

[Press Release]

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The Methods Speak

Leiko IKEMURA, Masato KOBAYASHI, Yoriko TAKABATAKE, Shigeo TOYA

Guest artist: Masaomi YASUNAGA

22 February – 5 April, 2025



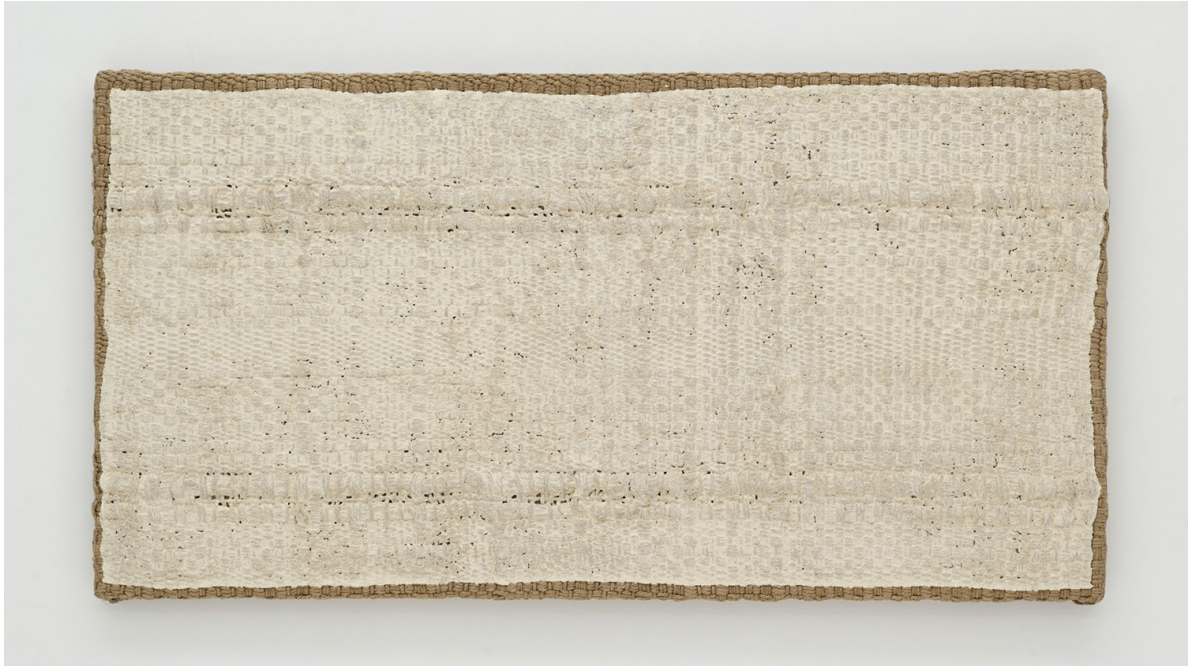
Masaomi YASUNAGA, *Melting vessel*, 2024, glaze, colored glaze, slip, copper, kaolin, 60x38x39cm

© Masaomi Yasunaga. Courtesy of the artist and Nonaka-Hill.

ShugoArts will present a group exhibition titled *The Methods Speak*, featuring five artists.

This exhibition focuses on the five artists' unique practices that showcase their uses of materials and creative techniques, and how these contribute to the individuality of their works. It also aims to show how the distinctive methods each artist has developed enable their diverse originality. By focusing on materials and techniques, the exhibition hopes to provide visitors with new perspectives on art history and artistic inspiration. We invite you to enjoy the experience of contemplating the "reasons" behind their various approaches as you engage with their works.

ShugoArts, January 2025



Yoriko TAKABATAKE, *CANVAS*, 2024, jute, glue, oil, pigment, panel, 58x109cm



Shigeo TOYA, *Metamorphosis into Woods II*, 2003, wood, wood ashes, acrylic, 155x30x36cm(left), 155x32 x 38cm(right)

The Methods Speak

Leiko IKEMURA, Masato KOBAYASHI, Yoriko TAKABATAKE, Shigeo TOYA

Guest artist: Masaomi YASUNAGA

Dates: 22 February – 5 April, 2025

Venue: ShugoArts

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

Supported by Nonaka-Hill

Masaomi YASUNAGA

Born in Osaka Prefecture in 1982. Lives & works in Iga-shi, Mie Prefecture. While at University, Yasunaga established his creative direction at the laboratory of Satoru Hoshino, a coterie of the avant-garde ceramic group “Sodeisha”. While pottery is often made of clay and baked in a kiln, Yasunaga takes the form of pottery using glaze for his creations instead. Yasunaga masters creativity by combining unique raw materials such as feldspars, glass and metal powders, with his own methods such as creating glazed vessels with increased viscosity which are then pit fired in sand.

