mother and my sister, study martial arts. What I like to do is combine those techniques. For me it was challenging to create a solo, that’s why I combined (my performance) with those techniques.”

He went on to talk about the research he did for his performance, as water was just too “general” to base a performance on. Yuya’s performance is not just about moving like water, to him that would be “too shallow and not really meaningful.”

“I was trying to find a more specific topic.” He explains. “I was researching water on earth. We have a lot of water on our planet, most of it is from the ocean. Like ninety-seven percent of water is from the ocean so we cannot use it. Only three percent of water is fresh water. And that fresh water is either in glaciers, underground or polluted so we can’t use it! The fresh water that we use is only 0.01 percent. We are sharing that with the whole world. So, for me, this is a very interesting topic. We think we have a lot of water, but we don’t. This is what I create with my body and body language, so this is my concept for the piece.”

