



Sloping Sculpture, 2016–2017 ©Motohiro Tomii, Courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates Photo: M. Yanagiba

Motohiro TOMII *Sloping Sculpture*

Saturday, October 17 - Saturday, November 21, 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 - 18:00 (Closed on Sundays, Mondays, and national holidays)

*Opening reception will not be held.

***There are cases that opening hours will be changed. Please check our website for further information.**

[Request prior to admission]

*We would like to ask visitors to refrain from visiting the gallery if visitors have symptoms such as a fever, headache, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, loss of taste or smell.

*We request visitors to wear masks. Visitors are also asked to sanitize hands, and non-contact temperature readings upon visiting will be taken before entering the gallery.

*Visitors contact information will be asked as part of contact-tracing measures.

*We kindly ask visitors not to visit in a large group.

*Limited numbers of visitors will be allowed at one time to avoid crowdedness.

The door and window will be left open for ventilation.

Our staff practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces as well as daily health check and staff may wear masks.

Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku is pleased to announce a solo exhibition by Motohiro Tomii from Saturday, October 17, 2020.

Yumiko Chiba Associates is excited to present an exhibition of new work by Motohiro Tomii, who uses predominantly readymade products and household wares to create sculptural works that employ well-articulated compositional techniques. Tomii's practice is distinguished by his combining and shaping through logical manipulation of the objects that form the materials for his sculptures, in the process opening up new methods for the use of these objects, and new actions, with which they were not originally endowed. On this occasion Tomii says the idea for his new work was sparked by the impulse to paint some small cardboard offcuts he happened to have. Then, deciding that he wanted to make those painted offcuts "sloping," he used them as the base for a new work, *Sloping Sculpture*. In his art-making to date, Tomii has endeavored to identify the precise moment when a mere object becomes "sculpture" via some sort of manipulation, or change in posture or position. Here he asks whether the modification of a particular object by making it "slope" or that object being "sloping" can form a sculpture/work, thus persisting with his explorations throughout this exhibition too. This latest thought-provoking development in the oeuvre of Motohiro Tomii is sure to reward the viewer.



■ Artist Statement

On *Sloping Sculpture*

Sloping Sculpture started in 2016 when I had a sudden urge to paint a series of cardboard offcuts that were on hand. This was not for the purpose of turning them into a work. Nor was there any obvious sign that they would form a work. I simply concentrated on painting, and put the resulting pieces to one side of my workspace. I was keen to do something with these painted offcuts, while retaining this relationship with them.

Turning something that catches one's attention into a work is the royal road in art. What is seen by the whites of the eyes, over time (through experience and accident) starts to shift to the center of the iris, to the very middle of our focus.

Is it possible to retain what we notice in that outer part of our eye, and turn it into art without walking this "path to a work"? I pondered this as I looked at the offcuts for a year and a half. I wanted to make the offcuts slope. Not make the offcuts into a work by sloping them, but have the fact of the offcuts being sloped, becoming a work. *That* is what I wanted to make.

Neither vertical nor horizontal but sloping. Works on a tilt are not unusual. They may be propped against walls, suspended from ceilings, stood on an angle. What I wanted to do was, not create a sloping state, but start my thoughts from sloping. Sloping or tilting is art's range of motion, with as yet no visible boundaries.

This latest work takes the shape of a catapult. To me, a catapult symbolizes intermingling of the expectation of reaching a predicted point, and hope for an unexpected journey along the way. What begins from here (like this)?

Motohiro Tomii

■ Related Exhibition

Motohiro Tomii *mellow*

Saturday, October 24 – Sunday, December 6, 2020

Venue : KAIKA Tokyo by THE SHARE HOTELS

2-16-5 Sumida-ku, Tokyo, 130-0004

<https://www.thesharehotels.com/kaika/event/>

As an exhibition space KAIKA does strike the observer as quite severe - the metal cage, concrete and lighting conjure up for me, visions of Sylvester Stallone. But pass through the white-washed hotel facade, cast your gaze around the lobby, and that impression begins to fade somewhat. The austere decor starts to feel a little playful, even - less Rocky or Rambo, more Jackie Chan. Which makes KAIKA not the easiest place to hold an exhibition. The real attraction of art display lies in tension; that of a hotel, in ease. So the exact opposite (although this is what makes KAIKA interesting). All I can do is present a sense of this frontier as an exhibition space. The work on show will be a sculpture of things related to bathing, and by making the soft texture and forms of these objects stand independently as a tower, I intend it to be something slightly baffling; a sensation I like to describe as "mellow." Mellow means mild or smooth, but it is the katakana script "メロウ" (merou) and the sound of the word that are important in this work. If pressed, I would describe it as "Shima Iwashita."



