

**Morimura Yasumasa**  
***Five Characters in a Transformer***

Friday, 19 April – Saturday, 1 June, 2024



It is not aiming for entertainment,  
But it is a fun show.

It does not fall for stories with origins and endings,  
But something is being said.

A quiet dissonance bursts forth inward and outward.  
Thus, this is a solo five-person exhibition.

Morimura Yasumasa

Morimura Yasumasa continues to engage in a wide variety of fulfilling art practices. In recent years, Morimura has been involved in exhibitions and performances such as *Yasumasa Morimura: Ego Obscura, Tokyo 2020* (2020) at the Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, *A Gift of the Sea, M-Style Morimura Yasumasa's Auto-Mythology* (2021-2022) at the Artizon Museum, *Shin Kyoekitan* (New Strange Tale of a Mirror Reflection) (2022), a collaboration with a Bunraku puppeteer Kanjuro Kiritake, and *My Self-Portraits as a Theater of Labyrinths* (2022) at the Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art. In addition, Morimura has organized special exhibitions at M@M (Morimura@Museum) in Kitakagaya, Osaka and installed a public art work at the Osaka University Nakanoshima Art Center. He is also writing a book titled *Ikinobirutamenigeijutsuwahitsuyouka*, meaning do we need art to survive?, which will be published by Kobunsha this April.



MORIMURA Yasumasa, *Want to change the world? Be seriously unserious (Miró A)*, 2020, chromogenic print, image: 137x100cm

Morimura has been working on the theme of "I" for about 40 years, but what is "Morimura Yasumasa" after all?

In his work, he portrays art historical figures, film actresses and historical figures, and in the real world, he is a photographer, a filmmaker, a writer and a stage performer. It is as if a wide variety of identities are living together in one vessel called Morimura Yasumasa. Morimura rather affirms such "lack of unity, unorganized and scattered, mixing of different characters and values, and not creating a hierarchy," and states that he would rather avoid "convergence to a fixed identity."



MORIMURA Yasumasa, *Scene with Kafka 2*, 2015/2024, gelatin silver print, image: 29.7x21.6cm, ed.10

Morimura's latest, previously unexhibited, and recent works, which will be showcased in this exhibition, are composed of five sections (i.e., five characters) that have no relationship to each other, and are developed in their own ways. Morimura is disguised as Tadaoto Kainoshō, Napoleon, Miró's paintings, Kafka and Lu Xun. In a total of 14 works, the multiple identities of Morimura Yasumasa quietly and joyfully explode with dissonance.

When we identify "I" with something, our thoughts are fixed right then. If we view the self as an interconnection of subjective experiences that is in a constant state of change, the intentionally scattered state of "I" could be the source of creation. We hope you will enjoy *Morimura Yasumasa Five Characters in a Transformer*.

ShugoArts, February 2024



MORIMURA Yasumasa, *Mysterious Illusion of KAINOSHŌ*, 2023/2024, archival inkjet print on japanese paper, 120x70cm, ed.7

**Morimura Yasumasa *Five Characters in a Transformer***

Dates: Friday, 19 April – Saturday, 1 June, 2024

Venue: ShugoArts

Hours: 11am – 6pm, Closed on Sun, Mon and Public Holidays

**Morimura Yasumasa related exhibitions and activities**

– 5th Anniversary Exhibition *TAKE 5*

Dates: 27 October, 2023 – 31 March, 2024

Venue: Morimura@Museum

[Website](#)

– 8th Yokohama Triennale *Wild Grass : Our Lives*

Dates: 15 March – 9 June, 2024

Venue: Yokohama Museum of Art,  
Queen's Square YOKOHAMA, etc.

[Website](#)

– Les Franciscaines and Mori Art Museum

**Joint Exhibition *Floating Worlds: From Japonisme to Contemporary Art from Japan***

Dates: 22 June – 22 September, 2024

Venue: Les Franciscaines (Normandy town)

[Website](#)

– *Ikinobirutamenigeijutsuwahitsuyouka*

Published by Kobunsha on 17 April.

## 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.

Selected solo exhibitions: My Self-Portraits as a Theater of Labyrinths, Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art, Higashiyama Cube, Kyoto, 2022; Jam Session: The Ishibashi Foundation Collection × Morimura Yasumasa A Gift of the Sea, M-Style Morimura Yasumasa’s Auto-Mythology, Artizon Museum, Tokyo, 2021; 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; Selected publications: Jigazonoyukue, Kobunsha; Honkideasobutosekaiwakawaru, LIXIL Publishing; Bijutsuoutouseyo!, Chikumashobo and many others. Opened his own museum named M@M in Osaka, 2018.

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## ShugoArts

For further information, please contact: Exhibition: Minako Ishii / Press: Saya Fujita ([gallery@shugoarts.com](mailto:gallery@shugoarts.com))  
complex665 2F, 6-5-24, Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0032 / +81 3 6447 2234  
email: [info@shugoarts.com](mailto:info@shugoarts.com) website: <https://shugoarts.com/en/>

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Top image: MORIMURA Yasumasa, *Portraits for the Wild Grass (Study 4)*, 2023, image: 25x18cm