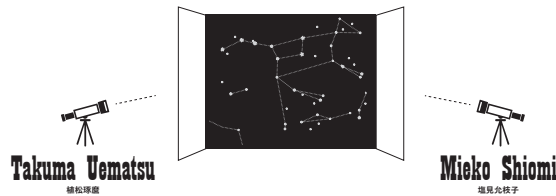




# Exploring the Stars

星をめぐる冒険



Saturday, March 16 – Saturday, April 27, 2019



## Exploring the Stars MIEKO SHIOMI / TAKUMA UEMATSU

Saturday, March 16 - Saturday, April 27 May 18\*, 2019 \*Extended

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 Reception: Saturday, April 27, 18:00-20:00**

**Special Talk: Saturday, April 27, 17:00-18:00**

**\*Speakers: Takuma Uematsu and Mihoko Nishikawa (Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo)**

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

Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku is delighted to present “Exploring the Stars”, an exhibition by Mieko Shiomi and Takuma Uematsu.

Their collaboration for this exhibition was instigated by Takuma Uematsu, who first encountered the work of Mieko Shiomi at around the age of eight, when playing her *Hoshi no katachi wo shita warutsu* (Star-shaped waltzes) on piano. Over twenty years later, the two met when he took part in a performance organized by Shiomi for the exhibition “Fluxus in Deutschland 1962-1994” at the National Museum of Art, Osaka in 2001.

This was also the year Uematsu launched his career as an artist, and the encounter with Shiomi was to be a major influence on his practice thereafter.

Mieko Shiomi began her artistic career while still at university, forming Group Ongaku, Japan’s first improv music group, with Takehisa Kosugi and Yasunao Tone among others, before meeting Nam June Paik in 1963 and through him learning about Fluxus. She headed to New York the following year, and took part in various Fluxus activities.

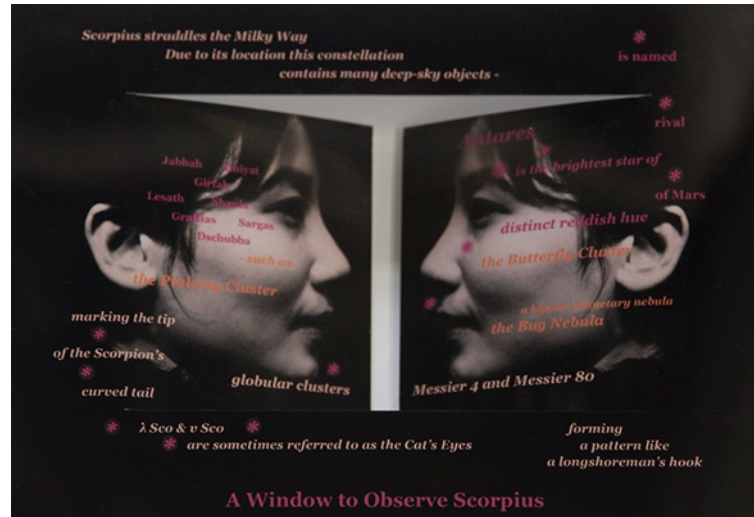
Fluxus ideas and actions—crossing genres, with no regard for form, constantly seeking continuous change, stepping away from the everyday, repeatedly flowing and fusing—coincided exactly with her own thoughts on music.

She then set about creating her own works, dubbed “events,” which took as their subjects various phenomena found in nature and the everyday.

It is not the fulfillment of individual experience, but finding ways of communicating in order to share the world more widely with others and the outside that informs Shiomi’s works. Her mode of expression, with the planet as stage, and phenomena in nature and everyday life as subjects, deeming whatever emerges by chance from the conduct of these to be the work, was precisely what Uematsu was pursuing by “incorporating in the work something akin to the flow of nature, including human beings” (\*from their dialogue), as he attempted to create devices that would transcend time and dimension.

For “Exploring the Stars” these two artists have come together and moved apart, separated and connected over and over, all the while sharing their worldviews, to create the works on offer.

We hope you will enjoy experiencing for yourself what flows through the exhibition venue.



©Mieko Shiomi

## ■ Statement

### Exploring the Stars

*All men have stars, but they are not the same things for different people.*

From Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's famous novella *The Little Prince*.

As those familiar with the story may readily imagine, this quote suggests that people all have their own unique ways of looking at the world.

Our attitudes to the universe, and the heavenly bodies therein, exhibit different aspects depending, naturally enough, on our period in history, country of origin, and ethnicity, but also our individual experiences, including viewpoints acquired from local myths and legends, astrology, and science fiction.

"Exploring the Stars" is a dialogue and meditation involving Mieko Shiomi and Takuma Uematsu; individuals of different ages and personal histories who nevertheless are both fascinated by nature, and have made natural phenomena the subject of their respective art practices. The exhibition is not so much a quest to produce something totally new as a creative journey taking in new perspectives on the everyday, with elements such as "flow" "place" "conditions" "chance" and "knowledge" as material. Thus, viewers will find, it invariably throws up something unexpected.

