

Interview Tatsuma Takeda, *Wandernde Flora*, 2025

My name is Tatsuma Takeda. The installation is called *Wandernde Flora* [Wandering Flora].

The installation consists of the *Halftone* series and the *Container* series. Many of my motifs depict seascapes or plants such as camellias, loquats, and figs, which—much like humans—are transported across continents for economic and societal reasons, changing and taking root in new landscapes. For example, the camellia came from Japan to Europe, while the fig came from Europe to Japan. The motifs not only tell of my personal memories, but also of cultural exchange processes.

The *Halftone* series in the installation, which was created using a combination of urushi lacquer and screen printing techniques, is based on the history of exchange and movement.

The *Container* series was created in parallel. It is a video installation featuring transport crates that shows how objects and stories take on new meanings through transport or migration.

Mobility is the central theme of my work. I explore how materials, images, and also plants have been transported along long historical trade routes—especially between Japan and European countries. This is also related to my origins: I was born on the island of Amakusa, which was once one of Japan's first trading points with European countries. And an important material for me is urushi lacquer. It is a natural resin that has been used in Japan for thousands of years. In the 16th century, many lacquerware items were brought to Europe as part of colonial trade. And here in my work, I have been using this special material more and more lately.

Through my work, I want to show that things—like people—move, reach new places, and find new roots there. I believe that this is a very important aspect today, where we come from and where we are going.

I'm still new to Neukölln and only moved into my studio here this year.

My favorite place in Neukölln is actually my own studio. I also really like the location.

Neukölln is international and diverse; cafés, studios, project spaces, galleries, museums, and so on are all close together. This makes the district an exciting place for artists.