

Living and working as a half-Japanese and half-German in Germany for a long time, the focus of Ms. Takagi's personal artwork was to create books about Japanese culture. The intention of writing and designing books about Japanese topics was to make German readers curious about the strange and foreign culture, to give them an insight in to it. In the last eleven years she published six books about different Japanese aspects of culture. Especially one of the last publication about onomatopoeia shows one special feature of the Japanese language, of describing abstract things as emotions, movements and characteristics with sounds and turning them into words. This project was combining two aspects of her work, her background of teaching typography and her interest in making cultural facets visible.

Moving to Hong Kong and teaching as an assistant professor at the Academy of Visual Arts of HKBU gives her new influences and inspiration for starting new projects. Her background of having taught in Germany typography and graphic design over eight years, gives her the necessary qualification for starting a research project not only to learn more about her new cultural environment, but making the Hong Kong (design) culture visible to an international audience. At this moment she is digesting her Hong Kong experience in two different ways. One is a personal book project telling about her emotional perception of her new environment in the first year. The second approach is based on research projects in the area of typography. One is called "Typographic culture of Hong Kong" in which is related to current trends and developments in typographic design. The second research project aims to capture the methodology of Chinese typeface design (first the complex characters) which address not only a Chinese but an international audience.