

Mimi Kunz

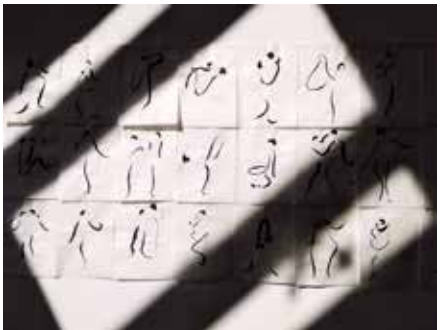
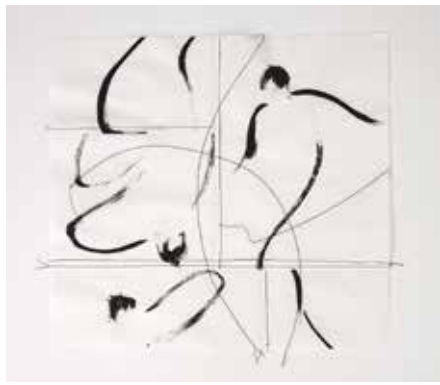
THE BODY  
OUR MOTHER TONGUE



Mimi Kunz is a visual artist and poet. A Buddhist monk once told her to 'put the mind in the body' — advice which has shaped her life and art. Curious about the body as a language, she observes its universal expressions and personal characteristics, pointing out the unconscious gestures through which we read each other's bodies.

Mimi studied Painting and Graphics at the Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste Karlsruhe, Germany. Her work has been shaped by residencies in Europe (Moving Landscapes, Italy, 2024 / Le fil des Mots, Belgium 2022 / Symbiose, Belgium, 2019 / Common Grounds, UK, 2017) and Vietnam (Time & Realities, 2021 / Live.Make.Share, 2018), and supported by the Goethe Institut Hanoi and the European Union. Her artwork has been exhibited internationally (Maison d'Art Actuel des Chartreux, Brussels / Casa del Arte, Concepción, Chile / Nature Art Biennale, South Korea), and can be found in private collections across all continents. Her poetry has been shortlisted for the Bridport and nominated for a Pushcart Prize.





THE BODY  
OUR MOTHER TONGUE

**The Body as our First Language**  
Mother Tongue

**The Mind in the Body**  
The Music of our bodies  
Body and Soul  
The Mind in the Body

**Physicality**  
Between Mountains, around Tables  
A Walk in the Park

**The Body as Lign,  
Movement as Sign**  
Lines of a Body  
Le Fil des Mots  
A Letter from the Core  
Movements of our Bodies in Space

