

Saburo Teshigawara & Rihoko Sato



KARAS

Saburo Teshigawara — Profile



Photo by Akihito Abe

Saburo Teshigawara began his unique creative career in 1981 in his native Tokyo after studying plastic arts and classic ballet.

In 1985, he formed KARAS with Kei Miyata and started group choreography and their own activities. Since then, he and KARAS have been invited every year to perform in major international cities around the world.

In addition to solo performances and his work with KARAS, Saburo Teshigawara has also been receiving international attention as a choreographer/director. He has been commissioned by many international Ballet companies such as the Paris Opera to create repertoire pieces for the company.

Teshigawara has likewise received increasing international attention in the visual arts field, with art exhibitions, films/videos as well as designing scenography, lighting and costume for all his performances.

Teshigawara's keenly honed sculptural sensibilities and powerful sense of composition, command of space and his decisive dance movements all fuse to create a unique world that is his alone. Keen interests in music and space have led him to create site-specific works, and collaboration with various types of musicians.

Besides the continuous workshops at the KARAS studio in Tokyo, Saburo Teshigawara has been involved in many education projects. Recent young members of the company KARAS are from the project *Dance of Air*, an educational project bringing out a performance as a culmination of a year-long workshop process, produced by the New National Theatre Tokyo. S.T.E.P. (Saburo Teshigawara Education Project) has been initiated since 1995 with partners in the UK, also in the same style as *Dance of Air*. In 2004, he was selected as mentor of dance for The Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative, to work for one year with a chosen protégé. From 2006 to 2013, he taught at the College of Contemporary Psychology, St. Paul's (Rikkyo) University and from 2014 to 2021, at the Tama Art University. Through these various projects, Saburo Teshigawara continues to encourage and inspire young dancers, together with his creative work.

From 2020 to 2024, he was Artistic Director of Aichi Prefectural Art Theater in Nagoya.

In 2023 was celebrated the 10th anniversary of his own private creative space KARAS APPARATUS in Ogikubo, Tokyo, where he has created more than a hundred pieces as part of the "Update Dance" series.

Teshigawara has received numerous awards and honours in Japan and abroad, including a Bessie Award in 2007, the Medal of Honor by the Emperor of Japan in 2009 and in 2017 he was made an Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters in France. In 2022 he won the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at the Venice Biennale and was selected as "Person of Cultural Merits" for his outstanding cultural contributions for the advancement and development of Japanese culture.

Rihoko Sato — Profile



Photo by Akihito Abe

Rihoko Sato studied gymnastics in England and the United States, where she lived until age 15. Having participated in KARAS' workshops in 1995, she joined the group in 1996.

Since then, she has performed in all group works, and also works as the artistic assistant to Saburo Teshigawara in all his creative activities.

She is acclaimed internationally, as one of the main figures in Teshigawara's works.

In 2009 she presented her first solo dance *SHE* directed by Teshigawara, leaving a striking and emotional impression. Her exceptionally sensitive body and nerves create a wide range of dynamism, from melting fragility to sharp intensity, opening a new dimension for physical expression.

Rihoko Sato also assisted with KARAS' education project S.T.E.P. and worked as dance mistress for Teshigawara's commissioned works for other ballet companies.

She received the Best Dancer Award for her duet with Vaclav Kunes in *Scream and Whisper* at Les Étoiles de Ballet2000 Awards in 2005 in Cannes, France, the Japan Dance Forum award for 2007, the Forty edition of the Premio Positano "Leonide Massine" Per la Danza 2012 and most recently the Japan dance critic new face award (2016). In 2018 she received the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's Art Encouragement Prize (dance).

Encouraged by Saburo Teshigawara, Rihoko Sato made her choreographer debut in 2018 with the solo performance *Vêpres de la Vierge* (Monteverdi), a collaboration with vocal and instrumental company La Tempête in Festival Berlioz. In 2019, she created another solo, *IZUMI*, and the commissioned group piece *Traces*, for the Italian dance company Aterballetto. Her third solo work, *Forest of Confession* was premiered in Tokyo in 2022.

She is currently preparing various projects including a new solo.

