

Tsuneko Kokubo (aka 'Koko') was born in Steveston BC in 1937, then raised in Japan where, as a young child, she studied classical ballet and Japanese dance. Returning to Canada in her late teens, she studied Fine Arts for four years at Vancouver School of Art (now Emily Carr University).

She has worked extensively as a physical theatre performer, costume designer, and installation artist, and has studied *Butoh* with various masters from Japan. For many years, she, with Paul Gibbons and Gerardo Avila, was Co-Artistic Director of Snake in the Grass Moving Theatre. This company was resident at the UBC Museum of Anthropology for 13 years, and has performed nationally and internationally in major museums, theatres and galleries. It was recognized with the United Nations *Global 500* environmental award in 1990, and performed the monumental multi-media production of *Ghosts in the Machine* at the 25th Anniversary of the United Nations Environmental Programme in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1992.

Since moving to the Kootenays in 1994, Tsuneko Kokubo has returned to being a full-time painter, working mainly in oils and acrylics. She has had numerous exhibitions, and has paintings in private collections in Canada, Europe, Japan, Mexico and the USA. In the last 3 years she has had major exhibitions at Touchstones (Nelson), Kootenay Gallery of Art (Castlegar), Gallery 2 (Grand Forks), and the Langham (Kaslo).

She has been the subject of several film/video documentaries including *Falling From the Sky* (directed by Moira Simpson) which was a 2011 Vancouver International Film Festival selection.