**Movement as a Language**  
Dancing  
The Shape of Us

**An Alphabet of Abstract Bodies**  
The Dancers  
Shapes of a Day

**Bodies in Space**  
Birdmen  
Melodies

**Our walk is like a Hand-Writing,  
our Posture a Signature**  
Pedestrians  
Portraits

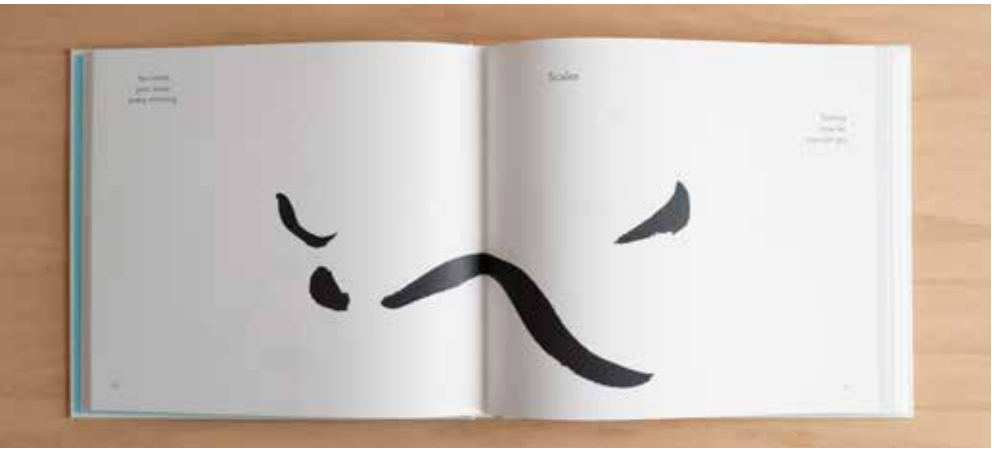
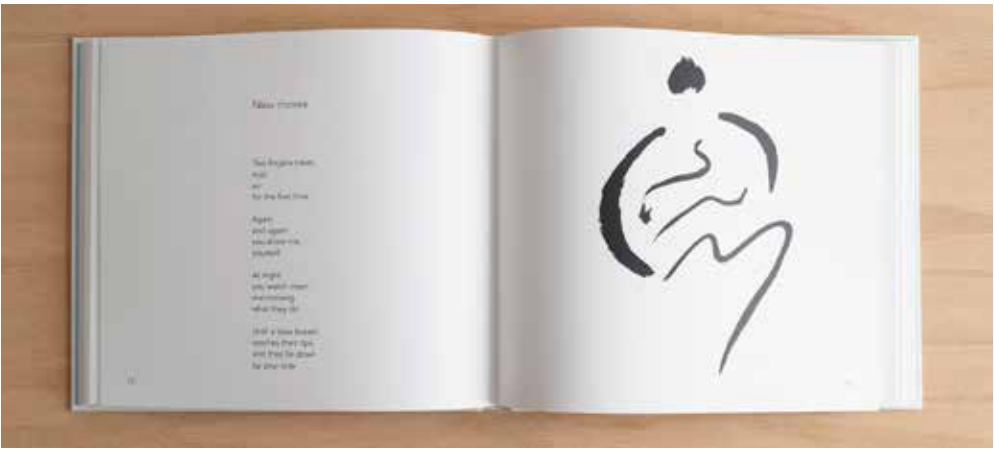
# The Body as our First Language



## Mother Tongue

A book of poetry and painting  
published by The Kyoudai Press, 2024

In *Mother Tongue*, Mimi Kunz tells the story of her daughter's birth and first year of life. Through her poetry and painting, she meditates on the question "So what's it like, this love?" As she shares her experience of being a young mother, and her moments of marvel, fear, and laughter, a revelation occurs. The body of mother and child are discovered as our first language, our mother tongue.



Mother Tongue poems and paintings, Published 2024 by The Kyoudai Press, Hardcover, 140 pages, Offset print, 24 x 27 x 2 cm  
Mimi Kunz, author and artist / Alexandra Huddleston, publisher and graphics editor / Nathaniel Cairney, literary editor  
photos Alexandra Huddleston, The Kyoudai Press



# The Mind in the Body

Mother Tongue 2021, Ink on Japanese papers, wood, 175x130 cm, photo Elise Vdk





## Body and Soul

portraits of the Augustinian nuns in Pennabilli, 2024

During her artist residency in Pennabilli Mimi Kunz was invited to meet the nuns of the Augustinian monastery. Drawn to meditation and curious about the connections between the mind and the body, the artist wanted to see if a spiritual mindset can be shown by portraying the body.

When painting the nuns her brushstrokes went inward, towards the core of the portrayed persons, reflecting their intentional movements and the mindful interactions she had observed at the monastery.



**Community** 2024, Ink on Awagami bamboo paper, 27 x 24 cm

**Sisters** 2024, Ink on Awagami bamboo paper, 27 x 24 cm





## The Music of our Bodies

live painting to a mindful movement class  
by Katharina Kunz, 2024

Collaborated with her sister, Mimi Kunz captured  
movements during a group workshop in Italy,  
translating between bodies and lines.



