



composer
sound artist
cinematographer

**Kana
Wakareno**

portfolio 2025

Introduction



Kana Wakareno is a Japanese composer, pianist, singer and cinematographer. Her work is based upon fictional imagined landscape of her own. She was born in Japan in 1991 and lives in Tokyo.

In 2013, her 1st full album "trapped in the glass" was released. In December 2015, 2nd full album "seaside florist" releases and her first long piece cinema "TRAPPED IN THE GLASS" is screening in various places of Japan. In September 2016, 3rd full album "forget me not" was released. In December 2021, 4th full album "death has light" was released.



The origin of her creative work is an extension of her own childhood trauma and the ritual release of negative energy she performed when faced with the death of people close to her.

In the early days of her career, she composed music for her own therapy, but now she aims to treat people around the world who are suffering from similar traumas and psychological issues.

<https://www.wakarenokana.com/cv>



I was born and raised in a rural area rich in nature, about two hours north of Tokyo, Japan. I spent a lot of my childhood confined to my own world.

I started composing when I was about 14 years old.

In order to cope with major emotional ups and downs, such as the death of someone close to me, I began to compose ceremonial improvisations on the piano. I also just love singing, so I started composing songs in the form of playing and singing.

In the early days of my career, especially until my early 20s, I was making easy-to-understand music, more like Japanese pop music than I do now, but I had always liked movie soundtracks and wanted to do an ambient project.

Then, as my music production skills gradually improved, I was able to work on the kind of music I wanted to do.

Lately, I've been trying to incorporate more environmental sounds and create ambient music that relates to the outside world, such as my relationship with nature and the land, and the mental pain of people other than myself.



When I create music myself, I often have specific images in mind, and I often actually shoot and edit those images before creating music.

The instrument I use is the piano. I'm not an excellent pianist, but the piano best suits my singing voice and sensibilities, and I've been using it for many years when composing.



A lot of my music has its origins in the trauma and mental symptoms I experienced in my childhood, and I hope it can help heal those who are suffering from such mental suffering.

I collect ugly and dirty things such as people's sadness, suffering, and hatred (as small as possible, because I can't swallow big things), transform them into beautiful things through my own filter, and give them back to the world.

I continue to compose music because I believe that this is the significance of my music creation.

月は泳ぐ | *The moon swims* (2024)



Music <https://ideologikal.bandcamp.com/album/--10>

Video <https://vimeo.com/1056971043>



月は泳ぐ -tsuki ha oyogu- (The moon swims) (2024) / 8mm film
Spoken Words, voice, and vocal performed, recorded by Kana Wakareno
Electronic and modular synth performed, recorded by யெயා! ஸாஸி!p
Produced by யெயா! ஸாஸி!p Mixed and mastered by VVΛXX
Cover Art / Filmed by Kana Wakareno

"The moon swims" is a collaboration between Kana Wakareno and Indonesian composer Fahmi Mursyid. I was in charge of the vocals and spoken words (including lyrics), the artwork for the song, and the production of the concept movie. This piece pays homage to old Japanese ambient music. The video uses 8mm film footage that I shot in Japan.

Dance with the Issue (2023)



Web

<https://blackstart.xsrv.jp/>

Trailer

<https://youtu.be/i080ySDxUA0> <https://youtu.be/2KYtQJe0Y4o>



Dance with the Issue : 電力とわたしたちのダイアログ (2024)
Editing: Yoshihiro Tamura (EXIT FILM inc.) / Hideki Nishizawa (EXIT FILM inc.)

Music: Kana Wakareno

Theme song: "Blue Hour Edge" Lyrics / Composition / Vocals / Piano: Kana Wakareno

This Film is a new work of art that uses contemporary dance to express one of Japan's contemporary issues, the future of electricity supply. I was in charge of the music for the dance part and the theme song. I often work on introspective works, but in this work, I applied my usual process to a contemporary issue. This led me to consider creating works that not only concern myself but also address larger issues such as mental health in urban areas.

