Bijutsu Techō (□□□□) · 14 January 2020 · No individual byline shown

# What scores written on the naked body convey: Bodyscore – the soul signature opens at CHANEL Nexus Hall

English translation of the complete available article text.

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NEWS / REPORT

Bodyscore – the soul signature has opened at CHANEL Nexus Hall in Ginza, Tokyo. The Paris-based contemporary composer Jacopo Baboni Schilingi has drawn attention since 2007 for his distinctive practice of writing musical scores on the human body.

14 January 2020

Bodyscore – the soul signature, an exhibition by contemporary composer Jacopo Baboni Schilingi, has opened at CHANEL Nexus Hall in Ginza, Tokyo. He began composing at eight and went on to conduct research in acoustics and music at the Centre Pompidou.

Baboni Schilingi composes for orchestras, ensembles and soloists and creates sound for installations and moving images. In 2007 he began writing scores on the naked human body, a practice that has become a hallmark of his work.

Views of the exhibition.

The practice began with his Second String Quartet. When he heard it in rehearsal, he recalled feeling disappointed, as if someone else had written the piece. “Why did that happen? Because my way of writing had changed. I had switched from handwritten scores to working on a computer and realised I was thinking in binary terms.”

“For me, writing a score on a computer is entirely different from writing by hand. The present is made up of accumulated time, but when you delete something or undo a change on a computer, that accumulation disappears. Writing is sacred, and the human body is what it should be written on. Since 2007 I have invited models to my studio and composed by writing the scores on them.”

Exhibition view: Kaori Asahiro - violin 2 part (N.5), the second violin part of the Fifth String Quartet.

The scores are written all over the body, on arms, legs, chests, necks and faces. The models are all artists, including actors and photographers. From a long list of models, Baboni Schilingi chooses the person he feels best suits each piece.

The placement of the score matters. Although the writing covers the body, Baboni Schilingi says that the notation on the face has particular importance.

“The face expresses a person’s identity most clearly, so I write the deepest part of the music, its essence, there. I hope people notice the delicacy of the writing.”

View of the exhibition.

The exhibition presents 30 works written and photographed between 2016 and 2019. The Fifth String Quartet is at its centre.

The four photographs in the middle of the exhibition room show the scores for the first violin, second violin, viola and cello. When a visitor stands in front of one photograph, its part plays. Only when all four photographs have someone in front of them does the full quartet sound.

The exhibition invites visitors to experience this encounter between photography and music.

Exhibition view: Alexandre Alaj - viola part (N.5), the viola part of the Fifth String Quartet.

Editorial staff.