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Invisible Force and Floating

Keiji Uematsu

Saturday, October 19 - Saturday, November 30, 2019

Venue: Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku

Park Grace Shinjuku Bldg. #206, 4-32-6 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0023

Gallery Hours: 12:00 - 19:00

*Closed on Sundays, Mondays, and national holidays

Closing Party: Saturday, November 30, 18:00-20:00

*Please be aware that the above event will not take place on the first day of the exhibition.

Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku is delighted to present *Invisible Force and Floating*, a solo show by Keiji Uematsu from October 19, 2019.

Since his first solo exhibition in 1969, Keiji Uematsu has produced a variety of artworks including videos, photographs and installations in addition to sculptural works using steel, rocks and glass. After moving to Germany in 1975, he continued to actively pursue a range of activities, including staging solo shows in galleries and museums all over Europe. Based on concepts that have remained consistent throughout his career, his work has garnered attention both in Japan and overseas. In 1988 he was chosen to represent Japan at the Venice Biennale, and in 2013 he was awarded the 38th Nakahara Teijiro Prize. He currently maintains studios in Japan and Germany and continues to produce work.

For this exhibition, the artist himself has recreated an installation he presented at Galerie 16 in Kyoto in 1973. To date, Uematsu has produced work that gives visual expression through visible objects to "invisible things," including the relationship between the human body and space, the relationship between things, and forces such as gravity and tension. The work recreated here, in which rocks, planks and rope are precisely balanced, demonstrates this ongoing concern of Uematsu's extremely clearly. It can also be seen as an attempt to grasp subjects such as "structure," "relation" and "existence" that are both universal and metaphysical by way of individual "objects" that are specific and physical. At the same time, this work that relies on a delicate tension is maintained by balancing the mutual relationship of things amid a durable state of affairs that continues while containing within it the potential to collapse. In this way, Uematsu's sculptural practice, which also incorporates the invisible element of "time," remains something extremely original while simultaneously being linked to the circumstances of contemporaneous sculpture. Also worthy of attention is the fact that the equilibrium of this work relies on making the most of and bringing out the individual characteristics of the rocks, planks and ropes, each of which has a different function and nature. The exhibit recreated here at once gives an indication of the thinking that was fundamental to Uematsu's early practice and serves as an example showing the extent to which his work has continued to be based on a consistent concern. At this exhibition we look back on these activities by presenting drawings, photographs and other pieces in addition to this installation.



■Artist Statement

In this exhibition I attempt to see from past to present to future via the relationship between my very first photographic work using the body, from 1972, and remakes of sculptural pieces, and "Memories of floating stones" (2019).
"I've always wanted to make the kind of things that, like the cosmos, would collapse if a single element of their overall structure, or the uncertain presence of an object or the relationships between any of these were missing.
I am concerned with what is sustaining the overall relationship, what destroys that relationship and spawns another relationship entirely." (1992)
Without gravity, we cannot survive. Gravity governs everything, including the universe. In my work, I have endeavored to create the invisible shape of gravity, in spaces.
I believe this approach will become apparent at this exhibition.

Keiji Uematsu

■Artists' Profile

Keiji UEMATSU

1947 Born in Kobe, Japan
1969 BA, Department of Education, Fine Art, Kobe University
1975 Lived in Düsseldorf, Germany
1986 Lived and worked in Düsseldorf and Nishinomiya, Japan
1995 Lives and works in Minoh, Japan and Düsseldorf, Germany

