

The Brazilian Embassy in Tokyo presents

I WILL

“FOREIGN PORTRAIT”

*Exhibition / Dance Theatre /
Cinema / Live Performance*



November of 2025

Tokyo welcomes “I WILL – Foreign Portrait”

A rite of migration in the form of living art

Exhibition, Talks, Film, Performance

This November, Japan’s capital hosts a stage experience that transcends borders. “I WILL – Foreign Portrait”, conceived by Brazilian artist Will Lopes, arrives at the Embassy of Brazil in Tokyo as a performance-installation merging migration, memory, and ritual into a sensorial, critical, and poetic encounter. The visual and spatial design by Nina Coimbra transforms the gallery into a territory of passage, where the personal becomes collective and the migratory body becomes a site of reflection. Originating from the artist’s own biography, the work expands toward a universal field, recognizing migration as an impulse inherent to nature and confronting the barriers that interrupt its flow in the contemporary world.

Visitors enter a space drawn by symbolic borders. Between objects, photographs, gestures, and sounds, fragments appear without immediate connection. Meaning emerges through the spectator’s own movement, weaving together memory, presence, and imagination. At the end, a short film unfolds as an open synthesis of the exhibited fragments. Rather than closing interpretations, it expands questions on migration rights, colonial structures, identity, dreams, and belonging amid forced displacements and hardened frontiers.

The language blends dance, theatre, and audiovisual composition. The physicality of Japanese Butoh intersects with a Brazilian corporeality that manifests as ritual. Everyday objects acquire symbolic and sacred dimensions, opening layers of time and ancestry. The work’s dramaturgy resists linear discourse, seeking instead the resonances between images, sounds, and gestures that reconfigure meaning within the migratory journey.

In Tokyo, the presentation is part of the 130th anniversary of friendship and diplomatic relations between Brazil and Japan. Through their collaboration, the Brazilian artists trace an exchange between the sensibilities of Brazilian popular art and the aesthetic and philosophical influences of Japanese tradition, particularly Butoh. The exhibition opens on November 18 at 3 p.m. with a live performance by Will Lopes at the Embassy of Brazil in Tokyo, followed by public talks and a film screening that connect artists and audiences in dialogue around pressing questions of identity, culture, and movement across borders.

The initiative thus strengthens the bridges between Brazil and Japan, connecting tradition and artistic research within a living context of circulation — of people, ideas, and sensibilities. It speaks to those who follow the performing arts and to those who explore the language of images and exhibition design. Above all, it resonates with those who understand that the theme of migration does not belong solely to migrants. It belongs to all of us. Each visitor, by entering the installation, composes their own path and shapes their version of what a “foreign portrait” can be — one that shifts at every step, with every subtle movement of the gaze.

Synopsis

“I WILL – Foreign Portrait” is a performance-installation by Will Lopes, with spatial and visual design by Nina Coimbra, transforming the migratory journey into a sensorial, critical, and poetic experience. The audience moves through a space marked by symbolic borders, where objects, photographs, gestures, and sounds find connection through the spectator’s body. The path culminates in a short film that expands questions of migration rights, colonial structures, identity, and belonging. The work merges dance, theatre, and audiovisual language, shaped by the spirit of Japanese Butoh in dialogue with a Brazilian corporeality that unfolds as ritual.

In its Tokyo presentation, the installation also features a live electroacoustic music performance by Austrian sound artist Christoph Punzmann and Swiss composer Girilal Baars, whose experimental soundscapes envelop the space and expand the emotional and sensory atmosphere of the piece.

Presented at the Embassy of Brazil in Tokyo, the work forms part of the year celebrating Brazil–Japan relations, proposing an encounter that strengthens cultural bridges while inviting each visitor to craft their own foreign portrait.

Event Information

I WILL – Foreign Portrait

By Will Lopes

Curated and featuring objects by Nina Coimbra

Live music by Christoph Punzmann & Girilal Baars

Photographs by Dino Rekanović and Christoff Wiesinger

Opening performance: November 18, 3 p.m.

Venue: Embassy of Brazil in Tokyo

General Program

Tuesday, November 18

- 3 p.m. Opening of the exhibition and performance “I WILL – Foreign Portrait” (approximately 60 minutes).

Wednesday, November 19

- 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Exhibition open to the public.
- 2:30 p.m.
 - Talk 1: “Looking for a Brazilian Butoh” with Will Lopes
 - Theme: Japanese Butoh Dance × Brazilian Corporeality.
 - Talk 2: “Enchanted Objects” with Nina Coimbra
 - Theme: Popular art, contemporary Brazilian furniture, affections, and memories.
- 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. Time for the audience to revisit the exhibition and exchange ideas.

