



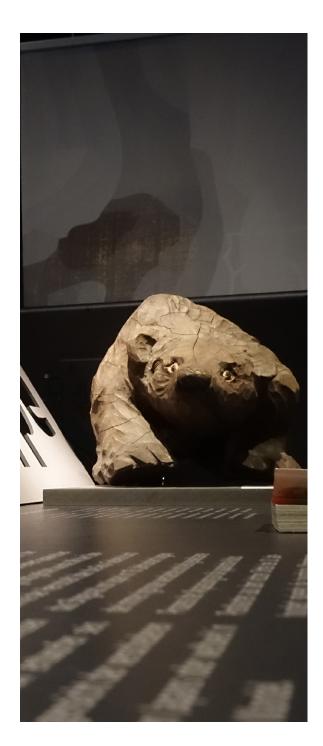


Originally, they lived as hunter-gatherer communities mainly on the islands of Hokkaido and Sakhalin and traded with Russia and Japan. From the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, their territories were colonized by Japan and many Ainu were resettled. They had to abandon their traditions, were no longer allowed to speak their language and were often obliged to do forced labor. Extensive assimilation of these groups

was the result. In the late 1960s, a revitalization movement developed that led to recognition as an indigenous community in 2008 and to its legal implementation by the Japanese government in 2019. According to statistics, there are around 25,000 Ainu, but the number is probably much higher as many people with Ainu roots do not identify themselves for fear of discrimination and want to remain unidentified.





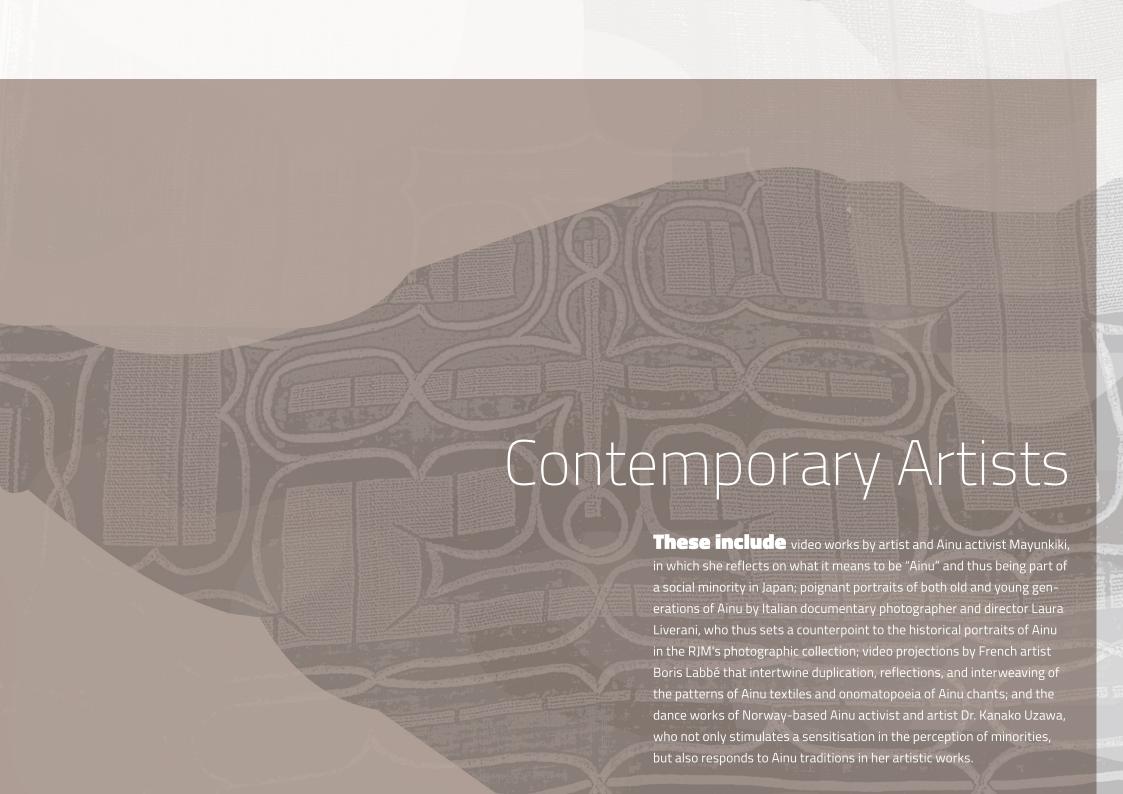




In the **Cologne exhibition**, the beauty of things is made visible. It gives an insight into the history and resistance movement of Ainu groups and at the same time an impression of the beauty of their material and immaterial culture, complemented by contemporary artistic positions.