The Dancers 2024, Ink on paper, 30 x 21 cm



## The Mind in the Body

Studio Louise, Brussels, Belgium

solo exhibition, 2024

Physicality



Between Mountains,  
around Tables

Pennabilli, Italy

exhibition and artist residency, 2024

curated by Federica Rosati  
and Migrant Landscapes  
supported by Culture Moves Europe



Funded by  
the European Union





## Physicality

Every residency is about learning something new. In the mountains of Pennabilli the artist Mimi Kunz, known for her minimal calligraphic abstractions of the human body, developed minimal gestures to portray interactions between natural and humanmade parts.



# A Walk in the Park



a collaborative portrait of the  
Jardins de l'Abbaye de la Cambre, Brussels  
by Alexandra Huddleston and Mimi Kurz

## A Walk in the Park

A collaborative portrait of the Jardins  
de l'Abbaye de la Cambre Brussels

artist book with Alexandra Huddleston  
published by The Kyoudai Press, 2023



A Walk in the Park is an artist book that brings together ink painting, photography, poetry, and prose to portray the Jardins de l'Abbaye de la Cambre, one of Brussels' most popular public parks. During lockdown this park became everybody's living room.

The artists Mimi Kunz and Alexandra Huddleston captured life in this urban garden, creating a playful ode to a beloved place.



## A Walk in the Park

Streetview, Brussels, Belgium

duo exhibition with Alexandra Huddleston, 2023  
curated by Marianne Csaky

**Evening walk** 2022, Ink on Japanese paper, 33 x 24 cm

Picnic 2022, Diptych, Ink on Japanese paper, each part 33 x 24 cm  
Sunbathing 2022, Ink on Japanese paper, 33 x 24 cm  
photos Alexandra Huddleston



The  
Body  
as  
Lign,  
Movement  
as  
Sign



## Lines of a Body

duo-Performance, 2023

Something Beautiful Festival, Brussels, Belgium  
curated by Lucie Pinier

In their performance the artists Mimi Kunz and Miriam Rose Gronwald translated between dance and ink painting, body and line, space and sign.