mellow 2020
Installation view : *Re construction*, Nerima Art Museum, 2020
©Motohiro Tomii, Courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates
Photo : M. Yanagiba



■ Artists' Profile

Motohiro Tomii

1973 Born in Niigata, Japan
1999 M.A., Fine Arts (Sculpture), Musashino Art University
2015 - 16 Stayed in New York, granted a fellowship of the Japanese Government Overseas study program for artist by the Agency of Japan Cultural Affairs, Japan
Currently lives and works in Tokyo

Solo Exhibitions (selected)

2020 *wastepaper and space*, Art Center Ongoing, Tokyo, Japan
slightly, Shouonji, Tokyo, Japan
motion, switch point, Tokyo, Japan

2019 *Can it be a sculpture? - note, broom, bar*, Matsumoto art center, awai art center; kulwa, Nagano, Japan
HIGURE 17-15 cas, Tokyo, Japan
Accommodating Sculpture, RC HOTEL KYOTO YASAKA, Kyoto, Japan

2018 *Borrow lines, void+*, Tokyo, Japan
Composition - Rules within objects, ATELIER MUJI, Tokyo, Japan
Interact, (PLACE) by method, Tokyo, Japan

2017 *turn*, Art Center Ongoing, Tokyo, Japan
sketches, Gallery and Bar Daitabashi Nando / gallery DEN5, Tokyo, Japan
connecting images, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

2015 *Composition for Clay*, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

2014 *SHOW-CASE project No.1: 'three erasers'*, Keio University Art Center, Tokyo, Japan
daily composition, Art Center Ongoing, Tokyo, Japan
Fabric Town in Nihonbashi, NICA, Tokyo, Japan
SHOW-CASE project No.0: Blind Composition Keio University Art Center, Tokyo, Japan

2013 *Straight Lines and Circumferences, switch point*, Tokyo, Japan
Fabric Town, N-mark B1 Gallery, Nagoya, Japan
combine -still-, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

2012 *Kart Invitation Program Vol.3 The Reason to Make*, Gallery Kart, Tokyo, Japan
clothes, switch point, Tokyo, Japan
four work, Art Center Ongoing, Tokyo, Japan

2011 *taking bump, switch point*, Tokyo, Japan
5×14, NADiff Window Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Placing Colors and Shapes, Radi-um von Röntgenwerke AG, Tokyo, Japan

2010 *Table of Pencils, switch point*, Tokyo, Japan
The requirements to make, The Art Gallery Kanazawa College of Art, Kanazawa, Japan
Tamagawa Art Gallery Projects No.3 'ball pipe ball' Tamagawa University, Tokyo, Japan
STACK, NADiff a/p/a/r/t, Tokyo, Japan
Works, NADiff a/p/a/r/t, Tokyo, Japan
catch as catch can, GENDAI HEIGHTS Gallery DEN, Tokyo, Japan

2009 *New works, switch point*, Tokyo, Japan
Paper works, Art Center Ongoing, Tokyo, Japan
copy boy, Gallery Gen, Tokyo, Japan

2008 *Time to See, switch point*, Tokyo, Japan
Color and form in usual objects, Play Room (Toru Nakazaki + Mizuki Endo), Ibaraki, Japan
Temporary=Permanent Exhibition, ARCUS Studio, Ibaraki, Japan

2007 *Time to See*, Musashino Art University Museum and Library, Folklore Archive Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
αM Project - On the Trail vol.2, art space kimura ASK?, Tokyo, Japan
Circles and Rectangles, switch point, Tokyo, Japan
How to Make the World, art & river bank, Tokyo, Japan

2006 *Re-Meet, switch point*, Tokyo, Japan
Solo Show Gallery Gen, Tokyo, Japan

2005 *Nap-like*, Toru Nakazaki Playroom, Tokyo, Japan
How to make a blank, U8 Projects, Aichi, Japan
Tomii Motohiro CAS, Osaka, Japan
Usual Things, switch point, Tokyo, Japan