The cooperation with the National Ainu Museum, Hokkaido, Japan and the scientists affiliated there enabled deeper insights into Ainu cultures. In close exchange with representatives of Ainu groups, aspects of handling the things were discussed from a curatorial, restorative, and conservation-ethical perspective. Contemporary artistic positions were intensively integrated into the processual creation of the exhibition and elaborated for the exhibition.



"Did you know that you were Ainu from when you were a child? I knew. Both of my parents are Ainu. Even before I could remember, my father always told me, "You are Ainu. And that is nothing to be ashamed about."

Vice Japan Interview with Hirohisa Asahara, translated by notautmnperson 23.2.2017

Ainu activist and artist Mayunkiki (Mai Hachiya) is intensely concerned with her own identity and the tradition of female tattooing in Ainu cultures. She is also a member of the vocal trio "Marewrew", which interprets traditional songs. In two video sequences, she interviews her own parents on sensitive topics such as identity and traditional tattooing.

# Mayunkiki



. . . . . . Drojekte

SINUYE

Der Begriff singe bezieht sich auf die Tatzuierungen, die Almo-Frauen um den Mund und an den Hünden seule in einigen Regionen auch zwischen den Augenbrauen und an den Hünden seule in der unterwachten bin, werden sie auch ponny genannt.

On Present the Manader on Name benefit in Historia pitches and all himming inches and only, were not information, an automation. The Manaderspie which in historia for Mattengolist, and as three from mattern in absolution of our semiplification from the matter of the Manaderspie from the Transmister metric, and of remaining of the Manaderspie for the Manaderspie from an appearance to the Manaderspie from an appropriate formation and the Manaderspie from the Manaderspie for the Manaderspie for the Manaderspie from the Manaderspie from the Manaderspie for the Manaderspie for the Manaderspie for the Manaderspie for the Manaderspie from the Manaderspie for the

to der Gaussens Kareto fürst Meternial Hall, die vor neisem Urgestäder progrischt wurde, befreiben die Statistungen zus fürst, die singer tragen. Die Statistungen werden Jahr für Jahr erglicht und er den Marit bezum erweitert. Als Kind war ich über dies Stäte, die Frauen mit singer migen, ebens erschroden

Standern, aber diesen Sammentare über mich in einem Samme diemen und mit singer veränderten meine Benadung zu michen Ansahme und allein mit, mich alleigkeit der Järz-Frauerlein Sienerner zu ihrt. Mit gelich der Järz-Frauerlein Sienerner zu ihrt. diese Verzentlauern belandern, babe ich begrannen, mit singer im Gesicht zu malen, waben ich Mitsterserzende, die ich auf Foller vom Frauer auf der lichsen Region (Heiskalder, nahm Supproxi gefunden habe.

signi industri can suppres provide canalization on tradicanalization on tradicanalization of an armonic latera (latera der Figer makes der Figer makes main latera (latera priori can) tradilatera (latera latera priori can) tradilatera (latera priori can) tradipriori can) tradi-

Authoriting momes eigenen Tablasieren, Dass machte ich ein Feuer zu welle Einkeninde und sammelte den Ruf, den Schart auf dem Boden eines darüber gehaltenen Toyles Initariekd, ich locher den Rufi im Saft von Anders (der obiereischen Nülmente Eindel, um den Fachter Hermantellen. Dam machte ich nach und nach winzige Scholite "Was ist Ainu in mir?"

Mayunkiki



SINRIT

Sinrit kann sich in der Ainu-Sprache sowohl auf die Vorfahren als auch auf die Wurzeln einer Pflanze beziehen, ähnlich wie das Wort *root* im Englischen.