## Le Fil des Mots

duo-artist residency, 2022

ODRADEK, Brussels, Belgium

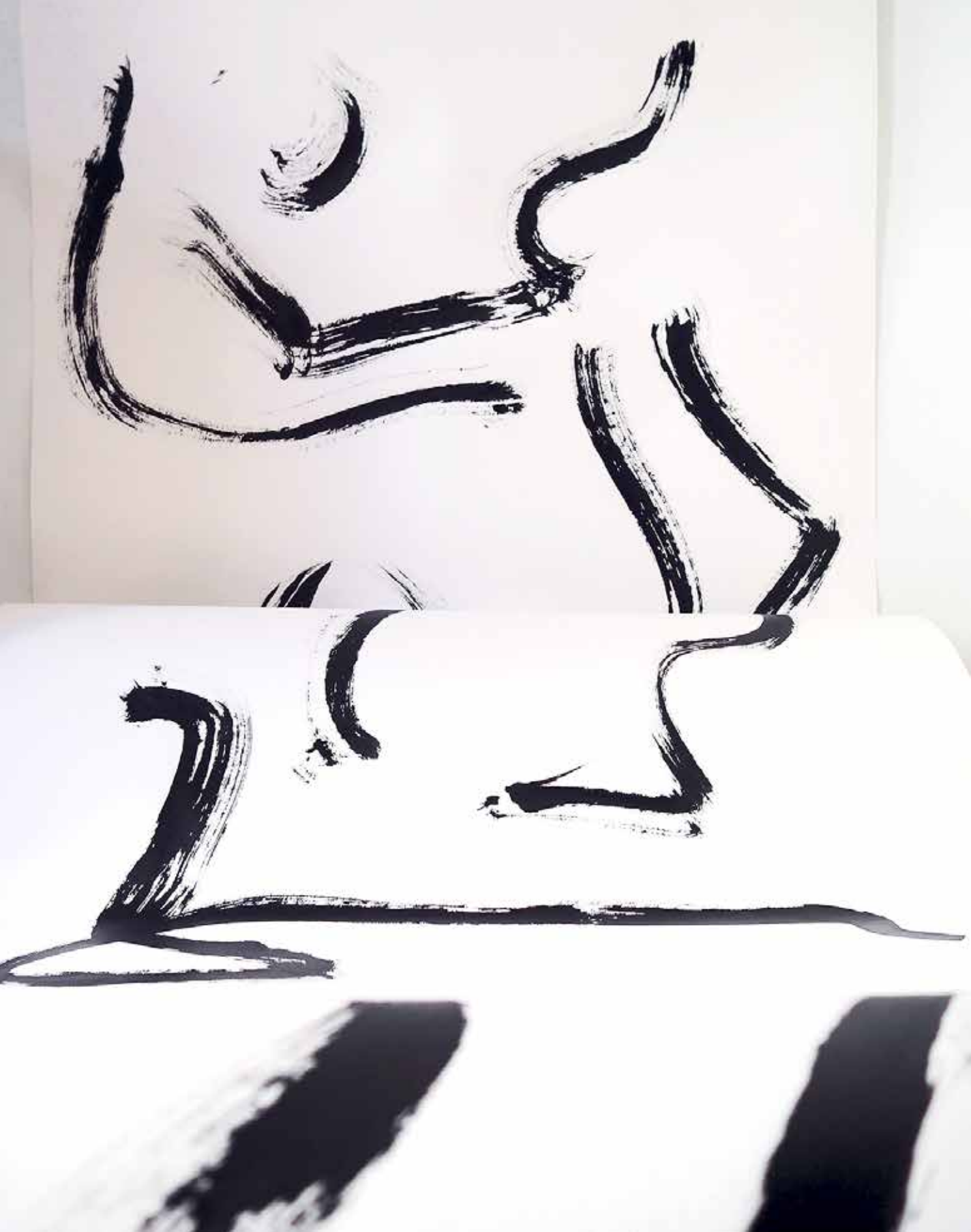
During their residency in the beautiful new space of ODRADEK the dancer, performance and textile artist Miriam Rose Gronwald and the painter poet Mimi Kunz explored the body as line and the paper as space, translating between movement and painting.