KARAS APPARATUS

http://www.st-karas.com/karas_apparatus/

<https://www.facebook.com/karasapparatus>

<http://www.epidemic.net/documentation/Teshigawara-Apparatus.pdf>

Saburo Teshigawara's own unique space for creation opened in July 2013.

The space itself is an apparatus (tool, set) for creating and realizing Saburo Teshigawara's philosophy. Through workshops, performances and exhibitions, the aim is to transmit his creative work "daily" from there, to the world.

Saburo Teshigawara / Karas — Work

CHOREOGRAPHIES FOR KARAS

2025	<i>Waltz</i> (duet)	2012	<i>DAH-DAH-SKO-DAH-DAH</i> <i>Breathing – power of transparency</i> <i>Organ (Breathing Physics)</i> <i>Eclipse</i>
2024	<i>Voice of Desert</i> (co-production Montpellier Danse)	2011	<i>Saburo Fragments</i>
2023	<i>Rimbaud Poems</i> , with Alexandre Riabko and Javier Ara Sauco <i>Waltz</i> , with Javier Ara Sauco Rihoko Sato: <i>Forest of Confession</i> (Sato solo) <i>Moonlight drawing</i>	2010	<i>SKINNERS—Dedicated to Evaporating Things</i> <i>A Boy inside The Boy</i>
2022	<i>Adagio</i> <i>Drawing/dance: In Search of Lost Lines</i> <i>Kaze no Matasaburo</i> <i>Petrouchka</i> <i>Ophelia</i>	2009	<i>SHE</i> (Sato solo) <i>Mirror and Music</i> <i>Obsession</i> <i>Double Silence</i>
2021	<i>Gadolf's Lilly</i> <i>Rashomon</i> , with Alexandre Riabko and Mayumi Miyata (shô) <i>Matasaburo of the Wind</i> <i>The Lady who Reads Books</i> <i>Pelléas et Mélisande</i>	2008	<i>The Man Without...</i> <i>36 dance books Saburo Teshigawara</i>
2020	<i>L'Année dernière</i> <i>Shirabe</i> , with Mayumi Miyata (shô) <i>Night on the Galactic Railway</i>	2007	<i>MIROKU</i> (Teshigawara solo) <i>Substance</i> <i>Here to Here</i> (Teshigawara solo, new version)
2019	<i>BOUNEN 2019</i> <i>The Hand of Paul Klee</i> <i>Lost in Dance</i> (re-creation) Rihoko Sato: <i>IZUMI</i> (Sato solo) <i>Cinnamon</i>	2006	<i>Glass Tooth</i> <i>Black Water</i>
2018	<i>BOUNEN 2018</i> <i>Lost in Dance</i>	2005	<i>Scream and Whisper</i>
2017	<i>Illumination</i> <i>Sleeping Water</i> <i>Howling at the Moon</i> <i>Absolute Zero</i>	2004	<i>KAZAHANA</i>
2016	<i>The Idiot</i> <i>Tristan and Isolde</i> <i>Echo of Silence</i>	2003	<i>GREEN</i> <i>Bones in Pages</i> (Teshigawara solo, new version)
2015	<i>Water Angel</i> <i>The Man with Blue Eyes</i> <i>Waiting for Godot</i> <i>On a Sunny Day</i> , with Amareya Theatre	2002	<i>Raj Packet II</i> (new version) [Asahi Performing Arts Award, Japan]
2014	<i>Perfume</i> (Sato solo) <i>The Age of Genius</i> <i>Sleep</i> <i>July Night</i> <i>Eyes Off</i> <i>Empty Hour Glass Sanatorium</i>	2001	<i>Luminous</i> [Asahi Performing Arts Award, Japan]
2013	<i>Second Fall</i> <i>Dodo</i> <i>Spring, in one night</i> inspired by <i>Spring</i> by Bruno Schulz <i>Dancer R's Cell</i>	2000	<i>Light behind Light</i> (Teshigawara solo) <i>Raj Packet – everything but Ravi</i> [Nimura Dance Award, Japan] [Dance Critic Award, Japan]
		1999	<i>Absolute Zero '99</i> <i>Night Songs</i> (for Kei Miyata)
		1998	<i>Absolute Zero</i>
		1997	<i>Vacuum</i> <i>Vacuum</i> <i>Q</i> <i>Morning Glory</i>
		1996	<i>I was Real- Documents</i> <i>Vacuum</i>
		1995	<i>Here to Here</i>
		1993	<i>Seasons of Burns</i>
		1992	<i>NOJECT</i>
		1991	<i>Dah-Dah-Sko-Dah-Dah</i> <i>Bones in Pages</i> (Teshigawara solo)