Ich wurde als Ainu geboren. Als ich dies erkannte, wurde mir auch klar, dass es eine komplizierte Situation ist, Ainu zu sein. Im Jahr 2020, mit der Eröffnung des "Uppop; A Symbolic Spoce for Ethnic Harmony", das zum Tell vom National Ainu Museum getragen wird, wurde den Ainu mehr Aufmerksamkeit zuteil als je zuvor. Ich war mir sehr bewusst, wie sehr veraltete Stereetypen und begrenzte Interaktionen mit den

en und begrenzte interaktusier im Ed-Alnu im heutigen Leben die aligemeinen falschen Vorstellungen über uns geprägt haben. Dies schafft eine Situation, die wei hinter der vielfältigen, integrativen Welt zurückbielbt, in der wir angeblich leben.

Für dieses visuelle Projekt über Sinrit habe ich meine Familie und Freunde befragt, um mein eigenes Erbe zu erforschen und das Umfeld und die Familie vorzustellen, in der ich im modernen Japan aufgewachsen bin. In dieser Ausstellung in Deutschland möchte ich Interviews mit meinem Vater und meiner Mutter vorstellen.



niki sak bran Vater

"Which way should I go? Singing in the white snow asking who I am."

Beyond Ainu Studies, 2014, 86

# "Utar hopunpa rewa" "Brüder und Schwestern, lasst uns tanzen"

"Singen heißt Leben"

Lieder sind bei Zeremonien ein wichtiges Medium, um Kontakt mit der spirituellen Welt aufzunehmen. Auch wenn sie meist von Gruppen vorgetragen werden, gibt es zudem Lyrik, die nur von einer Person rezitiert wird. Die bedeutendsten Stile sind Sitzlieder (upopo), bei denen die Teilnehmer\*innen im Kreis sitzen und in einem vielstimmigen kakophonen Gesamtklang Tierlaute und Vogelstimmen nachahmen und Tanzlieder (rinnse), die zumeist im Kreis tanzend vorgetragen werden. Innerhalb des Liedrepertoires finden sich auch Hinweise auf die koloniale Unterdrückung. Alnu-Worte und -Ausdrücke wurden häufig durch japanische ersetzt, auch wurden ganze Inhalte verändert. So wurde beispielsweise aus einem "Lied für eine gute Jagd" ein "Bauernlied", was die zwanghafte Wandlung von einer Jäger-Sammler-Gesellschaft zu sesshaft gemachten Bauern widerspiegelt. Nachdem viele Lieder hungen groß, anhand von Erinnerungen der Älteren, Tonaufzeichnungen und dem Austausch innerhalb der Gruppen traditionelle Lieder zu rekonstruieren und zu Musikgruppen wie Okl Kano oder die Alnu Rebels mit für die Kulturen der Alnu zu schaffen, Indem sie traditionelle Elemente in ihre Stücke einfließen lassen.

## Dr.Kanako Uzawa

The Ainu scholar and activist focuses on the issues of identity and social change. She lives with her family in Norway and is currently a research associate at the Research Faculty of Media and Communication at Hokkaido University. She contributes to collaborative research and Ainu performing arts on the multiple articulations of indigenous knowledge. She is also a research collaborator on ArCSII (Arctic Challenge for Sustainability).

She is a member of the editorial board of AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples in New Zealand, Aotearoa.

"The posed portrait as a mode of representation highlights both personal and social identities of each individual. In a collaboration between photographer and sitter, each person portrayed has some degree of control in how they appear in the images. Whether at home, at the workplace, at school, or elsewhere, the everyday environment is transformed into a temporary set where to perform [an] identity."