My body and me, finding our song 2023 Ink on Hahnemühle bamboo paper, 56 x 42 cm



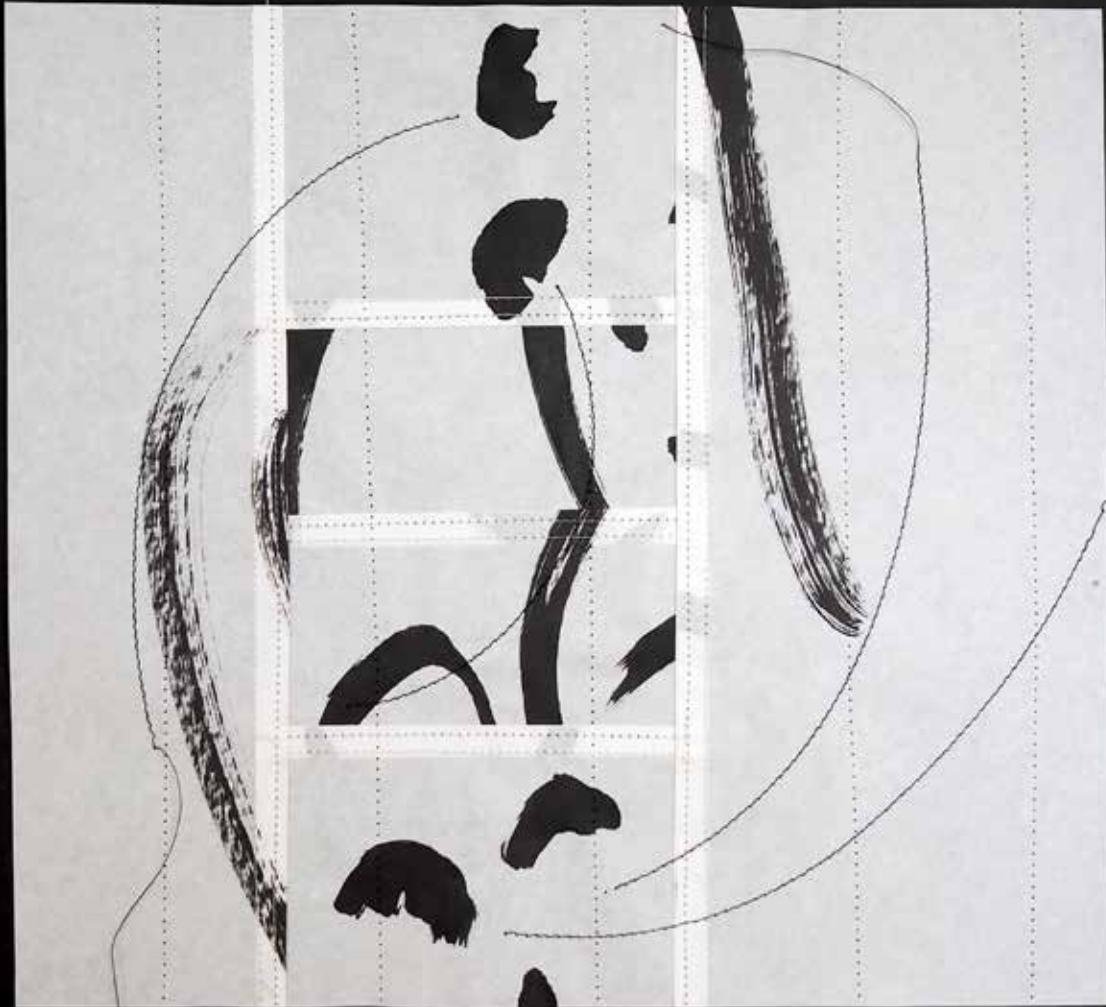




## A Letter from the Core

performative artwork, 2022

On a ten meter long roll of Hahnemühle bamboo paper Mimi Kunz live translated a choreography of the dancer Miriam Rose Gronwald