- 1990 *KITAI*
Montage
- 1989 *Karada- no-Yume (Rêve du corps)*
(Teshigawara solo)
The Wisdom of the Buttons (for Kei Miyata)
Melancholia
- 1988 *Ishi- no- Hana*
Saracens (for Kei Miyata)
Nocturnal Thought
Saburo Fragment
- 1987 *The Arm of the Blue Sky* (Teshigawara solo)
The Moon is Quicksilver
Blue Meteorite
The Enemy of Electricity
- 1986 *Kaze no sentan (La Pointe du vent)*
[Concours de Bagnolet Innovation Award, France]
The pale boy
Constellation

CHOREOGRAPHIES AT KARAS APPARATUS

[Update series](#)

COLLABORATIONS WITH MUSICIANS

- 2023 *Pierrot Lunaire / Lost in Dance*
with Salomé Haller & Ensemble intercontemporain
Bach, Bartók, with Sayaka Shoji (violin)
- 2022 *Garden In The Sky*
with Jonathan Roozeman (cello)
Well-Tempered Clavier by J.S. Bach
with Pierre-Laurent Aimard (piano)
- 2018 *Shirabe*, with Mayumi Miyata (shō)
Pierrot Lunaire, with Marianne Pousseur (soprano)
La Symphonie Fantastique by H. Berlioz
with Orchestre National de Lyon
commissioned by Biennale de Lyon
Rihoko Sato: *Vêpres de la Vierge*
by C. Monteverdi, with La Tempête
- 2017 *Brandenburg Concerto No. 3* by J.S. Bach
with Pygmalion, Philharmonie de Paris
Flexible Silence with Ensemble intercontemporain
and C.N.S.M.D de Paris
Partita No 2 by J.S. Bach
with Sayaka Shoji (violin)
for La Folle journée à Nantes
- 2016 *Up*, with Yosuke Yamashita (piano)
- 2014 *Landscape*, with Francesco Tristano (piano)
LINES, with Sayaka Shoji
for La Biennale Danza di Venezia
- 2013 *REUNION - Goldberg Variations*
with Francesco Tristano (piano)
for Les Théâtres du Luxembourg
L'heure exquise - "PARIS x DANCE"
with Vox Clamantis (chorus),
for La Folle journée in Japan
Infinity ∞ Universe of Pipe Organ

- 2012 *Le Sacre Russe*, with Vox Clamantis
REUNION - Goldberg Variations
with Francesco Tristano (piano)
for La Folle journée in Japan
- 2011 *Mercury Moon – a variation of Zeami's Noh*
"Tohru", with Jiuta musicians
Pierrot Lunaire, with Marianne Pousseur (soprano)
Les Titans - Coup de cœur de René Martin
with Sayaka Shoji (violin)
for La Folle journée in Japan
- 2010 *Partita No.6 in E minor, BWV830* by J.-S. Bach
with Francesco Tristano (piano), for La Roque
d'Antheron International Festival of Piano
Symphonie No.6 by G. Kancheli
with the Russian State Symphony Orchestra
for Automne en Normandie, Le Havre
- 2009 *Bach and Europe*, with Tatiana Vassiljeva (cello)
for La Folle journée in Japan