Citation Japan Foundation Sydney, 9.5.2019

## Laura Liverani

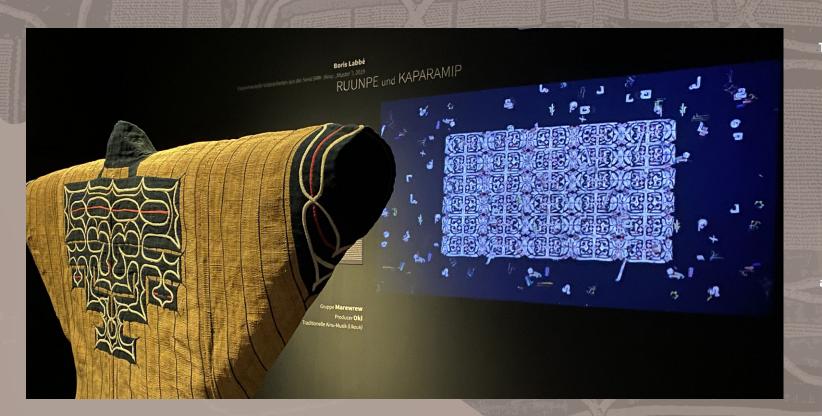


Laura Liverani is an Italian documentary
photographer and university lecturer.
She lives in Japan and Italy. Her film and
photography project Ainu Neno an Ainu is a
journey of identity exploration and reflection
on what it means to be Ainu today, in the
practices of daily life. It shows how Ainu are
engaged in preserving their own culture and
re-developing themselves in a globalised
modernity. "Ainu Neno an Ainu" means
"human like a human" in the Ainu language.

"My work relies on repetitive images, repetitive movements and time loops."

Work Portrait "MONADE", 2020

# Boris Labbé



The work of French video artist Boris Labbé draws heavily on his drawing practice and thrives on merging images and sounds in a rhythm. Labbé usually works with reflectionsand repetition. In his works of the series "SIRKI", it is traditional textile patterns of the Ainu cultures and chants in which these structures are found again. The vocals to the videos are by Marewrew, a trio that includes Mayunkiki, who collaborated with Boris Labbé during his stay as artist in residence at Tenjinyama Art Studio in Sapporo in Hokkaido in July 2018.

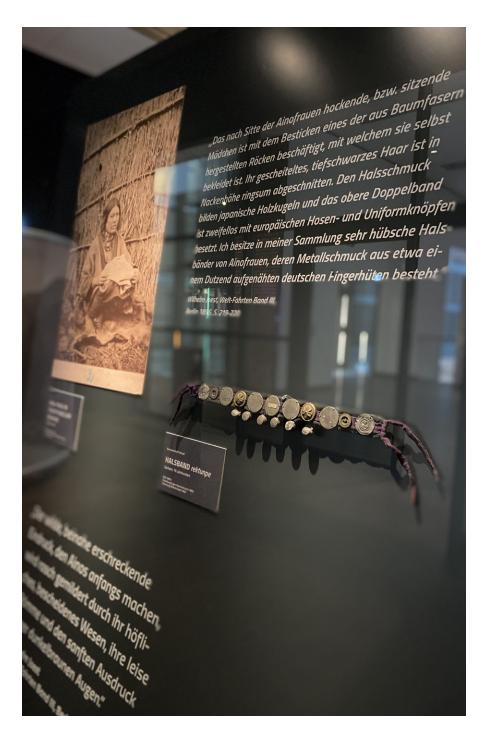








As a result, interest in their culture grew steadily. This was also the case with Wilhelm Joest, who traveled to Hokkaido in 1881 and from whose collection 18 items have been preserved by the museum. At the same time, antique and ethnographic dealers such as the Johann Friedrich Umlauff company sensed opportunities for lucrative business. In 1906 and 1907, more than 700 things from Hokkaido and Sakhalin were first offered to the Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum by the Hamburg company Umlauff. The Foundation for the Promotion of the Museum acquired 220 numbers for the collection. In the further course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, interest in the cultures of Ainu ebbed away, as evidenced by the small number of only three additions from private collections within the following 106 years.



**The Cologne collection** includes ethnographic things such as tools, knives and other weapons for hunting, as well as arrows and bows, lances and fishing accessories. Also plates, bowls, spoons and mashers for preparing and serving food. Ceremonial items include libation spatulas (*ikupasuy*), prayer sticks (*inao*), and amulets. An important inventory is the numerous textiles that were elaborately handcrafted by Ainu women. These include bags made of elm bast, carrying straps, robes, belts, headdresses, gloves and footwear, a small but important selection of which is presented in the exhibition.