2004 *baggage, switch point*, Tokyo, Japan
THE COVER, ZaGallery Ariake, Tokyo, Japan

2003 *Up above the world*, art & river bank, Tokyo, Japan

2002 *Neighbor Dreams*, Naruse Bijutsuza, Tokyo, Japan
Peripheral and Marginal, Moris Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Forward, Rewind, ZaGallery Ariake, Tokyo, Japan
The way things are, Makii Masaru Fine Arts, Tokyo, Japan
Be, Ai Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2001 *Obvious* (The 4th contest for the best contemporary art work 2000 Grand Prix Exhibition), Moris Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2000 *Monologue*, Shomeido Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

1999 *Smoke's Dot*, Gallery Gen, Tokyo, Japan
An Invisible Room, GALERIA RASEN, Tokyo, Japan
An Object-form, Naruse Bijutsuza, Tokyo, Japan

1998 *Daily Shapes*, Gallery Gen, Tokyo, Japan

**Group Exhibitions (selected)**

- 2020 *Re construction*, Nerima Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
Group Show of Contemporary Artists 2020 "Sunburn After Swimming in the Painted Pool", Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
M Seeds (M no Tane), Musashino Art University Ichigaya Campus, Tokyo, Japan
- 2019 *Absorption / Radiation*, Hokuto Building No.19, Saitama, Japan
Time in contemporary sculpture, The University Art Museum, Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo, Japan
- 2018 *Beyond the future of Meld Sculpture*, Maki Fine Arts, Tokyo, Japan
Asian Art Award 2018 supported by Warehouse TERRADA, TERRADA ART COMPLEX 4F, Tokyo, Japan
what about becoming a collector!, Museum Haus Kasuya, Kanagawa, Japan
- 2017 *Assembridge NAGOYA 2017*, Around the Nagoya Subway TSUKIJIGUCHI Station to NAGOYAKO (Port of Nagoya) Station area, Nagoya, Japan
railroad siding 2017, Former Tokorozawa School Lunch Center Number Two, Saitama, Japan
Group show, clinic, Tokyo, Japan
Group show, See Saw gallery, Nagoya, Japan
Group show, Art Center Ongoing, Tokyo, Japan
6th Exhibition AGAIN-ST, NADiff A/P/A/R/T, Tokyo, Japan
Comparing Scientific Research and Artistic Expression "Perspective 1", Intermediatheque, Tokyo, Japan
buzzreal, Tojin Share House, Saga, Japan
- 2016 *16th KABEGIWA*, hibit, Nagoya, Japan
Arrangements of things, Kiyotsu Warehouse Museum, Niigata, Japan
ART FAIR KIWAMARI 2016, Kiwamari-so in Mito, Ibaraki, Japan
- 2015-16 *Artist File 2015 - Next Doors: Contemporary Art in Japan and Korea*, The National Art Center, Tokyo, Japan / The National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea
- 2015 *railroad siding 2015*, Former Tokorozawa School Lunch Center Number Two, Saitama, Japan
Measuring: This much, That much, How much?, 21_21 DESIGN SIGHT, Tokyo, Japan
Edition Works Prints & Originals, GALLERY SPEAK FOR, Tokyo, Japan
Bunka Institute in Maebashi, Gunma, Japan
- 2014 *quadruple track*, GENDAI HEIGHTS Gallery Den, Tokyo, Japan
METAPLAY, PRAHA-TOKYO, Galerie kritikÚ, Praha, the Czech Republic
The Yanase Villa Art Education Project 'Away Game', The Yanase Villa, Saitama, Japan
Yukai, GENDAI HEIGHTS, Tokyo, Japan
Twentieth Anniversary Special MOT Collection Contacts, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
Drawing03 - preference, Shibuya Garo, Tokyo, Japan
Michikusa, Gendai Heights, Tokyo, Japan