CHOREOGRAPHIES FOR OTHER COMPANIES

- 2025 *Design of Time*
with Václav Kuneš / 42+PEOPLE
- 2024 *Like a Human and Metamorphose*
both for Ballett Basel
- 2022 *Swing*
For Biennale College Dancers, Venice Biennale
- 2019 *Remains of a Cloud*
for Tokyo Ballet
- 2018 *One thousand years after*
for Acosta Danza dance company
Transparent Monster
for CCN-Ballet de Lorraine
- 2017 *Grand Miroir*
for Ballet of National Opera of Paris
- 2016 *Tranquil*
for the Göteborg Opera Dance Company
- 2014 *Metamorphosis*
for Göteborg Opera Dance Company
- 2013 *Darkness is Hiding Black Horses*
for Ballet of National Opera of Paris
- 2006 *VACANT*
for Ballet of Grand Théâtre de Genève
AIR (remaking)
for Ballet of National Opera of Paris
- 2003 *AIR*
for Ballet of National Opera of Paris
- 2002 *Para-Dice*
for Ballet of Grand Théâtre de Genève
- 2000 *Modulation*
for Nederlands Dance Theater I
- 1999 *Le Sacre du printemps*
for Bayern State Ballet, Munich

1995 *White Clouds Under the Heels, Part II*
for Frankfurt Ballet

1992 *White Clouds Under the Heels, Part I*
for Frankfurt Ballet

OPERAS

2023 *The Triumph of Time and Truth*, by G. F. Händel
Conductor: Andrea Marcon
choreography, set, costume,
light design: Saburo Teshigawara
Artistic Collaborator: Rihoko Sato

2022 *Orfeo ed Euridice*, by C.W. von Gluck
Conductor: Masato Suzuki
Production, choreography, set, costume,
light design: Saburo Teshigawara
Artistic Collaborator: Rihoko Sato
Premiere: New National Theater Tokyo

2018 *Pygmalion* by J.-P. Rameau
Conductor: Vittorio Ghielmi
Direction, choreography, set, costume,
light design: Saburo Teshigawara
Premiere: Drottningholms Slottsteater,
Stockholm

2016 *The Magic Flute* by W. A. Mozart
Conductor: Gaetano d'Espinosa
Direction, choreography, set, costume,
light design: Saburo Teshigawara
Premiere: Aichi Prefecture Arts Theater, Nagoya

2015 *SOLARIS*, based on S. Lem's novel
Music: Dai Fujikura
Conductor: Erik Nielsen
Libretto, direction, choreography, set, costume,
light design: Saburo Teshigawara
Images and light co-designer: Ulf Langheinrich
Co-production : Théâtre des Champs-Élysées,
Opéra de Lille, Opéra de Lausanne et IRCAM
Premiere: Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Paris

2011 *Acis and Galatea* by G. F. Haendel
Conductor: Attilio Cremonesi
Direction, set, light, costume design:
Saburo Teshigawara
Premiere: Festival International d'Art Lyrique
d'Aix-en-Provence

2010 *Dido and Aeneas* by H. Purcell
Conductor: Leonardo Garcia Alarcon
Direction, choreography, set, costume,
light design: Saburo Teshigawara
Premiere: Teatro La Fenice, Venice

1999 *Turandot* by G. Puccini
Conductor: Inoue Michiyoshi
Direction: Saburo Teshigawara
Premiere: Bunkamura Orchard Hall, Tokyo

SITE SPECIFIC PERFORMANCES

2022 *The Beginning of Eternal Hesitation*
Barzan Towers, Doha, Qatar
Fly Me To The Earth (solo Sato)
Brouq Nature Reserve, within Richard Serra's
installation *East West / West East*, Doha, Qatar
both commissioned by Gestures Productions
(Los Angeles Dance Project), Festival in Motion
presented by Qatar Creates and curated by
Benjamin Millepied and Nico Muhly

2018 *Broken Lights* (new version)
Halles de Schaerbeek, Brussels
Absolute Absence (installation/performance)
Centre Pompidou-Metz

2017 *Pointed Peak* (installation/performance)
Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia

2014 *Broken Lights*
Ruhrtriennale, Duisburg

2002 *OXYGEN*, with Wolfgang Mitterer
at the Klangspuren Festival, Schwaz and
Transart Festival, Bolzano

1999 *Triad*, for Cities on the move / Hayward Gallery,
London

1997 *Petrouchka*, for Setagaya Public Theatre Tokyo

1996 *In: Edit*, with Zoviet☆France at a disused
electric power station in Newcastle upon Tyne

1992 *NOIJECT*, in a warehouse in Yokohama at the
same time as *NOIJECT* performance premiere