## Lines of our Bodies in Space

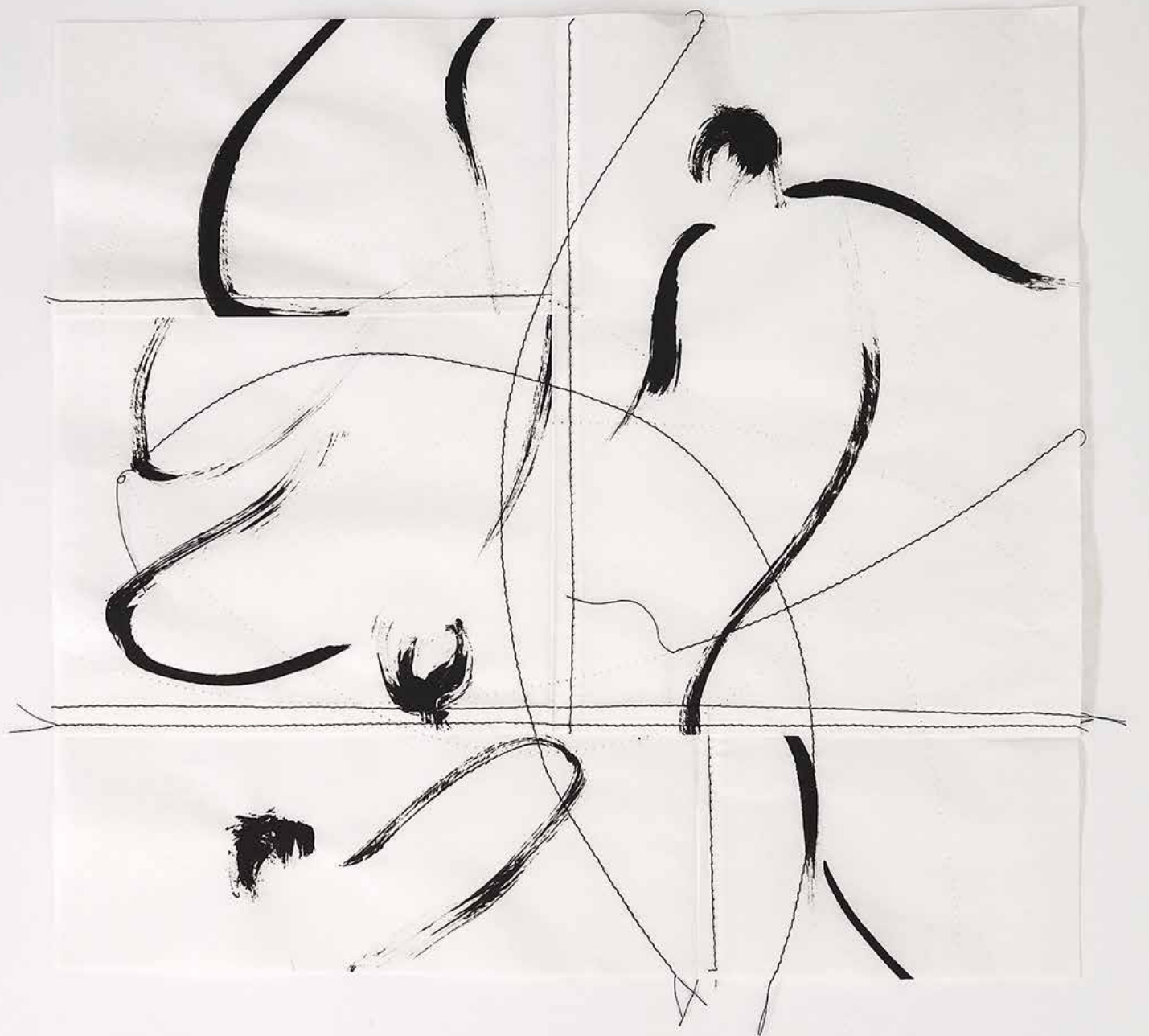
collaborative series with Miriam Rose Gronwald, 2023

In a joint creation process the painter poet Mimi Kunz and the performance and textile artist Miriam Rose Gronwald brought together ink on paper and a Korean sewing technique called Bojagi, composing the essence of moments into patterns of time.