静寂、夜明けの海とオーケストラ

Silence, the sea of dawn and the orchestra (2021)



Music <https://linkco.re/32QTZReq>

Video <https://vimeo.com/1056983503> https://youtu.be/taT9b_gP0K0



静寂、夜明けの海とオーケストラ
(silence, the sea at dawn and the orchestra) (2021) / Digital
MUSIC / FILM : Kana Wakareno STARRING : Ei Sugiyama

This video was taken early in the morning in northern Okinawa Prefecture, Japan. I visited this place with Ei Sugiyama, a dancer and actor, and spent some quiet time together in the calm sea. I did all the photography. The choreography is by Ei Sugiyama. However, during the process of editing the video, the dance choreography was once taken apart and reconstructed. The music was gradually composed during the video editing process and completed at the same time. This work presents a quiet ritual-like scene that takes place in a beautiful place somewhere in this world when no one is watching. It is also involved in the concept of the album "death has light".

memory on ice (2021)



Music <https://linkco.re/32QTZReq>

Video <https://vimeo.com/1056971751> <https://youtu.be/Y0puubM1ipM>



memory on ice (2021) / Digital
MUSIC / FILM : Kana Wakareno STARRING : Hikari Shinoda

This video was taken from night to early morning in eastern Hokkaido, Japan. The film depicts the process of a woman, exhausted by her life in the city, returning to her hometown and repairing her own soul while being moved by the beautiful natural scenery that surrounds her. The phenomenon that happens at the sea early in the morning is called jewelry ice, which is a beautiful natural drama that only occurs at certain seasons of the year. This video also suggests Although it is difficult to face loneliness, that is necessary in order to enrich one's own soul. The music was composed to go with this video. In particular, the music for the Jewelry Ice scene uses a piano to express the environmental sounds made when ice cubes are washed away by waves and collide with each other.

living sad (2021)



Music <https://linkco.re/32QTZReg>

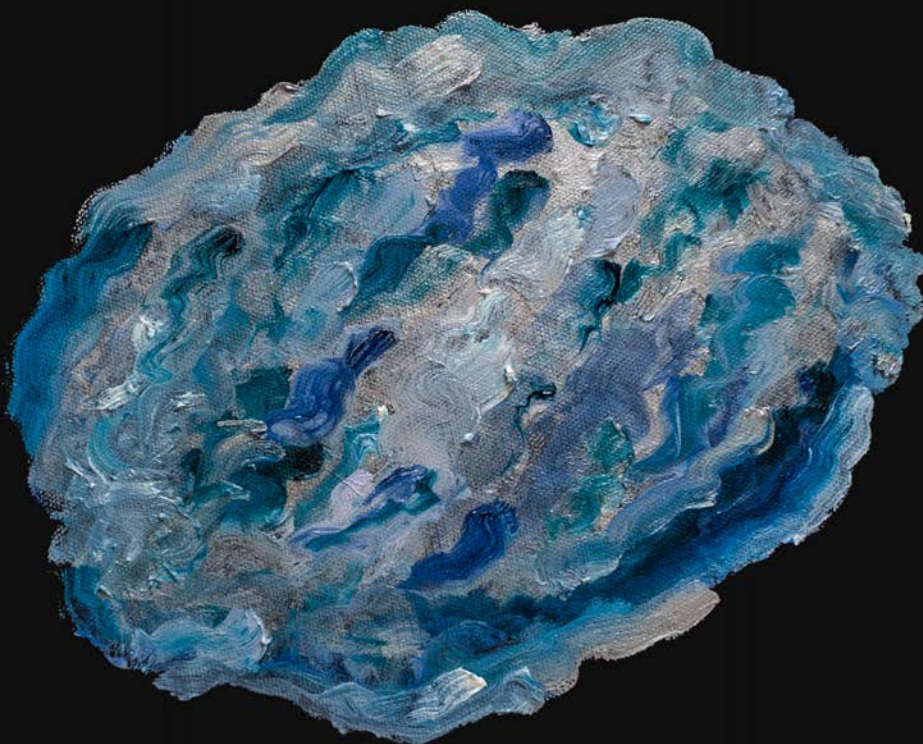
Video <https://vimeo.com/1056994112> https://youtu.be/o_OptnKHUyo



memory on ice (2021) / Digital
MUSIC / FILM : Kana Wakareno

This video was taken aboard an icebreaker in eastern Hokkaido, Japan. I felt that there was no sign of life in the sea covered with drift ice. In this landscape, I saw the truth of living alone. People who live in cities, including me, feel lonely even though we are always surrounded by other people and a lot of information, but in this sea, there is true loneliness. Although it was incomparably harsh, I felt a spirituality of surprisingly high purity. Neither of them will be unhappy in solitude, but this scene made me think deeply about the mental problems we face. It is currently one of the themes of my artistic activity. I also composed music to go with this video.

death has light (2021)



death has light (2021) / oil on canvas
Kana Wakareno

Music

<https://linkco.re/32QTZReg>



death has light (2021) / oil on canvas
Kana Wakareno

4th music album 'death has light' was created with the theme of 'Death'. It was based on the death of a relative that I experienced in my childhood, and the rituals that I performed during that time. As I recalled it, I organized the tracks in chronological order, starting with the moment of death and ending with the world after death.