1989 *Karada-no-Yume*
Even the once murdered waters swell ...
4-hour version, Studio 200, Tokyo

1987 *Moon Station*

INSTALLATIONS

2018 *Absolute Absence* (installation / performance)
Centre Pompidou-Metz

2015 *Broken Lights*
four-channel video installation, commissioned by
Carriageworks for 24 Frames Per Second

2008 *DOUBLE DISTRICT*
a 3D video artwork produced for the
ReACTOR designed by Sarah Kenderdine and
Jeffrey Shaw, realised with Volker Kuchelmeister
Fragments of Time
5-hour installation/performance, with Rihoko Sato

2004 *Light behind Light*

1990 *AO (blue)*
Kirin Plaza, Osaka
Dance of Air
Saison Modern Art Museum, Karuizawa

EDUCATION

- 2014-21 Professorship at the Tama Art University, department of Scenography Design, Drama and Dance
- 2008 *Dance of Air*, education project/choreography for 13 young dancers, New National Theatre Tokyo
- 2006-13 Professorship at the Department of Expression Studies, the College of Contemporary Psychology, St. Paul (Rikkyo) University, Tokyo
- 2004-05 The Rolex Mentor and Protégé Art Initiative
- 2004 *Prelude for Dawn*
- 2000 *S.T.E.P. 2000*
in collaboration with The Place, London and Helsinki European Capital of Culture 2000 Performance *Flower Eyes* at Lilian Baylis Studio, Sadler's Wells Theatre in London and STOA in Helsinki
- 1996 *S.T.E.P. '96*, in collaboration with LIFT, London Performance *Invisible Room* at ICA, London [98 Japan Festival Fund Award (UK)]
- 1995 *S.T.E.P. '95*
S.T.E.P. (Saburo Teshigawara Education project) in collaboration with LIFT, London, Performance *Still standing*, London

FILMS / VIDEOS

- 2011 *A Boy Inside the Boy*
directed and edited by: Saburo Teshigawara
with: Takeya Teshigawara, Rihoko Sato, Riichi Kami, Saburo Teshigawara
- 2007 *Friction of Time - Perspective Study vol.2*
directed and edited by: Saburo Teshigawara
with: Saburo Teshigawara, Rihoko Sato
- 2005 *A Tale Of* (video and film)
directed and edited by: Saburo Teshigawara and Ravi Deepres
with: Kei Miyata, Rihoko Sato
funded by Arts Council of England
- 2004 *Perspective Study vol. 1* (video)
directed and edited by: Saburo Teshigawara
with: Rihoko Sato, Junaid Jemal-Sendi
- 1994 *N-EVER-PARA-DICE* (video)
made on request for NHK Satellite TV program
directed and edited by: Saburo Teshigawara
with: Jacopo Godani, David Kern, Kei Miyata, Saburo Teshigawara
- 1993 *T-City* (film)
directed and edited by: Saburo Teshigawara
with: Kei Miyata, Sayoko Yamaguchi and others
KESHIOKO –film
directed and edited by: Saburo Teshigawara
filmed by Nobuyoshi Araki
with: Saburo Teshigawara, Kei Miyata and others

FILMS DIRECTED BY OTHERS

- 2022 *The Beginning of Eternal Hesitation*
for the Los Angeles Dance Project
with: Lorrin Brubaker, David Adrian Freeland, Jr., Mario Gonzalez, Rihoko Sato
Fly Me To The Earth
with: Rihoko Sato
filmed by Sébastien Marcovici, Olivier Simola
produced by Gestures Productions
- 2010 Performed in *Leonie* by Hisako Matsui
- 2005 *Danser l'invisible* (video documentary)
directed by Élisabeth Coronel
co-produced by: Abacaris Films / Arte France / KARAS / Opéra de Lille
- 2004 *In Pages* (film adapted from *Bones in Pages*)
by Élisabeth Coronel & Saburo Teshigawara
directed by Élisabeth Coronel
performed by Saburo Teshigawara,
with the participation of Kei Miyata.
co-produced by: Abacaris Films / Arte France/ KARAS and Théâtre de Caen, with the support of the C.N.C
[First Prize of the dance film festival / *Coreografo Elettronico* in Napoli 2004]
- 2002 Performed in *Bound* by Jan Schmidt-Garre,
with Corinna Harfouch
- 1999 Performed in *Gojo-Reisen-Ki* by Sogo Ishii

