

MORIMURA Yasumasa and MISHIMA Ritsue

Where I Am Standing

Saturday, October 30 - Saturday, November 27, 2021



MORIMURA Yasumasa

Self-Portraits of Youth (Shunsuke Matsumoto / Where Am I Standing? 1)

2016, Chromogenic print, 160x124cm, ed.5

ShugoArts is pleased to announce the opening of a two-person exhibition by Morimura Yasumasa and Mishima Ritsue, *Where I Am Standing*, from October 30, 2021.

This is going to be our first attempt to realize a collaborative project with Morimura Yasumasa, who creates series of photographic self-portraits disguised as figures in art history from around the world and historical

figures of the 20th century, and Mishima Ritsue, who utilizes glassblowing to create her artworks on Murano Island in Venice, Italy.

Although their art practices seem to be distinct from each other at first glance, these two artists found the keyword of this exhibition in Morimura's work in which he disguises himself as Matsumoto Shunsuke's self-portrait. Titled *Where Am I Standing ?*, this work features *Standing Figure*(1942), a masterpiece by Matsumoto Shunsuke who had an ambition to become a painter despite his loss of hearing and fought against the wartime nationalistic art trend.

An artist should place an artistic flag on the ground where he stands and execute his art practice while facing the world. The two artists have explored art phenomena from the places in which they arrived on their own; Morimura has always reconstructed modern and contemporary history focusing on “himself” from Japan while Mishima has explored ways to sculpt light by using glass as an artistic material from Venice. In this chaotic day and age, how and where each and every one of us stands carries more weight.



MISHIMA Ritsue "IN GRIMANI, Ritsue Mishima Glass Works" installation view
2013, Museum of Palazzo Grimani, Collateral Event of the 55th International Art Exhibition - Venice Biennale, Venice

In this exhibition, Morimura showcases several works from *Self-Portraits through Art History* series such as Jan van Eyck, Albrecht Dürer, Da Vinci, Caravaggio and Van Gogh, in addition to Matsumoto Shunsuke, while Mishima produces new works dedicated to those figures. When Morimura disguises himself as the subject of his artwork, he does not imitate the existing character like others have done, but creates his original self-portrait utilizing his interpretation and imagination. Just like Morimura's art practice, Mishima will create her glass gifts while analyzing those figures from her own vantage point, imagining what kind of artworks they would like or what kind of light would illuminate their personalities the most.

This exhibition is a collaboration not only between Morimura and Mishima, but also with artists from the past. Constructed with the world full of layered imagination, this exhibition will provide us with a collaboration of artists beyond time and space. We hope you will enjoy this special exhibition.

September 2021, ShugoArts



MORIMURA Yasumasa
Self-Portraits through Art History (Dürer's Hand Is Another Face)
2016, Chromogenic print, transparent medium, 66x48cm, ed. 10

Exhibition overview

MORIMURA Yasumasa and MISHIMA Ritsue *Where I Am Standing*

Dates : Saturday, October 30 - Saturday, November 27, 2021

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

Opening Hours: Tue-Sat noon-6pm, closed on Sun, Mon and Public Holidays

During ART WEEK TOKYO, which will take place for four days from Thursday, November 4 to Sunday, November 7, ShugoArts will be open from 10am to 6pm.

*The opening reception will not be held this time. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, we have shortened our opening hours.

About the artists

MORIMURA Yasumasa

Born in Osaka, Japan in 1951. Currently lives and works in Osaka. Ever since Morimura created his self-portrait photograph in 1985, disguising himself as Van Gogh in one of his self-portrait paintings, the artist has incessantly produced "self-portrait-like artworks" where Morimura alters himself into "others" beyond time, race and gender. While maintaining his practice to become someone other than himself, the artist gazes at the indisputable fact that he is still himself and continues to question its meaning. Understanding both the contemporary and historical framework and inserting his own analysis of others, their artistic achievements and historical events, Morimura continues to employ his own body as well as photography, video and performance into his art practice, which has influenced many.

Morimura's solo show, *Jam Session: The Ishibashi Foundation Collection × Morimura Yasumasa A Gift of the Sea, M-Style Morimura Yasumasa's Auto-Mythology*, is on view from October 2, 2021 to January 10, 2022, at Artizon Museum, Tokyo.

Selected solo exhibitions: *Yasumasa Morimura: Ego Obscura*, Tokyo 2020, Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, 2020; *YASUMASA MORIMURA: EGO OBSCURA*, Japan Society, New York, 2018; *My Chronicle 1985 - 2018*, ShugoArts, Tokyo, 2018; *Yasumasa Morimura. The history of the self-portrait*, Pushkin Museum, Moscow, 2017; *The Self-Portraits of YASUMASA MORIMURA: My Art, My Story, My History*, National Museum of Art, Osaka, 2016; *Yasumasa Morimura: Theater of the Self*, The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, 2014; *LAS MENINAS RENACEN DE NOCHE*, Shiseido Gallery, Tokyo, 2013; *Yasumasa Morimura: Rembrandt Room Revisited*, Hara Museum, Tokyo, 2013. Morimura opened his own museum named M@M in Osaka, 2018.

MISHIMA Ritsue

Born in Kyoto in 1962. Mishima moved to Venice in 1989. Having established a residence in Kyoto in 2011, she lives and works between the two cities. Collaborating with glassmiths on Murano Island, Italy, the artist takes advantage of the translucency and viscosity of Venetian glass in order to create clear glass sculptures, which bear the contours of light while becoming parts of the environments. Since Mishima's sculptures visualize the energy of the exhibited spaces by absorbing the surrounding air and light, they have received high praise as public artworks as well.

Selected solo exhibitions: *HALL OF LIGHT*, ShugoArts, Tokyo, 2019-2020; *In Grimani. Ritsue Mishima Glass Works*, Museum of Palazzo Grimani, Venice, 2013; *As it should be*, Shiseido Gallery, Tokyo, 2011; *Frozen garden / Fruits of fire*, Museum Boijmans, Rotterdam, 2010; Selected group exhibitions: *Asia Corridor Contemporary Art Exhibition, Culture City of East Asia 2017 Kyoto*, Nijo Castle, Kyoto, 2017; Yokohama Triennale, Yokohama Museum of Art, Kanagawa, 2014; the 53rd International Art Exhibition: Venice Biennale, Venice Pavilion, Venice, 2009

◆Other artists' news are available on : <http://shugoarts.com/en/topics/>

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