JOSEF KA

Performance / Choreography / Visual Art

Finland / International practice

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ARTISTIC PRACTICE

Josef Ka works across performance, choreography, and visual art, focusing on the body as a site of constructed identity, institutional pressure, and psychological intensity. Her practice moves between live performance, installation, and staged reality, where the boundary between document and fiction is deliberately unstable.

She develops and leads transnational curatorial platforms and long-term collaborative projects in the field of live art.

BIOGRAPHY

Josef Ka (b. Western Siberia; based in Finland) is a performance, visual, and sound artist whose bold, site-specific works merge Butoh dance, cinematic theory, and nomadic world travel. Since 2011, her practice has explored the body as both a lived and symbolic system, navigating tensions between human and post-human existence. Her participatory performances invite audiences into intimate zones of ritual and reverie.

She has presented works at the 6th Moscow Biennale (2015), Venice Biennale (2017), Parallel Vienna (2021), Supermarket Art Fair, Stockholm (2021), Documenta 15, Kassel (2022), Vox Populi, Philadelphia (2023), Grace Exhibition Space, New York (2023), and the Hermann Nitsch Foundation, Austria (2024). Ka has also collaborated with Marina Abramović and has curated Sauna Gallery in Helsinki since 2021.

MAJOR CURATORIAL PROJECTS

SAUNA GALLERY — Helsinki, Finland

Founder & Curator (since 2021)

Independent performance and live art platform supported by City of Helsinki.

ANTIWAR PROJECT — International

Initiator & Artistic Director (2022–2024)

Transnational performance-based project involving artists from approximately 40 countries. Developed in response to war-related and geopolitical contexts.

HEART ATTACK FESTIVAL — International

Initiator & Artistic Director (2023–2025)

3 editions. Artists from approximately 30 countries. International platform for performance and live art developed through distributed collaboration.

WHISPERS AND SCREAMS OF PERFORMANCE ART

International Conversation Series · Initiator & Interviewer (2024–ongoing)

Ongoing series of conversations with established and emerging figures in international performance art. Produced by Sauna Gallery.

SELECTED PERFORMANCE WORKS

2026
FROM FIRE TO FIRE – Galerie HORS-CHAMPS, Paris, France
FOAM OF DAYS – Stre!fen Festival of Performance Art, Görlitz, Germany
ARTIST'S RIGHTS feat. ARTIST'S RITES – Diverse Universe Performance Festival, Pärnu & Tallinn, Estonia
HAPPYSUFFERING.FI – Galleria Rankka, Helsinki, Finland
ARTAUD VARIATIONS – Théâtre Aleph, Paris, France
FLAMMeS feat. JOSEF KA & FRANZ KOGLMANN "COLD SONG" – Porgy & Bess, Vienna, Austria

2025
FINAL CUT – Atelier Galerie Roland Puschitz, Vienna, Austria
THE WHITE ROOM – Katariina Gallery, Helsinki, Finland
EXTENSION – Splitartprojects Festival, Vienna, Austria
LIBERTÉ, ÉGALITÉ, FRATERNITÉ OU LA MORT – Paris, France
LIVE SESSION IN 3 PCS – Fair For Art, Vienna, Austria
FAMILY – Künstlerhaus, Vienna, Austria
SWAN LAKE – Butohpolis, International Festival of Butoh Art, Teatr Akt, Warsaw, Poland

2024
OHNE TITEL – Heartfulness Street Gallery, Vienna, Austria
BEING JOSEF KA – Kunstraum Arcade, Mödling, Austria
SWAN LAKE – Women's World Festival, Berlin, Germany
KAFKA KABARET – Experyment Festival, Kraków, Poland
ASCENSION – Nitsch Foundation, Schloss Prinzendorf, Austria

2023
BRUDERSCHAFT: NYC EDITION – Grace Exhibition Space, New York, USA
PRAYER FOR PERFORMANCE ART – Quantum Critic / Myymälä2, Helsinki, Finland
I AM EDITH SÖDERGRAN – Vox Populi Gallery, Philadelphia, USA

2022
I AM EDITH SÖDERGRAN – Premiere, Arabian Asukastalo, Helsinki, Finland
FUNNY GAMES DURING WAR TIMES – Documenta 15, Kassel, Germany

2021
MY BODY BELONGS TO THE STATE – Parallel Vienna, Vienna, Austria
I AM THE ELEPHANT – Supermarket Art Fair, Stockholm, Sweden
SANDBOX – Annantalo Arts Center, Helsinki, Finland

2020
DEGENERATES – Galleria Rankka, Helsinki, Finland
CTRL 0 – Starptelpa Festival, Riga, Latvia

2017
THE BOX – Vantaa Art Museum Artsi, Vantaa, Finland

2015
FAR AWAY – Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art, Moscow, Russia
LA TIERRA – Out of Mind Festival, Zaragoza, Spain

RESIDENCIES

2026 Diverse Universe Performance Festival Residency – Pärnu, Estonia

2024 Montleartists – Vienna, Austria

2023 Mark Rothko Art Residency – Daugavpils, Latvia
Rosekill Art Residency – Kingston, New York, USA
Fine Art & Architecture Residency – Tamsweg, Austria

2020 HIAP – Helsinki International Artist Programme, Helsinki, Finland

2019 Krastal Residency – Krastal, Austria

2018 Poton Theatre Residency – Slovakia

2017 Pilotenkueche Residency – Leipzig, Germany

AWARDS / GRANTS

2026 Svenska Kulturfonden, Finland (Travel Grant)

2025 Svenska Kulturfonden, Finland (Study Grant)

2024 City of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland (Project Grant)
Föreningen Konstsamfundet, Finland (Project Grant)
Nitsch Foundation, Schloss Prinzendorf, Austria (Project Grant)

2023 City of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland (Project Grant)
Finnish Cultural Foundation (Travel Grant)

2022 City of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland (Project Grant)
Svenska Kulturfonden, Finland (Project Grant)
Nordic Culture Point (Project Grant)

2021 Föreningen Konstsamfundet, Finland (Project Grant)

EDUCATION

MA, University of Culture and Arts, Saint-Petersburg, Russia (2005–2010)

MEMBERSHIPS

Artists Association of Finland
Artists' Association MUU
Catalysti

PRESS

2026 **ARTAUD VARIATIONS ACT #1** – article by Jean-Marie Bellemain, Paris, February 2026

2025 **FORMAT Magazin, Poland** – article by Alexandra Holownia, December 2025
SWAN LAKE – review by Sandra Wilk, Strona Tańca, Butohpolis, Warsaw, April 2025

2024 **OHNE TITEL** – text by Otto Kapfinger, Heartfulness Street Gallery, Vienna, November 2024

2023 **HBL — Hufvudstadsbladet, Helsinki** – interview / feature, February 2023
Nordic Culture Point – interview about I AM EDITH SÖDERGRAN, 2023
El Rizo Robado, Mexico – "Josef Ka: el arte del performance", November 2023

PUBLICATIONS

2023 **IMMERSIVE LIVE ART TOUR 8** – New York, editor: Cai Qing

2022 **OVERLAPPING KASSEL** – editor: Cai Qing
BEING JOSEF KA #2 – photo album by Mark Maher

2021 **SHOOTING JOSEF KA** – photo album by Walter Ulreich

2019 **BEING JOSEF KA** – photo album by Mark Maher

2017 **RASCALS** – Vantaa Art Museum Artsi, Finland