

## PRESS RELEASE

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Company: sarAika

Contact: Sara Pizzi & Aika Takeshima

Email: [contact@saraikacreation.com](mailto:contact@saraikacreation.com)

Website: <https://saraikacreation.com>

Phone: (347) 615-7005 (Sara Pizzi)

**JAANY (Japanese Artists Association of New York) in collaboration with sarAika  
movement collective join**

### ***JAPAN DAY'S FIRST EVER JAPAN PARADE IN NYC***

**an evening length community event**

May 14th, 1pm, Central Park West between 81st Street and 68th street

New York City, May 14th, 2022 -- JAANY (Japanese Artists Association of New York) is proud to participate the first ever JAPAN DAY'S JAPAN PARADE in NYC celebrating their 50th anniversary collaborating with the dance company sarAika movement collective, by Aika Takeshima and Sara Pizzi. The parade will start at 1pm EST and will proceed along Central Park West between 81st Street and 68th Street (heading south towards 68th Street). Every year the festival Japan Day celebrates Japanese culture, art, tradition, and food at Central Park, designed to introduce Japanese culture to New Yorkers and to connect with the local Japanese community. The Japan Parade will be the first parade in New York to honor the Japanese people and their heritage. JAANY's theme is "Artists Move Forward and Fly Towards the Future" symbolized by the dragon drawn on the opening bunner. sarAika dancers will execute a task improvisation dance inspired by the JANNY's theme and the image of the dragon, moving on the music of emergent japanese artists.

Founded in 1972, Japanese Artists Association of New York (JAANY), a non-profit organization, with membership of approximately fifty artists in the metropolitan area, was established for the following reasons: to assist Japanese artists living and working in New York, to organize exhibitions of members works and related Japanese works, to establish an information center for Japanese visual arts & to help improve cultural relations, and exchange information between Japan and the United States.

sarAika is a movement collective created by Aika Takeshima and Sara Pizzi who are immigrants, activists, LGBTQIA+, choreographers, and dancers creating conceptual dance, interactive performances, contemporary dance films, improvisation-based live shows, and collaborations with painters, videographers, musicians, and visual artists. sarAika's mission is to help people find freedom and possibilities within themselves using our movements, words, and passion. Their art is a form of activism, documenting key issues and topics, highlighting how people may change, and creating space for reflection. For them, art is social action. They make art about and for people. Thus achieving their goal that people may be authentic to themselves, bringing comfort in togetherness, to ultimately grow the strength and bond of their community.

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For more information, please email [contact@saraikacreation.com](mailto:contact@saraikacreation.com) , call (347) 615-7005, or visit <https://saraikacreation.com>