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Spill Light

April 8 (Fri) – May 7 (Sat)

Venue : **Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku**

Park Grace Shinjuku Bldg. 206, 4-32-6,

Nishi-Shinjuku Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0023 Japan

Opening Reception: **April 16 (Sat) 18:30 – 20:00**

Talk Event: **April 16 (Sat) 17:00 – 18:30**

Yuichi Higashionna & Natsumi Araki (Curator, Mori Art Museum)

Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku is pleased to present, from April 8, 2016, a solo exhibition *Spill Light* by Yuichi Higashionna.

Yuichi Higashionna has until now explored diverse creation from plain to three-dimensional works, using ordinary and familiar materials, but at the foundation of the works, his constant curiosity and criticism lie for subject at all times.

Japanese culture has seen a unique development since early times, influenced by other countries; a culture characteristic of Japan blossomed in the Heian period from the sixth to eighth centuries through the exchanges with Paekche and the Tang, also, after the Meiji Restoration, the Western values and social systems were positively introduced to our society. Thus, due to flexible receptiveness unique to Japanese people, our culture has developed its peculiar multi-layered structure.

Higashionna has doubted of the culture generated as such he belongs to and tried his ideas into expression in various ways, such as fancy cases made of vinyl with gaudy flowered pattern or paintings with articles of daily use, such as artificial flowers and races, found in our lives. This exhibition will present his new works in light works series with fluorescent lamps, with which his artistic attitude became widely known.

His chandelier-type works were first presented in 2001, enhancing visually stronger gorgeousness. He incorporated chandelier, a symbol of wealth in high society, into ordinariness in Japan, while criticizing Western culture and the postwar spirituality of Japanese people who followed the culture. His concept and viewpoint represented in them have not grown old even now in the light of contemporary art history.

Higashionna mentions, "if the light in Western Europe is analogical with God's eyes (*Jacob's Ladder*" or stained glasses in a Gothic church) or Enlightenment, the light in Japan may mean some fetishlike object caused by the favoritism to technologies." The object with fluorescent lamps expose oneself, shining excessively, and at the same time may disclose the impulse of ours and set it free.

This time he sought once again what light had brought to us, making an approach to the "light covered with a veil", not to the "exposed light" (in his previous light works series). "Spill Light" means light rays or unwanted light reaching the part except the main objects on a stage or in the place of photo taking.

On the occasion of the exhibition, a talk event will be held, inviting Natsumi Araki, Curator of Mori Art Museum.



■ Statement

Natural light shining from the sky is talked about for a metaphor such as sublimity or enlightenment, while artificial lights, fluorescent lamps and LED are often referred in terms of technologies or convenience, so the meaning of both lights is likely to be missed.

Unlike natural light which comes and is given to us from outside, illumination (artificial light) is produced by us and shines us from its inside.

The light box pieces in this exhibition were made, inspired with the light in the dusk spilled through the curtain of houses' windows. The light box is composed of "spilling light" from inside as the title shows. As light originally connotes a lot of metaphors, the work attempts to shine the light, setting the light itself around us as motif or theme.

The natural light is neither transcendental and enlightening nor vertical one but comes from horizontal direction. The light is our own hope, wish and desire, and the work as distorted shadow which is reflected and projected in the light.

■ Talk Event

April 16 (Sat) 17:00 – 18:30

Venue : Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku

Presenter: **Yuichi Higashionna & Natsumi Araki (Curator, Mori Art Museum)**

*Advanced booking required, Admission free

*For booking, send an email with your name, address, and telephone number to event@ycassociates.co.jp

■ Natsumi Araki - Profile

Curator at Mori Art Museum (from 2003), Lecturer at Keio University, BA, Keio University, MA (Museum Studies), University of Leicester, UK, Recent curatorial projects include: **The World is a State Stories behind Pictures (2005), ROPPOINGI CROSSING 2007: FUTURE BEATS IN JAPANESE CONTEMPORARY ART (2007), Odani Motohiko Phantom Limb (2010), Go-Betweens: The World Seen through Children (2014), Dinh Q. Lê: Memory for Tomorrow (2015), and Roppongi Crossing 2016: My Body, Your Voice (2016).**

■ Yuichi Higashionna - Profile

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2015 *Play double*, CAPSULE, Tokyo
let's get dizzy, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, USA
- 2014 *New Works*, Mizuho Oshiro Gallery, Kagoshima
Bascule, CAPSULE/ SUNDAY, Tokyo
Ubiquitous, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku, Tokyo
- 2012 *Apparition*, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku, Tokyo
Yuichi Higashionna/FL, CALM & PUNK GALLERY/NADiff GALLERY, Tokyo
- 2011 *Fluorescent*, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, USA
- 2010 *VENICE/TOKYO Venice Projects*, Venice, Italy
- 2009 *Metamorphosis: Objects Today Vol.4*, Musashino Art University 80 year-anniversary exhibition, gallery αM, Tokyo

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2015 *GLASSTRESS 2015 GOTIKA*, Berengo Studio, Venice, Italy
Roppongi Art Night, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Tokyo
Edition Works Prints& Originals, GALLERY SPEAK FOR, Tokyo
- 2014 *The House in the Sky - Artists Imagine New Utopias*, Concrete at Hayward Gallery, London, UK
- 2013 *Why not live for Art? II - 9 collectors reveal their treasures*, Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery, Tokyo
Junkies' Promises: Curated by Iván Navarro, Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York, USA
- 2011-12 *THE MARGULIES COLLECTION AT THE WAREHOUSE*,
THE MARGULIES COLLECTION AT THE WAREHOUSE, Miami, USA
- 2011 *MASKED PORTRAIT PART II -- When Vibrations Become Forms*, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, USA
Glasstress, Venice Biennale 2011, Venice, Italy
- 2010 *The New Décor*, Hayward Gallery, London, UK
- 2009 *Incidental Affairs: Contemporary Art of Transient States*, Suntory Museum, Osaka



- 2008 *The Masked Portrait*, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, USA
2007 *Roppongi Crossing 2007: Future Japanese in Contemporary Art*, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo
2006 *Enjoyable House*, Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Aichi
2004 *Officina Asia*, Galleria d'Arte Moderna di Bologna, Bologna, Italy

[Commission Work/Projects/etc.]

Bellini Condominium Entrance (Miami), Grand Hyatt Tokyo, Vangi Sculpture Garden Museum (Museum Shop, NOHARA, Shizuoka),
COMME des GARÇONS (Tokyo), MAISON HERMES Ginza (window display, Tokyo)

■■ For further information or images, please contact Yumiko Chiba Associates.

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Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku URL:<http://www.ycassociates.co.jp>

Park Grace Shinjuku Bldg. 316, 4-32-6, Nishi-Shinjuku Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0023 Japan.

Opening Hours: 12:00 - 19:00 (Closed on Sundays, Mondays, National Holidays)