4th Exhibition AGAIN-ST Sculpture is (not) Ornaments, Tohoku University of Art And Design Gallery, Yamagata, Japan
Twentieth Anniversary Special MOT Collection Chronicle 1995, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Collection Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Takeo Paper Show 2014 Subtle, TOLOT, Tokyo, Japan
Shirakawa Yoshio dada, dada, da, Arts Maebashi, Gunma, Japan
Niigata Creation: Museum in Motion, Niigata City Art Museum, Niigata, Japan
- 2013 *Bob & Weeda*, YUGA Gallery & Rittai Kobo, Tokyo, Japan
Geronimo, Turner Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
MOT Collection part2 Acts of Sculpture-Use, Capture, Create, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Collection Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
3rd exhibition AGAIN-ST Dependent sculpture, Tokyo National University of Fine Arts, Tokyo, Japan
railroad siding 2013, Former Tokorozawa School Lunch Center Number Two, Saitama, Japan
Manhattan in Pinhole – Thermodynamics of the Sun, Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Fine Arts, Tochigi, Japan
N+N 2013, Nerima Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
Series Art Kawasaki, Kawasaki City Museum, Kanagawa, Japan
2nd Exhibition Again-st, Nihon University College of Art Gallery, A&DGallery, Chika Ecoda, Tokyo, Japan
Omnilogue: Your Voice is Mine, Nus Museum, Singapore
Sorani, GENDAI HEIGHTS Gallery Den, Tokyo, Japan
- 2012 *Okayama Art corridor*, Okayama culture area, Okayama, Japan
5th The Yanase Villa Art Education Project, Yanase Villa, Saitama, Japan
Geronimo, Turner Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Porallax is Plotted, FAL (Musashino Art University Building No. 2 1F), Tokyo, Japan
Water and Land - Niigata Art Festival Niigata City, Niigata, Japan
1st Exhibition AGAIN-ST, Tokyo Zokei University, CS Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Outrange 2012, Bumpodo Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
FOURSIXTY EXHIBITION, Nagoya City Gallery Yada, Aichi, Japan
RYUGU IS OVER!!, Ryugu Bijutu Ryokan Yokohama, Japan
- 2011 *ART & PRODUCT*, Ai Kowada Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Okayama Art Corridor, Okayama Korakuen Garden, Okayama, Japan
Re-Modernologio phase 2: Observation and notation, Aomori Contemporary Art Centre, Aomori, Japan
The Yanase Villa Art Education Project, Yanase Villa, Saitama, Japan
CATCH THE LIGHT, Nagoya Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Tokyo, Japan
Tokorozawa Biennial of Contemporary Art SIDING RAIL ROAD 2011, Tokorozawa City Lifelong Learning Promotion Center, Former Tokorozawa School Lunch Center Number Two, Saitama, Japan
Yokohama Triennale "Our Magic Hour" How much of the world can we know?, Yokohama Museum of Art, NYK-Waterfront, Warehouse (BankART Studio NYK) and the surrounding areas, Kanagawa, Japan
New Objects Motohiro Tomii +Yuken Teruya, Old walk pavilion (Planned construction location for Maebashi City Museum of Art), Gunma, Japan
Summer Camp for Sculpture, Earth bound, Mercian Karuizawa Art Museum, Nagano, Japan
Motohiro Tomii + Fuminao Suenaga, switch point, Tokyo, Japan
MOT Annual 2011 Nearest Faraway, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan



- 2010 A POSSIBLE DIMENSION, PANTALOON, Osaka, Japan
Motonao Tominaga + Fumihiro Suei + Motoaki Tomita + Hirohiro Morii + Fumiaki Sueta + Hironao Morinaga, switch point, Tokyo, Japan
Keisuke Kondo x Motohiro Tomii, Gallery Countach, Tokyo, Japan
The Yanase Villa Art Education Project, Yanase Villa, Saitama, Japan
WIND-OW, MA2 Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
0/DATE 2010 ZERO DATE Art Project, Odate, Akita, Japan
Whenever Wherever Festival, Asahi Art Square, Tokyo, Japan
- 2009 The 1st Tokorozawa Biennial of Contemporary Art -SIDING RAIL ROAD 2009, Seibu Railway Old Tokorozawa Vehicle Plant, Saitama, Japan
Attempt 2 -Tokuzo Yabitsu, Yasuhide Kuge, Motohiro Tomii, Jumbo Suzuki, Museum Haus Kasuya, Kanagawa, Japan
Inside Outline - Motohiro Tomii + Yuki Okumura, KABEGIWA, Tokyo, Japan
Metamorphosis - Objects Today - Exhibition vol.2 Motohiro Tomii x Nobuhiro Nakanishi 'Transmutable Objects', Gallery α M, Tokyo, Japan
Renewal, Musashino Art University Museum and Library, Tokyo, Japan
Kabegiwa, GENDAI HEIGHTS Gallery Den, Tokyo, Japan
- 2008 BROKEN, TIME & STYLE MIDTOWN, Tokyo, Japan
5 x 5, Bankokubashi Gallery, Yokohama, Japan
Art Program Ome 2008 - Atmospheric Perspective, U-39, Ome Fabric Industrial Facility, Tokyo, Japan
New Balance, gallery Archipelago, Tokyo, Japan
DRAWING, TIME & STYLE MIDTOWN, Tokyo, Japan
- 2007 New Vision Saitama III - 7 eyes x 7 methods, The Museum of Modern Art Saitama, Saitama, Japan
pre, switch point, Tokyo, Japan
Kabegiwa, KABEGIWA, Tokyo, Japan
- 2006 Standard Skill, KABEGIWA, Tokyo, Japan
Color and Form, KABEGIWA, Tokyo, Japan
- 2005 12 DIVERS AT THE MOUNTAIN GATE, Old Yamaguchi Shoes Shop, Tokyo, Japan
MATERIAL MIXTURE, node cube, Tokyo, Japan
The Cap for preparing Issue No.0 of The Mountain of Art, Three Dimensional Section, NADiff, Tokyo, Japan
cat's heaven...!, gallery Archipelago, Tokyo, Japan
Constellation of Art 2005, Gallery Kumai, Tokyo, Japan
Towards Azakai - Forms of Narrow Path, Nagakute Cultural Center, Aichi, Japan
Fukagawa HO-BO Art 2, Fukagawa Edo Museums Shopping Street, Tokyo, Japan
- 2004 conran show, OKADA STUDIO, Aichi, Japan
floating scale - A tour about scale, Gakushoku 2nd Floor, Aichi, Japan
space U8 Projects, Aichi, Japan
- 2003 Small Works Exhibition, ZaGallery Ariake, Tokyo, Japan
Bookmarks, Ai Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Jin Session 2003 Vol.4 - off topic, Gallery Jin, Tokyo, Japan
PC2003, ZaGallery Ariake, Tokyo, Japan
A New Century living with Art 4 - An Origin of Power, ZaGallery Ariake, Tokyo, Japan
- 2002 PC Show, ZaGallery Ariake, Tokyo, Japan
GALERIA RASEN session, GALERIA RASEN, Tokyo, Japan
- 2001 minimum continuation, exhibit LIVE, Tokyo, Japan
GALERIA RASEN 2001, GALERIA RASEN, Tokyo, Japan
- 2000 Constellation of Art 1998-1999-2000, Naruse Bijutsuza, Tokyo, Japan
TRANSIT -Via / Bandwidth (The 4th contest for the best contemporary art work 2000, GALERIA RASEN Prize Show), GALERIA RASEN, Tokyo, Japan
Yotaro Niwa x Motohiro Tomii - A Desk Plan, Gallery Maronie, Kyoto, Japan
GALERIA RASEN selection 2000 Vol.2, GALERIA RASEN, Tokyo, Japan
- 1999 Yutaka Kimura x Motohiro Tomii - House of being for unknown myself, Metal Art Museum Hikinotani, Chiba, Japan
The 4th contest for the best contemporary art work 2000 Exhibition, Shinkiba SOKO Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
An Undoable Nerves, Gallery Nayuta, Kanagawa, Japan
Selected MA Graduates Show, Musashino Art University Museum and Library, Tokyo, Japan
- 1998 Talking Container, Gallery Nayuta, Yokohama, Japan
- 1997 Motohiro Tomii x Yotaro Niwa - The dramaturgy, Daily Life Passing, KID AILACK ART HALL, Tokyo, Japan

Public Collections (selected)

Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo

Niigata City Art Museum, Niigata

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

E-mail: info@ycassociates.co.jp Tel. +81-3-6276-6731 <http://www.ycassociates.co.jp>

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

Gallery Hours: 12:00-18:00 (Closed on Sundays, Mondays and national holidays)