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KOTARO NUKAGA
August 6, 2021

A group exhibition by nine artists ‘The Past in Motion’ will be held to reinterpret the past. Through memories within materialized works, an examination of the relationship between past and present will be unfolded.

KOTARO NUKAGA, Tennoz will be pleased to announce a group exhibition by nine artists, ‘The Past in Motion’ from August 7th (Sat) to September 11th (Sat), 2021.

KOTARO NUKAGA coordinated installation of artworks in guest rooms, restaurants, and lounges of the auberge “HIRAMATSU Karuiwaza Miyota” at Miyota City, beside Karuiwaza City, Nagano-prefecture. In the theme of “a stay encountering the memories”, we aimed to rediscover the history of Miyota City and memories of its land, and arranged variety of artworks from Jomon pottery found under the auberge to Contemporary artworks. Based on this theme at the auberge, the next exhibition will deepen our thoughts towards the relationship between memories of the past and now.

Where do we exist in this flowing time? If time is irreversible and is stretching one way like an arrow, we are facing a new future every moment in our consecutive events, moreover there are traces of the arrows, the past, behind us that keep the immense accumulation of events. The traces of villages and potteries by Jomon people tell us that their history truly existed at that place; therefore, we can say that all artworks regardless of their media or genre, is and will belong to the past. At the same time, if we do not have any
memories, whether by a priori or one’s experience, we cannot find a way to perceive the object in front of us. Even if we can see the object, the quality and value are decided subjectively based on one’s experiences. Therefore, to perceive the present means referring to the past every time. If we state artworks as pins of the artist’s thoughts of that time, when we carefully reopen the memories inside the artwork, they will speak more than just an object. There will be diverse hooks that will interrogate viewers’ experiences and emotions. This rediscovery of the past through a new perspective will always be in motion.

Artists in this exhibition are very diverse. Jean-Eugène Atget, the pioneer of modern photography in France, took the changing landscape of “vieux Paris (old Paris)”, such as historical architecture, avenues, shops, windows, gardens, and people living in Paris. Darren Almond, who took a series of photography using the light of full moon, captured by a long exposure, challenges the movement of time. Gentaro Ishizuka, who exhibited images of light captured in Saint Marie de La Tourette, the masterpiece by the father of modern architect, Le Corbusier, and his assistant who later became a contemporary musician, Iannis Xenakis, located near Lyon, France. Hirofumi Isoya, who rethink the aspect of cognition in a unique way in which he transforms color photograph to sepia color, then paints the frame with those colors that have been erased from the photograph. Since the 1970s, Kyoji Takubo, has been actively presenting his pieces as “Landscape Art”, a concept where a piece of art lively stays as a place of expression after the absence of the artist, as well as participating in various restoration projects. Through the split between media and within the medium, Koichi Tabata diversifies the subject in front from a different way, and delicately emerges the images that embody time and space that have passed by. Ritsue Mishima had great attention by its expression of the energy of a specific place by absorbing air and light in her works. She recently has been creating artworks related to multi-genres such as architect, fashion, and design. Tomoko Yoneda’s works have also been taking attention worldwide for her combination of journalistic perspectives and how imaginations and interpretations are open to the viewer. Man Ray, who joined the Surrealist movement became an iconic figure through his variety of methods, such as paintings, graphics, experimental films and especially photography.

All these artists have different methods and approaches, but we can say that they all re-interpret the past and leaves us spaces for new narratives.

In this exhibition ‘The Past in Motion’, we will also exhibit Jomon potteries and shards of them. To an extent, potteries and artworks are the same because both carry the memories of those who have been created. In a time where memories can be saved as immaterial data, the exhibition will refold the memories of these materialized works. We hope you would experience the in-betweenness of the past and present in our exhibition.
[Exhibition details]

‘The Past in Motion’

Date: August 7 (Sat) - September 11(Sat), 2021
Opening hours: 11:00-18:00 (Tue - Sat)
*Closed on Sun, Mon and Public Holidays
*Schedule and contents are subject to change at the request of the national and local governments.