**Après-midi** 2023 Ink on Japanese paper, bojagi, 35 x 23 cm

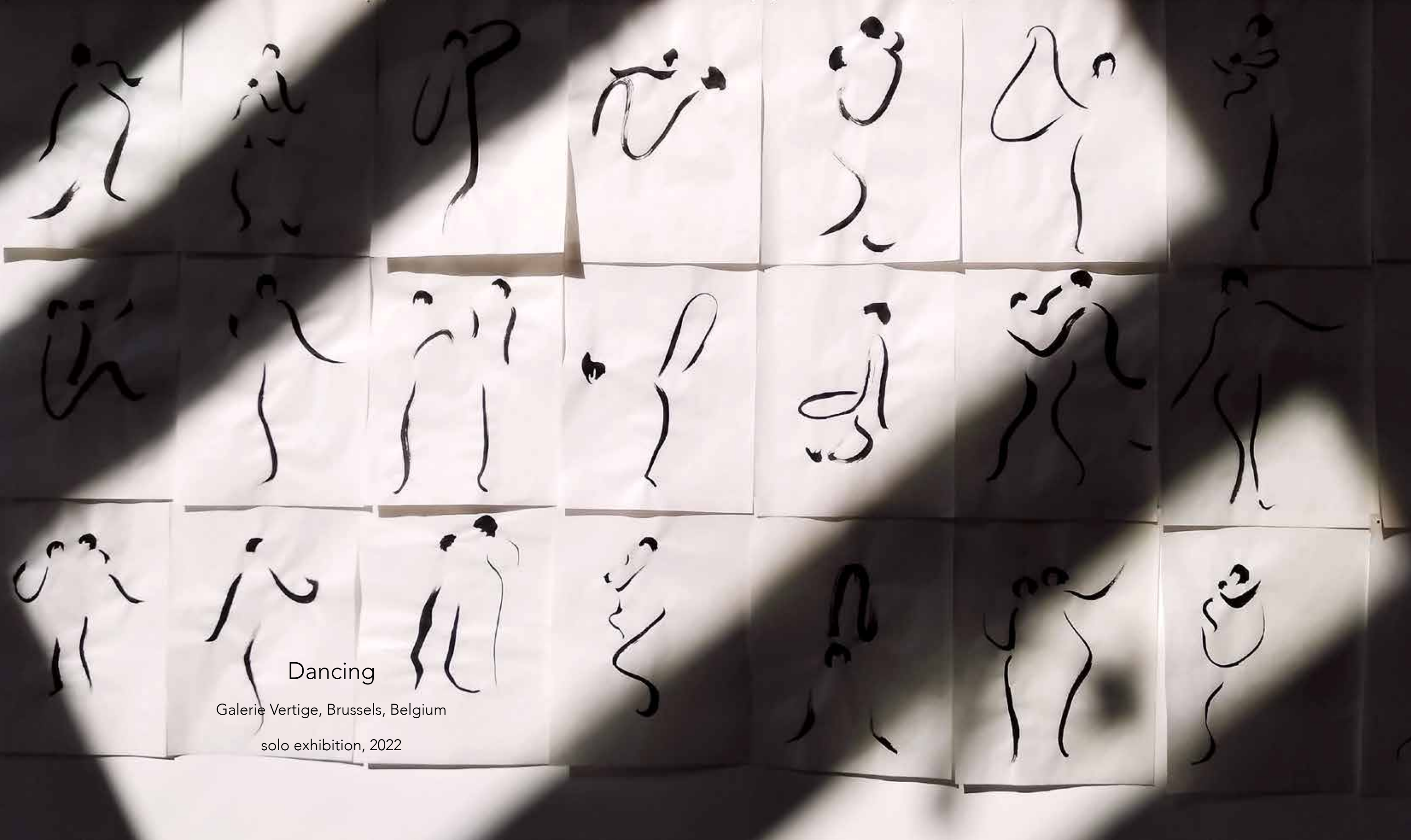




### Choreography

2023 Ink and embroidery on Japanese paper, bojagi, 33 x 35 cm

Movement  
as  
a  
Language



Dancing

Galerie Vertige, Brussels, Belgium

solo exhibition, 2022



**Your skin remembers you smiling**

2022 Ink on Japanese paper, 33 x 24 cm

**Blooming** 2022, Ink on Japanese paper, 33 x 24 cm



**Danseurs** 2021, Ink on Japanese paper, 33 x 24 cm

**I feel like** 2021, Ink on Japanese paper, 33 x 24 cm



## The Shape of Us

Casa del Arte José Clemente Orozco  
Concepción, Chile

solo exhibition, 2021

**Morning** 2019, Ink on Japanese paper, 33 x 24 cm



**Dancing** 2019, Ink on Japanese paper, 33 x 24 cm



**Kiss** 2019, Ink on Japanese paper, 33 x 24 cm



## The Shape Of Us

We move and interact always, in manifold ways

aligning limbs by heart in a commonly unique way, like hand-writing

Our body language shows us balancing between  
here now there  
then

seeing, dreaming, watching, hearing

following ideas, looking into the past, imagining the future,  
going with our gut, responding to a feeling