Libation spatula *(ikupasuy)* 19<sup>th</sup> c.

© Rheinisches Bildarchiv RBA, photographer: Anja Wegner, rba d055076



Upper garment (attush) from elm bast, 19th c. (back side)

© Rheinisches Bildarchiv RBA, photographer: Anja Wegner, rba d055073 02

## Patterns of Protection – Elm bast and embroidered

come together: on the one hand, Ainu women made garments from a variety of materials. These included fish skins, bird skins, and furs from hunted animals, but fabrics were also made from the bast fibers of trees such as linden and elm and from the fibers of nettle, and mats were woven from rushes. In contrast, textiles imported from Japan, China and Russia were made of cotton, wool or silk. In most cases, these were so precious that they were only used to decorate the homemade materials.

The textile highlight in the exhibition is a complete nineteenth century garment made of elm bast (attush amip), decorated with appliquéd patterns. The plain weave fabric was woven on a simple loom in which the weaver controls the tension of the warp threads by means of her body posture. Fine stripes of dark blue cotton threads are woven in at irregular intervals between the warp threads of bast fibers. Two of the

fabric strips in a width of about 40 cm were laid over the shoulder and sewn together to form the body, while two other shorter ones were ingeniously folded in a triangular shape and attached as sleeves. Along the hems and the collar, wide ribbons run around the robe. A complex symmetrical pattern is appliquéd on the back and in the lower part. This consists of wide stripes of indigo dyed cotton fabric from Japan and narrow curved interwoven lines above. These are also made of imported tabby weave cotton fabrics. The fact that these line patterns were not embroidered with threads, but rather appliqued from narrow strips of fabric, indicates that this garment originated from an Ainu group from Sakhalin that no longer exists today and was forcibly resettled to Hokkaido in 1875.

The bands around the openings and the applied patterns are meant apotropaically, that is, to protect the person wearing the robe. The Ainu expression for this is *sermaka omare*. Characteristic of Ainu patterns are spiral or bracket-like shapes (*kiraw*) and thorns (*ayus*) attached to the corners.



Another treasure of the collection is a small triangular amulet (Inv. No. 253071) made of threaded glass beads and lined with a small piece of Japanese fabric. This amulet was woven into the forehead hair of a boys to protect him of evil forces and bad influences. After his first successful hunt his forehead hair was shaved and the amulet fell away. The high importance of the amulet becomes clear in the exchange with today's Ainu cultures, as only very few of them have survived worldwide.



Amulet (hoxchiri), End of  $19^{th}$  / beg. of  $20^{th}$  c.

© Rheinisches Bildarchiv RBA, photographer: Anja Wegner, rba d055081











Most of the things in the collection are made of perishable natural materials such as wood, bark, and fibers and undergo a process of change over time: they age, become brittle, or change in colors and textures. Slowing down these processes and thus documenting and preserving the things and all the information they contain for the future is the task of conservators. In the exhibition "A Soul in Everything" Petra Czerwinske, Kristina Hopp and Stephanie Lüerßen were responsible for this. They were also in close contact with colleagues from the National Ainu Museum and representa-

tives of Ainu from the very beginning. In addition to material-technological aspects, they discussed the handling of the things from a restorative and conservation-ethical perspective. In addition, in cooperation with the Institute for Restoration and Conservation Sciences at the Technical University in Cologne, three textile items from the collection were examined and their materials and manufacturing techniques determined. In this way, valuable findings were obtained, which are presented in the exhibition.





The exhibition "A Soul in Everything – Encounters with Ainu from the North of Japan" opens a space for contemporary Ainu voices from artists and activists, while likewise pointing out the beauty of the material culture that goes far back in time. Moreover, the exhibition gives awareness to the complex and thorny path of Ainu cultures to recognition, which is still ongoing.

The exhibition is a creation of a multitude of actors — artists, activists, scientists. Already in the development process, the focus was on a sensitive handling of things from a curatorial as well as a conservation perspective, which is also applied in the presentation of historical photography, the design, the use of indigenous patterns and the colour scheme.