The artwork for "death has light" is inspired by a research paper in the journal PLOS Biology. They observed that blue fluorescence was emitted during the death process of dying nematodes when exposed to ultraviolet light. This light gradually becomes stronger, reaches its maximum at the moment of death, and disappears immediately after.

I wonder if that's why the human brain also emits blue light? I created this artwork with this wishful thinking, also a phenomenon known among Japanese people as "somato [走馬灯]" .

lost summer day dreaming (2016)



Music <https://linkco.re/yxFv3m5t>

Video <https://vimeo.com/182845310> https://youtu.be/KEVPCfx_X7Q



lost summer day dreaming (2015) / Digital
MUSIC / FILM : Kana Wakareno STARRING : Tamaki Shirai

This video is the first work I shot at a pool studio. The story is related to the movie "TRAPPED IN THE GLASS" made in 2015. The main character is a fictional woman who died in a maritime accident in the past. That memory is traumatic for the film's protagonist. This video is an imaginary world created by her. We considered how the survivors of a deceased person who tragically died in an accident may glorify (distort) and interpret the state of the deceased right before their death. I think it's a necessary interpretation to improve trauma.

I swam (2016)



Music

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JLB595OlcvvDfnrSrl-JLLBLAb3j9Upi/view?usp=sharing>

Video

<https://youtu.be/UBCUm6K58gg>



I swam (2016) / Digital
MUSIC / FILM : Kana Wakareno STARRING : Ei Sugiyama

This work was taken in the early morning at the sea in Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan. The motif is a mermaid, improvised choreography by contemporary dancer Erika Sugiyama (Ei Sugiyama). At the end of the film, she sinks into the sea, but this is her return to where she belongs. The music has a minimal structure and repeats the same rhythm over and over again. It represents the calm, lukewarm temperature of the ocean. Actually, Many of my songs have a minimal structure. The purpose of this is to eliminate things that are unnecessary so that the listener can concentrate on the pure context of the song. The foundation is minimal, but the piano melody, vocal line, and intonation gradually change.

TRAPPED IN THE GLASS (2015)



Music <https://linkco.re/yxFv3m5t>

Video <https://vimeo.com/248159381> https://youtu.be/du_nBJeLwHc



TRAPPED IN THE GLASS(2015) / Digital
MUSIC / FILM : Kana Wakareno
Act : Hiromi Ibe / Hisayo Hosoi / Tamaki Shirai / Eiko Nozawa /
Erika Sugiyama / Chiaki Tanioka / Manami Mori

I wrote the script when I was a university student and filmed it myself over several years. This is a story about a woman overcoming her past trauma that she had sealed away. The music was written as a soundtrack for the movie. This work was shown at several venues in Japan along with live music performances. Although this film is rough, it was made on a very low budget, but I think we could capture the youthful sensibilities. The actresses are women from different backgrounds and fields, including stage actresses, my friend who majored in theater in college, a freelance dancer, and my local friend.

