

**Asian Arts & Culture Program at the Fine Arts Center
University of Massachusetts Amherst**
In collaboration with the Five College Dance Department

For Immediate Release

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WHAT: Tyler Tyler by Yasuko Yakoshi

WHEN: Wednesday, October 6 at 7:30PM

WHERE: Bowker Auditorium, UMass Amherst

TICKETS: Fine Arts Center Box Office 545-2511/ 1-800-999-UMAS
www.umasstix.com

“....the work is a considerable achievement that takes up residence in the memory and lingers, its details slowly becoming clearer, its mysteries more resonant.”-- ROSLYN SULCAS, *The New York Times*

The UMass Fine Arts Center Asian Arts & Culture Program presents **Tyler Tyler** a new work by choreographer and Hampshire College alumna, Yasuko Yakoshi on Wednesday, October 6 at 7:30PM in the Bowker Auditorium. Tickets are \$15 for the general public and \$10 for students. Please call the box office at 413-545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS. Online at: umasstix.com.

Yasuko Yokoshi’s art-making explores the complex interconnectedness of culture and history that frames our perspective of contemporary life. Her inspiration for **Tyler Tyler** comes from *The Tale of the Heike*, a classic 12th century Japanese epic. The work features elements from Japanese Kabuki dance tradition, western contemporary dance, music, theater and video. **Tyler Tyler** continues Yokoshi’s unique collaboration with her revered master teacher of Kabuki Su-odori dance, Masumi Seyama. Performed by a cast of six, **Tyler Tyler** will feature two American contemporary dancers, one American musician and three Japanese

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dancers/actors, trained under Ms. Seyama. Original music performed by the composer, Steven Reker, on voice, toy piano and bass guitar (referencing the sound of the Japanese shamisen), is inspired by Japanese folk songs. The music also includes recorded works by Ryuichi Sakamoto, Cat Power, Lou Reed and The Carpenters.

Yasuko Yokoshi was born in Hiroshima, Japan and currently lives and works in New York City. Her work has been presented at the Guggenheim Museum, the Whitney Museum of American Art, Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, The Kitchen, Danspace Project, Dance Theater Workshop, the Japan Society, P.S. 122, and abroad at the Festival a/d Werf and Frascati Theater (Holland), and the Festival Sommerszene (Austria). Her recent awards include a Guggenheim Fellowship (2009) and a Foundation for Contemporary Arts Award (2008). Yakoshi holds a B.A. from Hampshire College, has studied acting and directing at New York University, and holds a first degree black belt in Kendo, a Japanese martial art.

In speaking of **Tyler Tyler**, Yasuko Yakoshi states: “Putting Japanese classical Kabuki dance/theater and American postmodern dance together onstage—in a contemporary retelling of a war tragedy from Japanese history — I will experiment with how much culture in an art form is transferable, particularly in our fluid, mobile world, where the merging of cultures is more prevalent than ever.”

Please see our website at www.fineartscenter.com/asian for additional information. Tickets available online: www.fineartscenter.com or by calling 1-800-999-UMAS or 413-545-2511. Downloadable high resolution photos and electronic versions of press releases for performance events are available at: <http://www.umass.edu/fac/asian/press.html>.

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