#### **CURATORIAL TEAM**

Annabelle Springer, Walter Bruno Brix

#### PARTICIPATING ARTISTS, ACTIVISTS

**AND SCIENTISTS** Caroline Bräuer, Petra Czerwinske, Carl Deußen, Asami

Hosokawa, Yukiko Kaizawa, Boris Labbé,

Stephanie Lüerßen, Mayunkiki (Mai

Hachiya), Sonja Mohr, Ikuko Okada,

Hans-Dieter Ölschleger, Maya Sekine,

Birgit Scholz, Kanako Uzawa,

Ryo Yonezawa

#### **NATIONAL AINU MUSEUM**

Director Shiro Sasaki and Team: Yoshiki Oe, Yu'ichi Uchida, Mio Yachita, Takeshi Yabunaka

#### PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Annabelle Springer

#### **EXHIBITION DESIGN AND GRAPHICS**

Büro für Gestaltung, Marie-Helen Scheid

#### **CONSERVATION SUPPORT**

Petra Czerwinske, Birgit Depenbrock, Kristina Hopp, Stephanie Lüerßen

**INSTALLATION** Christian Andert, Steffen Beyer, Manfred Littfin, Ralf Eidneier

## TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY, INSTITUTE

### FOR RESTORATION AND CONSERVA-TION SCIENCES

Laura Peters, Nicole Reifarth,

Anne Sicken, Viola Michaela Costanza,

Tjarda Rauh, Anastazia Zitzer

MEDIA Süleyman Atalayin

FILM EDITING Annette Motz,

Paul Schmidl

**LIGHTING** Martin Leetz

**PROOFREADING** Nadja Breger

TRANSLATION Paul Harris

INTERNS Marie Born, Miriam Laage,

Verena Koll, Anne Schübel, Leo Weiß

ADMINISTRATION Nicole Golombek,

Heike Hermann, Gaby Sawer

LIBRARY Martin Malewski
SECRETARIAT Ulrike Akin

**PUBLIC RELATIONS** Judith Glaser

#### SUPPORTING PROGRAM

Agostina Andreoletti, Iris Kaebelmann,

Heike Hermann

#### **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

Peter Mesenhöller (Museumsdienst)

#### JAPAN FOUNDATION, COLOGNE

Director Keiichi Aizawa, Angela Ziegenbein

#### MUSEUM SHOP AND SOCIETY

Katharina Krebs, Ursula Metz

An exhibition in cooperation with the National Ainu Museum, Hokkaido, the Japan Foundation Cologne and the Institute for Restoration and Conservation Sciences at the Technical University in Cologne. Supported financially by the Kölner Kulturstiftung der Kreissparkasse Köln, the Museum Society of the Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum and from Dr. Alfred and Doris Jung.

#### REFERENCES

JOSEF KREINER, HANS-DIETER ÖLSCHLEGER: Ainu – Jäger, Fischer und Sammler im Norden Japans Bestandskatalog RJM Köln, 1987, S. 86, Kat. No. 133.

MASHIYAT ZAMAN: **The Ainu an Japan's Colonial Legacy**, posted 23,3,2020, retrieved 8.11,2021, https://www.tokyoreview.net/2020/03/ainu-japan-colonial-legacy/

KRISTIE HUNGER: Sermaka Omare: The Ainu Motif of Protection. An Analyses of Traditional Ainu Artwork. 2017

#### PHOTOGRAPHY

p. 2-9, 11, 13-18, 20-21, 23

© Copyright 2022 Marie-Helen Scheid, Mi Design

n 12

© Copyright 2022 Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum, Annabelle Springer

p. 22-24

© Copyright 2022 Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum, Petra Czerwinske-Eger TH Köln

Cologne Institute of Conservation Sciences

Wir machen Programm Museumsdienst Köln

Ehepaar Dr. Alfred und Doris Jung

Ehepaar Dr. Alfred und

Kölner Kulturstiftung
der Kreissparkasse Köln

Museumsgesellschaft RJM

© COPYRIGHT 2022, A Publication of Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum – Cultures of the World / Cologne, Germany Dr. Annabelle Springer

DESIGN & LAYOUT: Dipl. Des. Marie-Helen Scheid © 2022 www.mariehelenscheid.de

Ein Museum der



🗱 Stadt Köln