Like day and night,

ageing, spring

time is how we describe things changing

– the form of things, the shape of us



An  
Alphabet  
of  
Abstract  
Bodies



Leaves 2015, Sapphire ink on paper, 76 x 58 cm





## The Dancers

sapphire ink on paper, 2015-ongoing

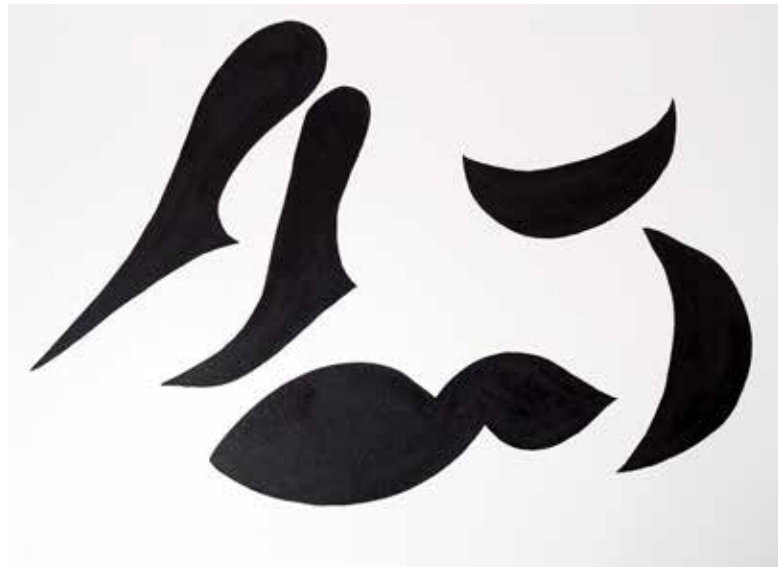
Aren't we like leaves on a tree?  
Can a shape say 'Happy'?

In her most abstract series Mimi Kunz explores movement as a universal language. The sapphire blue ink paintings are made with calligraphy brushes on paper. In 2015 the artist abstracted four shapes from leaves dancing on a tree. These shapes have since become an alphabet. Like arms and legs of a body they can express states of being and nuance their expression through compositions just like the human body.



**Funambule** 2022, Sapphire ink on paper, 108 x 78 cm

**Acrobat** 2022, Sapphire ink on paper, 108 x 78 cm



**Blue Moon (Shadow Dancers)**  
 2023, ink on paper, 30 x 40 cm



**Happy** 2022, Sapphire ink on paper, 78 x 108 cm





## Shapes of a Day

series of 30 ink paintings, 2020

During lockdown Mimi Kunz painted new variations of the Dancer shapes in postcard format every day. Creating an abundant array of compositions with limited material and in a confined space, the artist found a meditative novelty in repeated gestures.

Bodies  
in  
Space



## Melodies

Alto Galleria, Brussels, Belgium

solo exhibition, 2024

curated by Clélia Dell'Aiera



All in one day 2024, Ink on Japanese paper, 99 x 38 cm



The Garden Party 2023, Ink on paper, wood, 33 x 33 cm



Une monde 2023, Ink on Japanese papers, wood, 47 x 100 cm



Streets like rivers 2016, Ink on paper, 30 x 21 cm





**Birdmen** 2016, Ink on paper, 30 x 21 cm



**Le petit matin** 2023, Ink on paper, 30 x 21 cm



**Pedestrians** 2016, Ink on paper, 30 x 21 cm



**Between earth and sky** 2016, Ink on paper, 30 x 21 cm

Our  
Walk  
is  
like  
a  
Hand-writing,  
our  
Posture  
a  
Signature



**A mind full of music** 2016, Ink on paper, 40 x 30 cm

**In the middle of always** 2016, Ink on paper, 40 x 30 cm

**Le protagoniste** 2016, Ink on paper, 40 x 30 cm

**The diver** 2016, Ink on paper, 40 x 30 cm



## Pedestrians & Portraits

ink paintings, 2016-ongoing

How do we recognise a friend in a crowd? Our walk is like a hand-writing, the way we hold ourselves a signature. In commissioned portraits Mimi Kunz portrays people, not by painting faces but by painting how they hold themselves, exploring the versatility of postures and what a body tells about somebody's state of mind.









<https://mimikunz.com>



[2mimikunz@gmail.com](mailto:2mimikunz@gmail.com)



[mimi.kunz](https://www.instagram.com/mimi.kunz)



photo: Tommaso D'Errico