[Venue]

KOTARO NUKAGA, Tennoz
TERRADA Art Complex 3F, 1-33-10 Higashi-Shinagawa, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, 140-0002 Japan
Access: 8minutes walk from Tokyo Waterfront-area Rapid Transit Rinkai Line, Tennozu Isle station
10minutes walk from Tokyo Monorail Haneda Line, Tennouz Isle station
8minutes walk from Keikyu Main Line, Shimbamba station

[Artists]

Jean-Eugène Atget
Born 1857 in a village near Boudreaux, Southwest France, and died in 1927 in Paris. He dreamed to become an actor but quit at the beginning of his career. Then he moved to Montparnasse and gave documents and lectures to artists living there, as well as taking photographs for his living. Within 30 years after that, he left around 8000 photographs behind, and although these were found after Atget’s death it has become an important document to know how Paris was like back then. Atget’s perspective is now highly rated and is known as the father of modern photography in France.

Darren Almond
Born in 1971 in Wigan, England, and graduated Winchester School of Arts. He is London based and have been exhibiting works of flip clocks and photographs using the light of full moon, captured by long exposure to make a change in the movement of time. He often takes photographs in distant places such as the North Atlantic, Siberia, and wild areas of Mount Hieizan. These intense works, facing diverse land climate and severe nature as well as the reality of people living, has been exhibited in many different countries.

Gentaro Ishizuka
Born in 1977 in Tokyo. A photographer who combines documentary and artistic approaches to explore social issues, creating an image by using 8x10 film camera. In recent years, he started taking landscape photographs at Austria, Patagonia, Iceland, and Alaska with motifs such as goldrushes, pipelines, and glaciers. His photobook “PIPELINE ICELAND/ALASKA” (published from Kodansha), a culmination of his early
works was awarded by the Higashikawa Awards in 2014, and a grand prize for Steidl Book Award Japan in 2016. His latest photobook “GOLD RUSH ALASKA” is planned to be published by Steidl, Germany.

**Hirofumi Isoya**
Born in 1978 in Tokyo. After graduating BA Architecture course at Tokyo University of the Arts, he studied art in the MA Intermedia Art course of the same university, and Associate Research Program at Goldsmiths College, University of London. He examines the perception of time and the coherence of cognitions through sculptures, photographs, drawings, and methods intersecting them. He has been joining many group exhibitions in different countries and has been collected by Pompidou Center, Paris as well as San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

**Kyoji Takubo**
Born in 1949 in Ehime. From his early career, he has been exhibiting in countries abroad as well as in Japan, such as Paris Biennale 1975 and Venice Biennale 1984. Moved to Normandy, France in 1989. He launched a restoration project of an abandoned chapel made in the sixteenth century for 11 years in total. This restoration project, ‘La Chapelle des Pommiers’, was highly applauded and Takubo received the Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters from the French Minister of Culture. After returning to Japan, he has been creating works and projects in the theme of “Landscape Art”.

**Kouichi Tabata**
Born in 1979 in Tochigi. Graduated BA Intermedia Art course at Tokyo University of the Arts in 2004, and the MA Painting course at the same university in 2006. Since 2011 he was granted for Pola Art Foundation and is now based in Berlin. He creates motional paintings as well as video works constructed by restrictions of paintings, and he is recently known for his series “one way or another”, a painting series using a “split” within media.

**Ritsue Mishima**
Born in 1962 in Kyoto. Moved to Venice, Italy in 1989 but is also based in Kyoto since 2011. With the collaboration of glassworks artisan in Murano she used Venetian glass, a glass with high transparency and consistency, to create an outline of light. These works are also highly rated as public artworks because it expresses the energy of its specific place by absorbing the surrounding light and air. Today, she is creating artworks related to multi-genres such as architect, fashion, and design.

**Tomoko Yoneda**
Born in 1965 in Hyogo. Graduated MA Royal College of Art, London in 1991 and is an artist based in
London. Through the elaborate research into history, the memories of the land and artifacts, she has been showing photography that unfolds “the gap between visible and invisible”. She is best known for the series “Between Visible and Invisible”, where she took documents and music scores related to an intellectual and photographed through the glass lenses that was been used whilst alive.

**Man Ray**

Born in 1890 in Philadelphia and died in 1976 in Paris. His early career was based in New York, but moved to Paris in 1921. He joined the Surrealist movement and became the iconic figure through his variety of methods, such as paintings, graphics, experimental films and especially photography. These photographs have been seen as important not just for their artistic aspect but for their historical documenting.

**[Artworks]**

![Gentaro Ishizuka “Ondulator” #001”2017/2021](image1)

![Jean-Eugene Atget “Port dans la rue Eau de Robec, Rouen” 1908 1977](image2)

![Hirofumi Isaya “Shadow Makes Light” 2020](image3)

![Jomon pottery. Jomon era](image4)

**PRESS CONTACT**

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