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ENTRANCE⇔EXIT⇔LID⇔BOTTOM

Hisashi Yamamoto

Saturday, December 7, 2019 - Wednesday, January 22, 2020

*The exhibition will be closed from Friday, December 27, 2019 to Monday, January 13, 2020.

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

Opening Reception: Saturday, December 7, 18:00-20:00

Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku is delighted to present *ENTRANCE⇔EXIT⇔LID⇔BOTTOM*, a solo show by Hisashi Yamamoto from December 7, 2019.

Yumiko Chiba Associates is proud to present a solo exhibition by calligrapher Hisashi Yamamoto.

Born in Hiroshima in 1969, Yamamoto has devoted himself to the world of calligraphy since the age of twenty, when he encountered the work of calligrapher Yuichi Inoue. Yamamoto was later involved in production of a catalogue raisonné of Inoue's work.

In the process of exploring new, modern approaches to calligraphy unfettered by time-honored tradition, Yamamoto established a style that involves writing the name of a thing, on that thing. This can be seen in his rendering of simple characters, such as katakana, giving the name of the thing, within a simplified image reminiscent of a primitive pictograph, in what could be described as an unexpected joining of script as picture and calligraphy as script, as opposed to the double negative of a piece of calligraphy neither picture nor script; a grasping for coexistence, perhaps. At the same time, practice of this sort likely helped Yamamoto to establish his identity as an artist, as he traversed the two differing domains of contemporary art and contemporary calligraphy.

Maintaining a distance from the conventional apprenticeship system, and calligraphy organizations, Yamamoto produces works that are also driven by the questions of what constitutes presentness in calligraphy, and freedom. The exhibition is divided into two parts, consisting of a solo show by Yamamoto for the first half of the exhibition period, and for the second, a group show of work by several calligraphers, curation courtesy of Yamamoto.



■Artist Statement

On *Entrance+Exit+Lid+Bottom*

Does this world have entrances and exits? Even if we assume our mother to be the entrance, when it comes to exists, nothing is definite. So often we believe something to be an exit, that is to say, a way out, only to have a lid closed upon us completely, preventing us going anywhere; for some reason we are given life and live like this, in a world where so much can and does go wrong.

Yet as we go about our lives this way, at certain moments it can suddenly strike us that right now, we are truly alive. For an athlete, this might be on achieving a good time. For a musician, on producing a perfect note. The smallest of things can bring us to this realization.

The calligrapher Yuichi Inoue, who served as my guide and inspiration, expressed this in the context of producing work as “the bottom dropping out.” He has been a constant benchmark for me, and trying to write down what “bottom” means to me, I find it seems to be this.

And I find it is a kind of spiral: wondering whether this is exit or lid, one finds it is the bottom, then assuming it is the bottom, only to find it is an entrance.

Hisashi Yamamoto

■Artists' Profile

YAMAMOTO, Hisashi

1969 Born in Hiroshima, Japan

Major Exhibitions

- 2018 Solo Exhibition *Window, PLACE by method*, Tokyo
- 2018 Group Exhibition *ART SHODO TOKYO AUTUMN 2018*, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo
- 2018 Solo Exhibition *Triple Tower*, TMMT, Tokyo
- 2018 Group Exhibition *ART SHODO TOKYO SPRING 2018*, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo
- 2017 Solo Exhibition *Door, Light, Sound, Glass, and Water*, gallery feel art zero, Nagoya
- 2017 Solo Exhibition *Badge, Towel, and Cardboard*, B GALLERY, Tokyo
- 2017 Solo Exhibition *Speech balloon*, GALLERY NOW, Toyama
- 2017 Group Exhibition *Modern Art: World of Calligraphy*, Takashimaya Shinjuku Art Gallery, Tokyo
- 2017 Group Exhibition *Future of Calligraphy*, ITOCHU AOYAMA ART SQUARE, Tokyo
- 2017 Exhibition of Two Artists *poison and small huts*, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku, Tokyo
- 2016 Solo Exhibition *flying saucer*, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku, Tokyo
- 2015 Solo Exhibition *Machine*, La Galerie Métanoïa, Paris, UNAC SALON, Tokyo
- 2014 Solo Exhibition *Tower*, Shimokita Art Space, Tokyo, Art Forum JARFO, Kyoto
- 2013 Group Exhibition Japan/China Modern Elite Calligraphers Exhibition, *Sho to Hisho no Kiwa (Edge of Calligraphy and Non Calligraphy)*, The Museum of Kyoto
- 2011 - Participating in a calligraphers' blog, 'Daily Shodo'
- 2010 Group Exhibition *Art of Power Born of Pleasure*, Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art
- 2009 - Group Exhibition *Mojiku*, Tokyo Metropolitan Theater, etc.
- 2008 Group Exhibition *SEOUL CALLIGRAPHY BIENNALE*, Seoul



- 2006 Group Exhibition *World Calligraphy Festival*, Seoul
2004 - Group Exhibition *HOMAGE to YU-ICHI* by the TEN-SAKU-KAI
1991 Engaged in reorganizing Yuichi Inoue's works for his catalogue raisonné at UNAC TOKYO

■Related Exhibitions

Modern Art: World of Calligraphy 2 'Symbol and Now'

(A sequel to the group exhibition in 2017 organized by Yumiko Chiba Associates/ Curation: Hisashi Yamamoto)

Saturday, February 8 – Saturday, March 7, 2020

Venue: Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku

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

TEL:03-6276-6731

www.ycassociates.co.jp

Gendai Sho no Atarashiki Tenbo, -Inoue Yuichi, Soshite 'Ima'-

(A New Vision of Modern Calligraphy -Yuichi Inoue and 'Now'-)

Thursday, February 27 – Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Venue: Fukuya Hatchobori Main Store, Art Gallery (7F)

6-26, Ebisucho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima-shi, Hiroshima 730-8548

TEL:082-246-6111

<http://www.fukuya-dept.co.jp.e.vf.hp.transer.com/honten/garo/>

What's SHODO?

March 2020 (TBD)

Venue: MARUEIDO JAPAN / Gallery

Ark Hills Front Tower 1F, 2-23-1, Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 107-0052

TEL: 03-5797-7040

<http://www.marueidojapan.com/en/>

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

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Office: Park Grace Shinjuku Bldg. 205, 4-32-6, Nishi-Shinjuku Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0023 Japan.

Gallery Hours: 12:00-19:00 (Closed on Sundays, Mondays and national holidays)

*Winter Holidays: Saturday, December 28, 2019 – Monday, January 6, 2020