Selected solo exhibitions: “discoveries from picking up stones”, Nonaka-Hill, Los Angeles , 2023; “Masaomi Yasunaga: In Holding Close”, Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, Auburn, Alabama, 2023; “Intersection of Dreams, Palomar, Pognana Lario”, Palomar, Pognana Lario, 2022; “Looking Afar”, Lisson Gallery, New York, 2022; “Empty Landscape”, Libby Leshgold Gallery, Vancouver, 2020; “Masaomi Yasunaga”, Nonaka-Hill, Los Angeles, 2019 “Memory of Orient”, Gallery Utsuwa Note, Kawagoe, Saitama, 2018

Leiko IKEMURA

Leiko Ikemura was born in Tsu City, Mie, Japan. She moved to Spain in the 1970s, then to Switzerland, and has been based in Germany since the early 1980s. Ikemura was a professor at the Berlin University of the Arts from 1991 to 2015. She has served as a visiting professor at the graduate school of Joshibi University of Art and Design since 2014. In 2019, she won the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology’s Art Encouragement Prize. Ikemura works in a variety of media including painting, terra cotta, bronze, glass, photography, and poetry. She utilizes traditional materials for her paintings and sculptures, which contain a high level of spirituality and are highly acclaimed both domestically and internationally. The shapes and colors emitted from the unique texture of her art create images that blend figures, plants, and horizons,

encompassing the fluid relationship between people, nature, and the universe.

Selected solo exhibitions: Leiko Ikemura. Light on the Horizon, Heredium Museum, Korea, 2024; Leiko Ikemura. Witty Witches, Georg Kolbe Museum, Berlin, 2023; Leiko Ikemura. Year of the Usagi, Museo de Arte de Zapopan, Mexico, 2023; infinitely transparent, ShugoArts, Tokyo, 2022; Nach Neuen Meeren, Kunstmuseum Basel, Basel, Switzerland, 2019; Nordiska Akvarellmuseet, Skärhamn, Sweden, 2019; Our Planet – Earth and Stars, National Art Center, Tokyo, 2019; After another world, ShugoArts, Tokyo, 2017; ...und plötzlich dreht der Wind, Haus am Waldsee, Berlin, 2016; Poetics of Form, Nevada Museum of Art, Reno (Nevada), 2016; All About Girls and Tigers, Museum für Ostasiatische Kunst Cologne, 2015; Pioon, The Vangi Sculpture Garden Museum, Shizuoka, 2014; i-migration, Staatliche Kunsthalle Karlsruhe, 2013; Korekara oder die Heiterkeit des fragilen Seins, Museum für Asiatische Kunst, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin, 2012; Mare e Monti. Kolumba, Cologne, 2012; Transfiguration, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Mie Prefectural Art Museum, Mie, 2011.

Masato KOBAYASHI

Masato Kobayashi was born in Tokyo in 1957. He was the Japanese representative of the 1996 São Paulo Biennale. In 1997, invited by Jan Hoet, he traveled to Europe, and continued to create works in various locations while based in Ghent, Belgium. Kobayashi returned to Japan in 2006 and began working based in Tomonoura, Fukuyama City, Hiroshima. He was also a professor at the Tokyo University of the Arts from 2017 to 2023. He has developed a unique technique of applying color by rubbing it into the canvas while supporting the fabric with one hand, simultaneously stretching it over the wooden frame to bring the painting to life and "aiming for a painting that does not lose its essence by merely existing." Kobayashi has prolifically produced paintings that possess a form and unique brightness that can only emerge from that specific situation.