Solo Exhibitions

1969,70,71,73,74,75,79,84,95,12,15 Galerie 16/ Kyoto
1976-77 *Skulptur-Foto-Video-Film*, Moderna Museet/Stockholm, Sweden
1977 *Keiji Uematsu, Ausschnitte 1*, Städtische Kunsthalle Düsseldorf/Düsseldorf, Germany
1980 Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus+Kunstform/München, Germany
1980-81 *Installation Axis-Latitude-Longitude*, P.S.1 (Project Studios 1), The Institute for Art and Urban Resources, Inc./ New York, USA
1981 *Series, Today's Artists, Installation and Photo*, Osaka Prefectural Contemporary Art Center/ Osaka
1981,83,86,91,92,01,04,08,16 Baudoin Lebon/Paris, France
1981,85,89,93,18 Galerie Löhrl, Mönchengladbach/Germany
1984,87,97,03 INAX Gallery 2/Tokyo
1997 *Behind the Perception*, Otani Memorial Art Museum /Nishinomiya, Hyogo
1999,02,05,07,09,12,17,19 Nomart Editions, Inc. /Project Space/Osaka
2003 *eyes under physical consideration, photographs, video and films 1972-2003*, Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art/Fukuoka
2003-04 *Inclination of the Earth's Axis*, Aomori Contemporary Art Center/ Aomori
2005 *Axis-Latitude-Longitude*, Kunstlerverein Marlkasen/Düsseldorf, Germany
2006 *The Garden of Time*, Otani Memorial Art Museum/Nishinomiya, Hyogo
2010 Gallery Yamaki fine art/Kobe
2011 Keumsan Gallery/Seoul, Korea
To the 1970s- The Turning Point of Photography & Art-Copying, Reflection, and Projection, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku/Tokyo
2011-12 Galerie Baudoin Lebon (with Vladimir Skoda), Paris
2013 *Cutting- Axis•Latitude•Longitude*, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku/Tokyo
2014 *Frieze Masters Spotlight*, Regent's Park/London, UK
2015 *Invisible Force*, ARARIO GALLERY CHEONAN/Seoul, Korea
Invisible Force, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room Shinjuku/Tokyo
2016 *Invisible Force*, Jacobihaus/Düsseldorf, Germany
Invisible Force, Simon Lee Gallery/London, UK
2019 *Invisible Force*, Simon Lee Gallery/New York, USA

Group Exhibitions

1969 *The 1st International Exhibition of Modern Sculpture*, The Hakone Open-Air Museum/Kanagawa
1972 *Today's Artists '72*, Yokohama Civic Art Gallery/Kanagawa
1974 *Tradition und Gegenwart*, Städtische Kunsthalle Düsseldorf/Germany
1981 *Art Now 1970-1980*, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Modern Art/Kobe
1983 *Kunst mit Photographie*, Nationalgalerie Berlin/ Germany
1983-84 *Photography in Contemporary Art*, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo/The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto
1985-86 *Sculptures*, Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Jouy-en-Josas, France
1988 *XLIII Esposizione Internazionale D'arte la Biennale di Venezia 1988*, Giardini di Castello, Venezia, Italy