AUTHORED WORKS

- 2008 *Thinking Body 2008*
in *Image and Body*
published by Serika
- 2006 *Light and Specific Gravity*
text & photos by Saburo Teshigawara
additional photos by Toshiaki Yamaguchi
© KARAS
- 2006 *Flower eyes*
in *Gendai Shiso* vol.35
- 2005 *Chucho suru Shintai* (hesitating body)
in *Shunju* (Spring/Autumn)
No.480/July issue a text by Saburo Teshigawara
publisher Shunjusha
- 1996 *Soryushi (Elementary Particles)* in *Gendai Nihon Bunka Ron*, vol. 11
an essay by Saburo Teshigawara
publisher: Iwanami
White Time in *Theaterschrift* n°12
a text by Saburo Teshigawara
- 1993 *The Invisible Moment*
in *Theaterschrift* n°8
an interview with Saburo Teshigawara
- 1994 *Bone and Air*
text by Saburo Teshigawara
Hakusui-sha, Tokyo

- 1990 *FOTOTANZ*
photographed by Nobuyoshi Araki
danced by Saburo Teshigawara
publisher: IPC
- 1989 *Blue Meteorite*
photographic collaboration with
Nobuyoshi Araki.
Writings and illustrations by Saburo Teshigawara
published by: Kyuryu-do, Tokyo

AWARDS

- 2022 "Person of Cultural Merits" in Japan
"Golden Lion" for Lifetime Achievement
awarded at the Venice Biennale
- 2019 "Surprise me!" award (Saburo Teshigawara)
received from the International Festival of Arts
"Diaghilev. P.S.", St Petersburg
- 2018 Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science
and Technology's Art Encouragement Prize
(of dance) (Rihoko Sato)
- 2017 "Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres"
awarded by the French Ministry of Culture
and Communication
- 2016 The New Face Award Japan dance critic Award
(Rihoko Sato)
- 2015 The Takaya Eguchi Award
Japan Dance Forum Award
- 2014 Japan Dance Critic Award
- 2013 Tokyo Journal Innovative Performance Award
- 2012 Premio Positano "Leonide Massine" Per la
Danza 2012 (Rihoko Sato)
- 2010 Japan Dance Forum Award Grand prize
- 2009 Purple Ribbon Medal
awarded by the Emperor of Japan for
outstanding achievements in the spheres of
art, scholarship, or sports
- 2008 Japan Dance Critic Award
Japan Dance Forum Award (Rihoko Sato)
- 2007 The 2007 New York Dance & Performance
Award (AKA the Bessies)
The Minister of Culture Art Encouragement Prize
- 2006 Festival di Palazzo Venezia;
International competition of films and
documentaries on art, architecture, cinema,
theatre First prize, in Dance category
for *Danser l'invisible*
- 2005 Rihoko Sato and Vaclav Kunes both as
dancers of the year by the magazine
"Ballet2000", France-Italy
- 2004 The First Prize of "Il Coreografo
Elettronico-2004", NapoliDanza;
Napoli International Film Festival

- 2002 Asahi Performing Arts Award
- 2001 Nimura Dance Award
Asahi Performing Arts Award
Danza&Danza Award
- 2000 Japan Dance Critic Award
- 1997 Japan Festival Fund Award for (S.T.E.P.)
Saburo Teshigawara Education Project
- 1995 Prix du Public / Festival International de
Nouvelle Danse in Montreal
Mobil-Pegasus Award / Summertheater Festival
Hamburg
- 1994 Japan Inter-Design Forum Award
Japan Culture Art Award
- 1993 Munich Dance Critic Award
Tokyo Journal Innovative Performance Award
- 1991 Munich Dance Critic Award
Prix du Public / Festival International de
Nouvelle Danse in Montreal
- 1989 Prix du Public / Festival International de
Nouvelle Danse in Montreal
- 1987 Japan Dance Critic Award
- 1986 Concours de Bagnolet Innovation Award

EPIDEMIC

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