Selected solo exhibitions: "About Freedom", ShugoArts, Tokyo, 2023; "Family of this Planet", ShugoArts, Tokyo, 2021; "Artist and the Model", ShugoArts, Tokyo, 2019; "ART TODAY 2012", Sezon Museum of Modern Art, Nagano, 2012; "MASATO KOBAYASHI – The Paint of the Planet", Nariwa Museum, Okayama, 2009; "Starry Paint, stars of outer space by pure painting", Tensta Konsthall, Spanga, Sweden, 2004; "A Son of Painting Masato Kobayashi", S.M.A.K., Ghent, 2001; "KOBAYASHI Masato", The Miyagi Museum of Art, 2000.

Yoriko TAKABATAKE

Born in Fukuoka in 1982, Takabatake currently lives in Tokyo. In 2015, she participated in an artist residency at the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation in Connecticut in order to conduct research on Anni Albers. Through the physical phenomena of her materials, Takabatake has developed two-dimensional painting into an existence with a physical structure. While experiencing firsthand the magnitude of the world through the Lascaux cave murals and the Nazca terrestrial paintings, Takabatake creates her works through dialogue with materials, which encompass physical spaces that cannot be realized solely by painting images.

Solo exhibitions: LINE(N), ShugoArts, Tokyo, 2024; CAVE, ShugoArts, Tokyo, 2022; MARS, Gana Art Nineone, Seoul, 2022; MARS, ShugoArts, Tokyo, 2020; VENUS, Gana Art Hannam, Seoul, 2019; Fountain, ShugoArts, Tokyo, 2018; Bathing, ShugoArts Weekend Gallery, Tokyo, 2016; Project N 58 Yoriko Takabatake, Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery, Tokyo, 2014.

Selected group exhibitions: ABSTRACTION: The Genesis and Evolution of Abstract Painting Cézanne, Fauvism, Cubism and on to Today, Artizon Museum, Tokyo, 2023; FUJI TEXTILE WEEK 2021, Fujiyoshida City, Yamanashi, Japan, 2021; TRICK-DIMENSION, TOKYO FRONT LINE, Tokyo, 2013; Art Award Tokyo Marunouchi 2013, Tokyo, 2013; DANDANS at No Man's Land, former French Embassy, Tokyo, 2010.

Shigeo TOYA

Born in Nagano, Japan, in 1947. Currently lives and works in Saitama. Toya started his artistic career with his attempt to reconstruct sculpture as a medium, which had been deconstructed by the preceding art movements such as postminimalism and mono-ha. Since the 1970s, the artist has diligently pursued the principles and structures of sculpture, which resonate with the epistemological foundations of our very existence, underscoring their essence and possibility through his artmaking practice. By manipulating various art histories of all times and places, encompassing the period of cave paintings and Greco-Roman sculptures to contemporary art, with his bona fide sculptural philosophy, Toya has been recognized as one of the leading sculptors in Japan, Asia and the Pacific at large. The artist received the Art Encouragement Prize of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Japan in 2004 and his Medal of Honor with Purple Ribbon in 2009. He is also a Professor Emeritus at Musashino Art University.

Selected exhibitions: Toya Shigeo Sculpture, Nagano Prefectural Art Museum, Nagano, 2022-2023, The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, 2023; Body of the Gaze: from Scatter to Linkage, from Linkage to Accumulation, ShugoArts, Tokyo, 2022; Shigeo Toya Forest - Lake: Regeneration

and Memory, Ichihara Lakeside Museum, Chiba, 2021; Body of the Gaze, ShugoArts, Tokyo, 2019; Shigeo Toya–Sculpture to Emerge, Musashino Art University Museum & Library, Tokyo, 2017; Memories in the cave, Vangi Sculpture Garden Museum, Shizuoka, 2011-12; Shigeo Toya : Folds, Gazes and Anima of the Woods, Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Aichi, 2003; The 3rd Kwangju Biennale, Kwangju, 2000; Forest of Visions, Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Hiroshima, 1995; Yama - Mori - Mura, Kuma Museum of Art, Ehime, 1994; The First Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, 1993; The 43rd Venice Biennale, Japanese Pavilion, Venice, 1988;

All photos by Shigeo Muto, ShugoArts

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