### Comment from Mieko Shiomi

Sound, but also substances like water, and phenomena such as shadows and falling, concepts like direction and balance, even sometimes, events in the stars, are all attractive subjects I am eager to engage with creatively. As a girl fascinated by nature I dreamed of capturing it, not in music or painting or writing, but by some more direct method, and on growing up, I found each work I produced to be no more than a vestige of the search for that method. The journey continues.

### Comment from Takuma Uematsu

Nature is a dynamically oscillating, revolving whole, in which all relationships are fluid. Life, meanwhile, emerges from the kinetic links between things, and could be described as a glittering phenomenon manifesting with time. In a creative world that is renewed while harboring chance and tension, is it device, or place? I'd like to see such a glittering work.

## ■ Closing Reception

Date: Saturday, April 27, 2019, 18:00-20:00

Venue: Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku

## ■ Special Talk (in Japanese language)

Date: Saturday, April 27, 2019, 17:00-18:00

Venue: Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku

Speakers: Takuma Uematsu and Mihoko Nishikawa (Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo)

\*Admission free. Booking required. Seating capacity: 20

\*For booking, send an email with your name, address, and telephone number to [event@ycassociates.co.jp](mailto:event@ycassociates.co.jp)

\*If you do not receive a reply from the gallery, please contact us during gallery's opening hours.

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



## ■ Artist Profile

### Mieko Shiomi

1938 born in Okayama City.

1961 graduated from Tokyo University of the Arts majoring in musicology.

Co-founded "Group·Ongaku" together with classmates. 1964 went to New York and joined in Fluxus. Started the series of <Spatial Poem> to perform the same event with people in various countries using airmail and after coming back to Japan continued this series doing 9 events in 10 years. On the other hand developed events to larger scaled performances culminating in intermedia.

1970 moved to Osaka and started composing many music pieces using mainly words and sounds. After participating in the Fluxus Festival in Venice 1990, began taking part in various Fluxus associated projects in Europe and USA. At the same time organized some Fluxus projects in Japan. At present still working on many fields such as visual works, performances and music compositions according to her own method transmedia.

### Solo Exhibitions

- 2013 *Mieko Shiomi & Fluxus*, The National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan
- 2004 *New Works of Visual Poetry*, Xebec Hall, Kobe, Japan
- 1998 *Collagen und Multiples*, Galerie & Edition Hundertmark, Cologne, Japan
- 1997 *Fluxus to Media Opera*, Gallery 360, Tokyo, Japan
- 1995 *Fluxus Balance & Balance Poems*, Galerie J & J Donguy, Paris, France
- 1993 *Fluxus Balance*, Xebec Hall, Kobe, Japan / Swossil Studio, Vienna, Austria
- 1992 *Balance Poems*, Xebec Hall, Kobe / Art Vivant, Tokyo, Japan

### Main Group Exhibitions

- 2018 *TRAVELERS : Stepping into the Unknown*, The National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan  
*EXODUS*, Whitebox, New York, USA  
*Group Show of Contemporary Artists 2018 – At the Beginning of the Plural World*, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum Gallery B, Tokyo, Japan
- 2017 *JAPANORAMA*, Centre Pompidou-Metz, Metz, France  
*A Place Where Words Are Born – flap-flop, flap-flop*, Arts Maebashi, Maebashi, Japan
- 2013 *First Contact – When Events Become Art*, Kurashiki City Museum, Kurashiki, Japan
- 2012 *Intermedia/Transmedia*, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan  
*Fluxus at 50 <Ben's Playroom>* Nassauischer Kunstverein, Wiesbaden, Germany
- 2009 *elles@centrepompidou*, Pompidou Center, Paris, France
- 2008 *DISSONANCES – Six Japanese Artists*, Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, Toyota, Japan

### Solo Concerts/Organized Performances

- 2017 *Performance Workshop 'Perform Water'*, Kyoto City University of Arts, Kyoto, Japan
- 2015 *Fluxus Performance Workshop*, Kyoto City University of Arts, Kyoto, Japan
- 2014 *Fluxus in Japan 2014*, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Japan
- 2012 *Intermedia / Transmedia*, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Japan
- 2005 *Fluxus Lecture & Performance*, Kyoto City University of Arts, Kyoto, Japan
- 2004 *Satoko Plays in Xebec 'Music of Lines + Music of Forms'*, Xebec Hall, Kobe, Japan  
*Fluxus Performance Workshop*, Urawa Art Museum, Urawa, Japan
- 2001 *Fluxus Trial*, The National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan

