

ACT (Artists Contemporary TOKAS) Vol. 4

Approach to Alternative Images

2022/2/5 (Sat) – 3/21 (Mon)

Tokyo Arts and Space Hongo

Tokyo Arts and Space (TOKAS) has been supporting the activities of artists, continuously and at various stages in their careers, through open call exhibitions, special showcases, and international exchange programs. The ACT exhibitions, launched in 2018 as a series focusing mainly on artists who have previously participated in other TOKAS programs, introduce noteworthy efforts by up-and-coming artists. Shown at this forth ACT exhibition are works by Saito Haruka, a creator of paintings and installations that incorporate elements of time and space; Nakazawa Daisuke, who is active as a “narrative explorer” and designer; and Yuasa Ebosi, an artist whose work revolves all around a fictitious painter.

The three featured artists attempt in their works to extend certain shared times and spaces, by introducing elements of imagination into events that actually occurred in the past. In the exhibition, Saito and Nakazawa both present new works that were inspired by the history of the TOKAS Hongo building, which was constructed in 1928, while Yuasa presents paintings by a fictitious artist of that time. By linking past events to the present, these works expose the structure of the human society that we are part of, while at once presenting alternative perspectives on the world. Unfolding on the stage of the TOKAS Hongo building, which has itself seen a variety of human individuals come and go as time moved on from the Showa to the Reiwa era, the exhibition aims to inspire visitors to think again about what they see here and now, by connecting to things that once existed there and then.

EXHIBITION INFORMATION

Exhibition Title: ACT Vol. 4 “Approach to Alternative Images”
Artists: SAITO Haruka, NAKAZAWA Daisuke, YUASA Ebosi
Period: 2022/2/5 (Sat) - 3/21 (Mon)
Venue: Tokyo Arts and Space Hongo (2-4-16 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo)
Open Hours: 11:00-19:00 (Last Entry 18:30)
Closed: Mondays (Except 3/21)
Admission: Free
Organizer: Tokyo Arts and Space, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture
URL: www.tokyoartsandspace.jp/en/

RELATED EVENT

Artist Talk *Available only in Japanese
Date: 2/5 (Sat) 16:00 - 17:30

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ARTISTS

*Please contact PR for more images.

SAITO Haruka

Based on her understanding of the concept of time as an aggregation of changes triggered by the kinetic energy of objects, Saito creates paintings and installations in which various events are linked to temporal and spatial structures. Through these works in which she captures things that occurred around her, the artist attempts to manipulate time in the space that the viewer perceives.

In this exhibition, she presents a video installation themed around the transformations of the TOKAS Hongo building, from the delayed construction works to the damage it suffered during the air raids of 1945. Images of the building's temporal and spatial developments through the stages of construction, devastation and restoration, are accompanied by spoken words, and wind generated through the movements of objects.

Profile

Born in Nagano in 1988. Lives and works in Tokyo. Graduated with a BA in Oil Painting from Tama Art University in 2011.

Recent exhibitions: "Group Show of Contemporary Artists 2020 'Sunburn After Swimming in the Painted Pool'," Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, "Sleeping While Standing / Speaking While Swimming," Art Center Ongoing, Tokyo, 2020, "If the Painted Juice Were Not Real, We Wouldn't Exist in This Form in This World," The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, 2017, "TWS-Emerging 2012 'the visible star and the invisible star from the earth which looked at the spectacle that can be recalled and the spectacle that cannot be recalled, are revolving each other, including the earth'," TWS Hongo, Tokyo.

Recent awards: "Art Orinpia 2015" Executive Committee Special Award, "Tokyo Wonder Wall 2011" Tokyo Wonder Wall Prize.



1. *The Shadow Shapes are Mountains* 2017

Wall, three projectors, acrylic board, chain, string, bracket, board, illumination light, stone etc.



2. *Dream of UNAGIINU / Story of UNAGIINU* 2020
Oil on board, hinge

NAKAZAWA Daisuke

Nakazawa collects and reassembles trivial stories from everyday life, involving people and places, societies and customs, employing means of theater, cultural anthropology and architecture. The resulting interactive works encourage viewers to discover alternative views of things.

Inspired by the fact that the TOKAS Hongo building once accommodated the Hongo Employment Agency of Tokyo City, at this exhibition the artist temporarily sets up a present-day incarnation of the “Hongo Employment Agency.” After watching interviews with people of various professions/positions on the meaning of work, participants can book interviews with “agents” at the Employment Agency, which inspire them to look back on their own work. Through this opportunity to move back and forth between the past and the present, they can reflect on the meaning of work, including how we are supposed to approach “work” as an activity that we humans dedicate a large portion of our life to.

*Reservations for interviews at the Employment Agency can be made via the TOKAS website from 1/12 (Available only in Japanese.) For viewing-only, a reservation is not required.

Profile

Lives and works in Tokyo and Kyoto. Graduated with an MA in Narrative Environments from Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London in 2015. Founded the theater company “Pepin Structural Designs” together with classmates after graduating from high school. In recent years, he is increasingly active also as an individual artist.

Recent works: *Returning to the Soil*, mori no tenjishitsu, Kyoto, 2021, *Passage Tells: Ameyoko*, Uokusa, Tokyo, 2020, *Passage Tells: Shibuya*, Shibuya Train Station, Tokyo, 2017. He is involved in Japanese-Chinese-Korean coproduction “The Behaviour Project,” which is planned to be resumed in 2022 after being delayed due to COVID-19.



3. *Returning to the Soil* 2021 Mixed media



4. *Passage Tells: Shibuya* 2017 Mixed media

The TOKAS Hongo building was erected in 1928 as part of Tokyo City's reconstruction project after the Great Kanto Earthquake. It initially served as an employment agency, before being transformed into a public vocational guidance center in 1949. Having functioned as a training school for several decades, it finally reopened in 2001 as an art center.

YUASA Ebosi

For his own creative work, the featured artist slips into the role of Yuasa Ebosi (1924-1987), a fictitious painter who was born in the Taisho era. In addition to historical backgrounds of the time, names of real living persons, such as Fukuzawa Ichiro or Yamashita Kikuji, appear in his fabricated biography as an artist who continues to interweave in his works threads of history and artful fiction.

Presented at this exhibition are works that were – allegedly – made by the fictional Yuasa Ebosi in the 1960s-70s. In a style that suggests influences from surrealism, “reportage painting” and American culture, the artist illustrates a history that could have been a reality, as part of his attempt to grasp the present age from various points of view.

Profile

Born in Chiba in 1983. Lives and works in Chiba. Graduated with a BFA from Toyo Institute of Art Design in 2008.

Recent exhibitions: “still life 静物,” Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, 2021, “Spectral Intrusions,” AKIO NAGASAWA GALLERY AOYAMA, Tokyo, 2019, “Prapagon Horse,” EUKARYOTE, Tokyo, 2019, “Shell Art Award Artist Selection 2018,” The National Art Center, Tokyo, “The 20th Taro Okamoto Award for Contemporary Art,” Taro Okamoto Museum of Art, Kanagawa, 2017, “TWS-Emerging 2014 ‘News paper collage project’,” TWS Shibuya, Tokyo.

Recent award: The 10th Koji Kinutani Award, 2018.



5. *Attempted Suicide* 2016 Acrylic on canvas



7. *Experimental Report* 2015 Acrylic on canvas



6. *Female Worker No.1* 2016 Acrylic on canvas

ACT Vol. 4 "Approach to Alternative Images"
Application Form for Image Data

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<Press Contact>

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