

**Video Artwork: *ye-il-chi***

Choreography & Dance: Cocco

Music: Naoko Hentona

The music of *ye-il-chi* starts and ends with metallic sounds. These sounds are a recording of Mr Kenjiro Matayoshi working on Kuganizeiku, a traditional Okinawan form of artisan metalworking dating back to the Ryukyu kingdom. The sound reflects a hope for continuity between the past, present and future.

The dancer Cocco expresses the creation of life, and its limitations, as she transforms from a mermaid to a human. Each of us has a limited amount of time on this earth. What we communicate, and what will be told of us in the future, depends on the continuous chain of each individual's choices and thoughts. That is why we have a duty to know where we stand and a responsibility to make the right decisions. Requiem, prayer, repentance, song of praise...

Cocco produces a full-sized expression of Okinawa through the creation of life and the blood flowing throughout her body.



**Video Artwork: *Tinsagu no Hana***

Vocals: Cocco

Piano & Arrangement: Naoko Hentona

Video: Chikako Yamashiro

*Tinsagu no Hana* is a traditional Okinawan folk song that has been handed down from generation to generation on the main island of Okinawa. (The lyricist and composer are unknown.)

Okinawa has diverse aspects including worship, singing, festivals, and a unique and wonderful culture that pays great respect to the power of nature and to our ancestors. Okinawa also has a sad history of war that we must never forget.

This video artwork shows the current situation on Okinawa Island, 75 years after the end of the war, and our hope for peace. Knowing and reflecting about ourselves and the land where we were born and raised helps us to approach the rest of the world in the same spirit.

### Okinawan Artist profile:



(Cocco, Naoko Hentona, Chikako Yamashiro)

#### **Cocco**, Singer and Dancer

Cocco is a multi-talented singer from Okinawa, Japan. She debuted as a singer/song-writer simultaneously in the US and Japan in 1996. Since then, she has released 10 original albums with more than 4 million copies sold, performed arena tours, and participated in numerous music festivals around the world. Cocco was invited by Yoko Ono to perform at the John Lennon Super Live concerts in Tokyo in 2006, 2009 and 2013. In 2017, Cocco celebrated the 20th anniversary of her debut at the Nippon Budokan concert in Tokyo, among more than 30,000 fans, in an event that took place over 2 days. Cocco's talent as an actress was demonstrated in *Daijyobu de aruyouni* (2008), a film directed by Hirokazu Koreeda. In the 2011 film *Kotoko*, she both played the leading role and led the artistic direction and music of the film. *Kotoko* was awarded the Best Film Award in the Orizzonti section at the 2011 Venice International Film Festival. She also made her debut as a stage actress in 2014.

#### **Naoko Hentona**, Pianist and Music Composer

Naoko Hentona is a pianist and highly acclaimed composer and arranger from Okinawa. She is a graduate of the Music Creation course at Osaka University of Art. Naoko actively incorporates her Okinawan roots into her music, which covers a very diverse range from classical to world music. She has played a key role in the success of "Okinawan Utahai" stage.

#### **Chikako Yamashiro**, Contemporary Video Artist

Yamashiro takes her native Okinawa as the theme of her video and photographic artworks. Recent exhibitions include: Asia Pacific Breweries Foundation Signature Art Prize 2018 (The Singapore Art Museum, Singapore, 2018 - Finalist), 2016 Aichi Triennale (former Meiji-ya Sakae Building, Nagoya, Aichi, 2016), 8th Asian Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia, 2015-16), MAM Project 018: Chikako Yamashiro (Mori Art Museum Gallery 1, Tokyo, Japan, 2012). Awards include: ZONTA Prize at 64th International Short Film Festival Oberhausen (2018).