- 1989 *Setoda Biennale*, Setoda-Cho/Hiroshima
- 1990 *The 12th Contemporary Sculpture Exhibition 1990* Suma Detached Palace Garden/Kobe, Hyogo
- 1994 *Art in Kansai 1950's-70's*, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Modern Art/Kobe, Hyogo
- 1997 *GRAVITY - Axis of Contemporary Art*, The National Museum of Art/Suita, Osaka
- 2000 Helsinki 2000 Art Gardens, Töölönlahti Bay/Helsinki, Finland
Echigotsumari Art Triennial 2000/Echigotsumari, Niigata
- 2005 *Pocheon International Sculpture Symposium*/Pocheon, Korea
- 2006 *Public Art in Japan*, Museum of Contemporary art/Sapporo, Setagaya Art Museum/Tokyo
- 2007 *Japanese Contemporary Art Festival*, Heyri Art Vallery/Korea
Beauty of Heavenly Bodies and Universe, The Museum of Modern Art Shiga/Shiga
- 2009 *Waiting for Video works from the 1960s to today*, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo/Tokyo
Kobe Biennale 2009/Kobe, Japan
- 2010 *Ohara Best*, Ohara Museum/Kurashiki, Okayama
Collection 2, The National Museum of Art, Osaka/Osaka
- 2011 *To the 1970s Turning point of Photography & Art*, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku/Tokyo
The men challenge to Iron, Museum of Art, BB Plaza/Kobe, Hyogo
- 2012 *Artistic Interaction: Avant-garde Kansai*, Otani Memorial Art Museum/Nishinomiya, Hyogo
The link Between Words and Art: An Homage to Nakahara Yusuke, Gallery Yamaki Fine Art/Kobe
- 2013 *Ohara Contemporary*, Ohara Museum/Kurashiki, Okayama
Collection 2, The National Museum of Art, Osaka/Osaka
Shinanobashi Gallery Collection, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art/Hyogo
Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art/Fukuoka
Station Gallery, Asahikawa Museum of Sculpture in Honor of Teijiro Nakahara/Hokkaido
Spektrum, Gallery Löhrl/Mönchengladbach, Germany
- 2014 Gallery 16/Kyoto
Keiji Uematsu/ Nobuko Watanabe in-between, Baudoin Lebon/Paris, France
Keiji Uematsu/Nobuko Watanabe Sculptures En L'île Andresy/Andresy, France
Asago Art Park & outdoor sculpture, Asago Art Part Art Museum/Asago, Hyogo
Musée D'art Moderne et Contemporain Saint Étienne Métropole
Image And Matter In Japanese Photography From The 1970s, Curated By Yumiko Chiba, Marianne Boesky Gallery/New York, USA
4x4, Stephen Friedman Gallery/London, UK
artevida: corpo [body], Casa França Brasil/Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art/Fukuoka
Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art/Kyoto
40th Anniversary Exhibition Part 2 Turning Point of Japanese Art after World War II, The Museum of Modern Art /Gunma
Kurashiki City Art Museum/Okayama
- 2015 *For a New World to Come: Experiments in Japanese Art and Photography, 1968–1979*, Museum of Fine Arts, /Houston, USA, Grey Art Gallery/New York, USA, Japan Society/New York, USA
Re: play 1972/2015-Restaging "Expression in Film '72", The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo/Tokyo
- 2016 *Performing for the Camera*, Tate Modern/London, UK
Dusseldorf Photo Weekend 2016/Düsseldorf, Germany
- 2018 *Travelers: Stepping into the Unknown*, The National Museum of Art, Osaka/Osaka
Awakenings: Art in Society in Asia 1960s-1990s, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo/Tokyo, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art/Korea, National Gallery Singapore/Singapore
- 2019 *Inside Out: Jiro Takamatsu and Keiji Uematsu in conversation / An exhibition of post-war Japanese sculpture*/Royal Society of Sculptors, Dora House/London, UK

Prize

- 1973 The 8th Japan Art Festival Excellent Prize
- 1974 The Kobe City Cultural Encouragement Prize
- 1990 The 12th Contemporary Sculpture Exhibition, Grand Prize
- 1993 The 15th Exhibition of Contemporary Japanese Sculpture, Ube-Industry.Ltd, Prize
Museum of Modern Art, Kanagawa Prize
- 1995 The 16th Exhibition of Contemporary Japanese Sculpture, Ube-Industry.Ltd, Prize
- 1997 The 28th Nakahara Teijiro Excellent Prize
The 17th Exhibition of Contemporary Japanese Sculpture, Ube-Industry .Ltd, Prize
Museum of Modern Art, Hyogo, Prize
- 1998 The 22nd Iue Culture Prize
- 1999 The 6th Asago 2001 Outdoor Sculpture in Tataragi '99, Grand Prize
- 2010 The Kobe city Cultural Prize
- 2013 The 38th Nakahara Teijiro Prize



Selected Public Collection

Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art/
Otani Memorial Art Museum, Nishinomiya City/
The National Museum of Art, Osaka/
The Museum of Modern Art, Kamakura & Hayama/
Ohara Museum of Art/
Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art/
Asahikawa Museum of Sculpture/
Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain/
Staditsche Galerie im Lenbachhaus/
Kunsthalle Bremen/
Museum of Modern Art, NY

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

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