



collage

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ERIKA KOBAYASHI
*Seance – a Daughter's Daughter
and a Father, 2021*
She waited for the sacred
Olympic fire



Artist Statements & Biographies

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She Waited. She waited – for the sacred Olympic flame to come to her city, for its light to illuminate everything. The flame was resurrected, passed from torch to torch from Greece, the land of Olympia, to Nazi Germany. Three years after the Berlin Olympics, the Nazi army invaded, as if following the sacred fire's path – the flames burned all in their path to ashes.

She waited – it was one year later, after the Tokyo Olympics failed to happen. The Japanese Imperial Army marched, flames burning all in their path to ashes.

She waited – the bombs she'd so anticipated ended up dropping on Japan instead, illuminating everything around them as they burned all to ashes. The war ended, but life did not. Torch in hand, men descend into darkness.

Writer and artist Erika Kobayashi was born in 1978 in Tokyo, Japan, where she lives and works. Her internationally exhibited installations enable viewers to re-experience scenes from her writings. Her novel His Last Bow won the 2022 Japan Sherlock Holmes Club Encouragement Award and was the subject of an exhibition in London.

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