Thursday, November 20

- 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Exhibition open to the public.
- 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. Film screening (18 minutes) and conversation with the artists.
- 5 p.m. – 6 p.m. Open space for public interaction.
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Tuesday, November 25

- 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Exhibition open to the public, no scheduled activities.

Wednesday, November 26

- 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Exhibition open to the public.

Credits

Exhibition and Live Performance

Concept, Direction, and Performance: **Will Lopes**

Exhibition Design and Object Curation: **Nina Coimbra**

Photographic Exhibition: **Dino Rekanović and Christoff Wiesinger**

Live Music: **Christoph Punzmann & Girilal Baars**

Duration: **50 minutes**

Short Film

Production: **.ditiramb**

Script, Direction, and Performance: **Will Lopes**

Cinematography and Camera: **Dino Rekanović**

Second Camera: **Amar Tahirović**

Field Production: **Goran Bećirčić**

Editing: **Rafael Frasão**

Assistant Director: **Andressa Viana**

Music Composition and Sound Design: **Christoph Punzmann**

Choreography Assistant: **Christa Stöffelbauer**

Duration: **18 minutes**

Vienna, 2024

Click here [For more about the art work](#)

BASEADO EM FATOS REAIS

I Will Foreign Portrait

DINO
REKANOVIC
PHOTOGRAPHY

by
WILL
LOPES
CONCEPT & PERFORMANCE

NINA
COIMBRA
CURATORSHIP & OBJECTS

THEATRE, DANCE, PERFORMANCE, FILM, PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION, AND MULTIMEDIA INSTALLATION ABOUT MIGRATION. BASED ON THE TESTIMONY OF AN IMMIGRANT ARTIST WHO RECENTLY ARRIVED IN EUROPE, THE WORK UNFOLDS FROM A PERSONAL CONTEXT TO REACH AN ARCHETYPAL LEVEL OF CONFLICT. COULD THE MIGRATORY MOVEMENT BE PART OF THE VERY ESSENCE OF BEING HUMAN?

O ARTISTA

WILL LOPES



Will Lopes

Will Lopes is a Brazilian Butoh dancer, actor, performer, body trainer, and theatre director. With a background in Theatre from the University of Brasília and a Master's degree in Communication and Semiotics from PUC São Paulo, his work builds bridges between theatre, dance, ritual, and visual arts.

His artistic journey spans Butoh, circus arts, martial arts, and physical theatre, marked by a distinctive sensibility toward embodied expression and intercultural dialogue.

Since 2018, Will has been based in Vienna, where he creates performances, leads workshops, and collaborates with institutions such as the New Vienna Opera, Lalish Theaterlabor, Photon Gallery, Aerial Silk Vienna, and Phoenix Circus Arts Center. His work has taken him across Italy, Germany, France, Belgium, Poland, Japan, Turkey, Norway, and Brazil, participating in festivals, tours, and creative residencies.

In 2022, he founded the Hybrid Butoh Vienna Art Festival, which has since become an expanding international platform for contemporary Butoh. Supported by the City of Vienna and the Austrian Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport (BMKOE), he directed his first short film *I Will – Foreign Portrait* and developed the experimental circus project *Muiraquitã Bamboo*. In 2024, he presented the immersive performance-installation *I Will – Foreign Portrait* at the Semper Depot in Vienna, earning recognition at the Rotlicht Analog Photo Festival.

Will is currently part of the directing teams of *Echolot – Kulturverein für transdisziplinäre Kunst & Artistic Research* and *Das LOT WINE*, initiatives dedicated to transdisciplinary art creation and artistic research in Austria.

Get more at: [LINK](#)

A ARTISTA

NINA COIMBRA



Nina Coimbra is a designer, visual artist, and curator from Brasília. Her practice spans authorial furniture design – inspired by modernism and artisanal traditions – and exhibition projects that interweave sustainability, materiality, and collective memory.

As a curator, she has led international programs and exhibitions such as Casa Brasil (New York, 2022), Design Week México (2022), and Brasília Design Week (2024–25), in addition to curating shows at major Brazilian institutions including the Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil (CCBB) and the Museum of Art of Brasília.

As an artist, she has exhibited in leading group shows and fairs such as Miami Basel (2023) and Fuori Salone (Milan, 2025). Her work merges traditional craft techniques with contemporary research, resulting in pieces and installations that move fluidly between utilitarian object and conceptual sculpture.

In *I WILL – Foreign Portrait*, Nina signs the exhibition design and presents a selection of objects from her own collection, offering a sensorial reading of furniture as a vessel of affection and memory across transnational dialogues.

Get more at: [LINK](#)



Contact

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