

[Press Release]

Shigeo TOYA
Body of the Gaze

Sat., September 21 - Sat., October 19, 2019



Shigeo TOYA, *Body of the Gaze* (detail), 2019

ShugoArts is pleased to announce the opening of *Body of the Gaze* by Shigeo Toya from the 21st of September.

— Why do we add 'sculpture,' an excess, into this world even though the world is perfect in its own right?

As a student, experiencing the transition of contemporary sculpture from the 1960s to 1980s, Shigeo Toya sought his artistic style in the history of essential senses by reclaiming sculpture from the conceptual world. According to Toya, "The human urge to create most likely originates in a certainty that something exists where there is nothing." And then, he goes on to propose us a question, "How do we make sculpture depicting the invisible exist in the visible world again?" His hypothesis and subsequent scrutiny assures us that his practice extends beyond

modern sculpture and is deeply connected to ontological questions that us humans have had since ancient times.



Shigeo TOYA, *Bamboo Grove II*, 1975

In 1975, Toya made a performance piece named *Bamboo Grove* as a device in order to realize sculpture representing the invisible. In *Bamboo Grove*, the artist stretches ropes between bamboo trees without touching any bamboo and walks through the bamboo grove holding the ropes in the same way. This performance visualizes the trajectories of his gaze and the traces of his walk while creating an intersection between the gaze and body. By making invisible lines visible, negative spaces positive, and altering the relationship between the seen and the unseen, Toya presented his sculptural philosophy in which he argued that sculpture be created from the integration of the numerous gazes. Since then, he has produced many works of sculpture such as his masterpiece *Woods*, whose structure is carved by an assemblage of diagonal lines of the gaze, and the rest is history.



Shigeo TOYA 《Woods IX》 Installation view

Shigeo TOYA, *Memories in the cave*, Vangi Sculpture Garden Museum, Shizuoka, 2011

Photo by Tadasu Yamamoto

— The world alienates sculpture.

The world is constructed and carved by the gaze.

It “constructs” like it “carves,” and it “carves” like it “constructs.”

“Carving” exposes “constructs,” and “constructs” entice “carving.”

“Carving” is the gaze to see the gaze.

“Constructing” is to shove things into the gaps cut through by the gaze.

For The Second Hara Annual exhibition in 1981

Shigeo Toya's sculptures and discourse up to now, including this exhibition *Body of the Gaze*, have retained consistency and the body of his work is an example of how his sculpture discourse can develop over time. With his new artworks, Toya skillfully visualizes absence which can be culminated in a mass carved by flashes of his chainsaw, or the gaze to be more specific. *Body of the Gaze* provokes an assemblage of the very title while creating its own aura or excavating invisible ruins and relics in order for the viewer to see the sculptural body of the gaze in one's head through tactile sensations of the gaze. This is a chance to witness a part of the 72-year-old sculptor Shigeo Toya's half-century-old sculptural view. Please visit us while the exhibition is on view.

August 2019, ShugoArts

Born in Ogawa, Nagano, Japan, in 1947. It has been a while since he has been accepted as one of the leading sculptors in Japan and Asia-Pacific at large thanks to his body of work, which is based on his exceptional sculptural view. Selected exhibitions: The 43rd Venice Biennale, Japanese Pavilion, Venice, 1998; *Yama - Mori - Mura*, Kuma Museum of Art, Ehime, 1994; *Forest of Visions*, Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Hiroshima, 1995; The 3rd Kwangju Biennale, Kwangju, Korea, 2000; *Shigeo Toya: Folds, Gazes and Anima of the Woods*, Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Aichi, 2003; *Memories in the cave*, Vangi Sculpture Garden Museum, Shizuoka, 2011-12; *Shigeo Toya - Sculpture to Emerge*, Musashino Art University Museum & Library, Tokyo, 2017. Selected publications: *Shigeo Toya - Sculpture and Words (Choukoku-To-Kotoba) 1974-2013*, Vangi Sculpture Garden Museum, 2014; *Shigeo Toya - Sculpture to Emerge*, Musashino Art University Museum & Library, 2017

Exhibition overview

Shigeo TOYA *Body of the Gaze*

Sat., September 21 - Sat., October 19, 2019

Venue: ShugoArts, complex665 2F, 6-5-24, Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0032

Opening Hours: Tue-Sat 11am-7pm, closed on Sun, Mon and Public Holidays

Opening Party: From 5pm to 7pm, Sat., September 21, 2019

Reference

▼Shigeo TOYA interview, October 2016



Movie

<http://shugoarts.com/en/news-en/878/>



Text

<https://bit.ly/331qZ3P>

ShugoArts complex665 2F, 6-5-24, Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0032

Enquiry Press: Nayuta Otani / +81 3 6447 2234 / nayuta@shugoarts.com