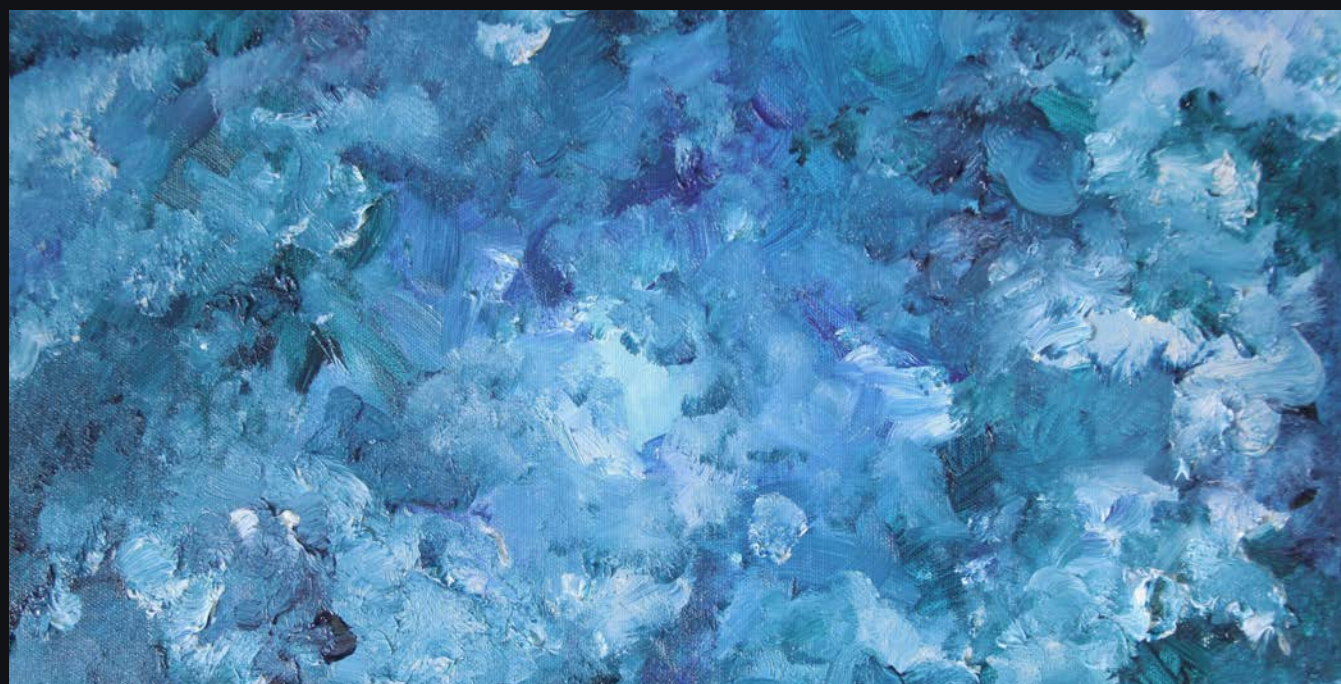
forget me not (2016)



forget me not (2016) / oil on canvas
Kana Wakareno

Music

<https://linkco.re/49BQ6tnz>



forget me not (2016) / oil on canvas
Kana Wakareno

This album was created with the theme of "insulation". It depicts the mental landscape of the end of summer when people decide to part with those close to them and face loneliness. And I think it's a music album that lets you feel the most delicate end of summer all over the world. It was the most direct expression of my personal experiences and environments among my past works. It was around this time that I started oil painting. It is used for cover jackets of works, booklet covers, etc.

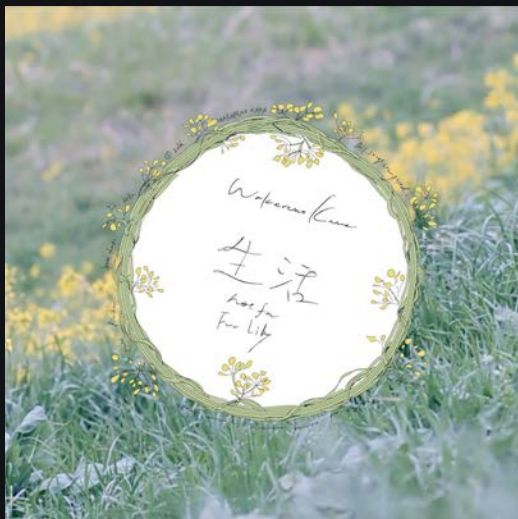
生活

her living (2015)



Music <https://linkco.re/EMXqCC19>

Video <https://vimeo.com/174454914> <https://youtu.be/YoUSxdX8ul0>



生活 (her living) (2015) / Digital
MUSIC / FILM : Kana Wakareno STARRING : Ririka

This project involved Ririka visiting locations that hold special memories for her. The video was composed spontaneously, capturing her emotions in the moment. Filming in places with complex memories for her was also a memorable experience for me. Her expressions were not the result of any acting instruction; they were genuine emotions. Additionally, I recorded environmental sounds during the shoot, composed music afterward, and released it alongside the video.