

PRESS RELEASE

Bremen Studio Grant 2025

Yoriko Seto

Spuren

DECEMBER 14, 2025 – FEBRUARY 1, 2026

OPENING: DEZEMBER 14, 2025, 3 pm

PRESS PREVIEW: DEZEMBER 12, 2025, 11 am

From December 15, 2025 to February 1, 2026, the Künstler:innenhaus Bremen will exhibit the final presentation of Yoriko Seto, recipient of the 2025 Bremen Studio Grant. Born in Japan, Seto works with drawing, animation, artist's books, and objects. In her exhibition, Seto brings together works from the past year in which she interweaves everyday experiences with memories through drawing, reflecting on her family, her growing up in Japan, and her growing older in Germany. These traces come together to form a mosaic of experiences, memories, and reflections on life and its passing.

Drawing is the basis of Seto's artistic practice. Since 2017, she has been working with drawing diaries to record her personal experiences. By capturing seemingly banal things—casual scenes, thoughts, observations—Seto quietly resists forgetting them in her drawings.

Seto not only draws her current thoughts and experiences, but also uses drawing as a form of memory: initially abstract lines give rise to fragments of memories of her friend and aunt who died last year. Seto weaves these fragments of memory into meter-long charcoal drawings in a creative process lasting several months. The artist is just as interested in the traces of memory as she is in the traces of charcoal on the drawing's surface.

The work *uni* (2025), an oversized Japanese school uniform (*seifuku*) sewn from paper and accompanied by an animated film, also arose from the combination of traces of memory and everyday observations. For this work, Seto transferred pigment spots from her skin and that of her friends onto large-format paper and used them to make the uniform. She enlarged the skin spots, which were actually only a few millimeters in size, to almost one meter in her drawings. She then crumpled up these drawings and tried to rub the spots away by rubbing the paper together—similar to how she and her friends treat the spots on their skin with bleaching creams and lasers. Seto transferred this symbolic struggle with social beauty standards and questions of social conformity and belonging into an animated film that accompanies the uniform. The film presents animated drawings of a homogeneous group of figures. A single figure is pulled out by large hands and then dabbed with cream. The fingers of the oversized hands become entangled with the figure.

Seto links her reflections on the traces of her aging with memories of the school uniform she wore as a young girl in Japan. In Japan, seifuku are based on the design of military and naval uniforms from the Meiji era and can be seen as a reflection of society's demands for uniformity and flawlessness. Her individual perspectives and personal experiences are condensed in her artistic practice into traces of universal feelings.

Curated by Clara Kramer

Yoriko Seto's (b. 1975, Fukuoka, Japan, lives and works in Bremen) work includes drawing, animation, and artist's books. In 2024, she completed her master in Fine Arts under Heike Kati Barath at the Hochschule für Künste Bremen. In 2025, she was nominated for the 48th Bremer Förderpreis. Seto most recently presented her work in the exhibitions *Twogether – AusGezeichnete ZeichenSetzung aus und auf Papier* (Twogether – Excellent Signage on and of Paper) at the State Representation of Bremen in Brussels and *Onigiri* at the CIAO exhibition container at Bremen Güterbahnhof. In 2024, her drawings were part of *Anonyme Zeichner & Lines Fiction* (Anonymous Draftsmen & Lines Fiction) at Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien.

Parallel to the final presentation of the Bremen Studio Grant, the 2025 Annual Edition Exhibition 2025 of the Künstler:innenhaus Bremen **In the Between** will open on **December 14 at 3 pm** with new works by James Sturkey, Yun Heo, and Elisa Giardina Papa, as well as editions from previous years.

Artist Talk In the "IN CONVERSATION" series, artist Yoriko Seto talks with curator Clara Kramer about the works in the exhibition *Spuren*. Admission is free, and registration is not required.

1.2.2026 | 3 pm

ADDRESS KH KÜNSTLER:INNENHAUS BREMEN, AM DEICH 68/69, 28199 BREMEN
DURATION DECEMBER 15, 2025 – FEBRUARY 1, 2026 **INFORMATION** KH-BREMEN.DE
E-MAIL GALERIE@KH-BREMEN.DE **TELEPHONE** +49 421 508 598 **ADMISSION** FREE
OPENING HOURS THUR TO SUN 2–6 PM **CURATOR** MARIE OUCHERIF **CURATORIAL ASSISTANT** CLARA KRAMER **KINDLY SUPPORTED BY** SENATOR FÜR KULTUR BREMEN **ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM** SENATOR FÜR KULTUR BREMEN

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