### Main Group Concerts

- 2019 *Fluxus wo kataru (On Fluxus, Talk, Symposium and Concert)*, Kyoto City University of Arts, Kyoto, Japan
- 2018 *Dick e M.S. Villa Aurora - Sala Edgar*, Fagagna, Italy
- 2017 *Music Unable to be Written on the Staff*, Kyoto City University of Arts, Gallery @KCUA, Kyoto, Japan
- 2016 *Fluxus Bon Festival*, Gallery 360, Tokyo, Japan
- 2015 *Takeo Tchinai Piano Recital for Left Hand Archive #9*, Tokyo Bunka Kaikan Recital Hall, Tokyo, Japan
- 2013 *Izumi Tateno Festival for Left Hand*, Tokyo Bunka Kaikan Recital Hall, Tokyo, Japan
- 2010 *Hiroaki Ooi Piano Recital, 'Portrait of Composers #3'*, Monnakatenjou Hall, Tokyo, Japan
- 2004 *Fluxus on the Keyboard – Satoko Inoue Piano Recital*, Kawai Music Saloon, Tokyo, Japan
- 2001 *Concerts: 20-21 ~ John Cage Has Landed*, Kioi Hall, Tokyo, Japan
- 1996 *Women Composers from around the World – Tokyo Summer Festival '96*, Tsuda Hall, Tokyo, Japan

### Public Collections

MoMA, USA, Fondazione Bonotto, Italy, The National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Japan, Urawa Art Museum, Urawa, Japan



## **Takuma Uematsu**

Born in Kanazawa, Japan in 1977.  
Graduated from Kansai University.

Presents installations freely combining a diverse range of materials, on the themes of the relationship between the materiality of the body, and life, and sculptural works using animal forms, at galleries and art museums in Japan and internationally.  
Uematsu's work identifies new imagery in the invisible relationships that connect the world, offering his take on a new world that expands, uninterrupted, into the future.

### **Solo Exhibitions**

- 2016 *nowhere*, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan  
*What people do for astronomical observation?*, Chiba City Museum of Art, Chiba, Japan
- 2014 *platform*, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan
- 2012 *Hyper-Cycle*, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan
- 2010 *IMPULSE 22 with Fabian Chiquet*, IMPULSE GALERIE Christian Löhrl, Mönchengladbach, Germany  
complex, Takashimaya Shinjuku Art Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 2006 *Life is a crystal*, Künstler-verein, Malkasten, Düsseldorf, Germany  
*a room of life - aM project*, ASK?, Tokyo, Japan

### **Selected Group Exhibition**

- 2018 *Hijisai 2018*, Mashiko, Tochigi, Japan  
*i want you [to x]*, A-Lab, Hyogo, Japan
- 2017 *A Corridor of Art through the Seas and Mountains*, Enomachi gallery, Hiroshima, Japan  
*Port of Kobe 150th Anniversary "Port City Kobe Art Festival"*, Kobe Harborland Takahama Wharf, Hyogo, Japan  
*Seian Arts Attention Vol.9 "UNCOVER"*, Seian University of Art and Design, Shiga, Japan
- 2014 *JAPON*, Abbaye St André Centre, d'art contemporain de Meymac, Meymac, France
- 2013 *ANATA GA HOSHII. I WANT YOU*, curated by Tadashi Kobayashi, WELTKUNSTZIMMER, Düsseldorf, Germany  
*Spektrum*, IMPULSE GALERIE Christian Löhrl, Mönchengladbach, Germany
- 2012 *1st Exhibition AGAIN-ST*, Tokyo Zokei University CS GALLERY, Tokyo, Japan
- 2009-10 *THE GOD OF THE SMALL THINGS*, Casa Masaccio – Centre per l'Arte Contemporanea, Corso, Italy
- 2009 *Kobe Biennale 2009*, Guest Artists Exhibition, LINK - Flexible Deviation, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art, Hyogo, Japan
- 2008-09 *Ancient Futures*, Seoul Museum of Art, Namseoul, Seoul, Korea
- 2006 *Quadriennale 06 – Düsseldorf*, GALERIE MAIER-HAHN, Düsseldorf, Germany
- 2005 *The 1st Pocheon Asian Art Festival*, Pocheon Banwol Art Hall, Pocheon, Korea

### **Projects**

- 2018 Collaboration with petit h, Hermes
- 2015 Collaboration with petit h, Hermes, Rofu-tei, Shosei-en Garden, Higashi Honganji-Temple, Kyoto, Japan
- 2014 Performed at *Fluxus in Japan 2014 #6 Viva! Fluxus*, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Japan  
Window display, *For a New World*, Maison Hermes Ginza, Tokyo, Japan
- 2013 Art Basel Hong Kong 2013 Encounters section (Curator Yuko Hasegawa), Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center, Hong Kong, China  
Performed at *Music Today on Fluxus*, The National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan
- 2004 Performed at *Ben Patterson, Grand 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Tour*, Xebec Studio, Kobe, Japan
- 2001 Performed at *The trial of Fluxus - by destructive piano-performance and computer*, The National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan

### **Public Collections**

Goyang City, Korea, IKUKO Collection, Tokyo, Japan, Takahashi Collection, Tokyo, Japan

### **■ Guest Speaker Profile**

#### **Mihoko Nishikawa**

Curator of Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo  
Born in 1976.

After completing Mphil, in Aesthetics and Science of Arts at Keio University, currently working as a curator at Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo (MOT) from 2004. Curated 'MOT annual 2008 Unraveling and Revealing'(2008), 'AY-O: OVER THE RAINBOW ONCE MORE'(2012), 'MOT annual 2012 Making Situations, Editing Landscapes'(2012), 'Fluxus in Japan 2014'(2014).

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

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