

2019.8.28 Wed. — 11.11 Mon.

国立新美術館
企画展示室1E [東京・六本木]

The National Art Center, Tokyo
Special Exhibition Gallery 1E

休館日
毎週火曜日
ただし、10月22日[火・祝]は開館、10月23日[水]は休館

開館時間
10:00—18:00
毎週金・土曜日は、8・9月は21:00まで、10・11月は20:00まで
入場は閉館の30分前まで

主催
国立新美術館

Closed
Tuesdays
Open on October 22[Tue.] and closed on
October 23[Wed.] instead

Opening hours
10:00—18:00 | Last admission 30 minutes before closing
10:00—21:00 on Fridays and Saturdays in
August and September;
10:00—20:00 on Fridays and Saturdays in
October and November

Organized by
The National Art Center, Tokyo

Erika Kobayashi
My Torch
2019
C-print
54.9×36.7cm (each, set of 47)
Collection of the artist
© Erika Kobayashi
Courtesy of
Yutaka Kikumake Gallery
Photo | Kasane Nogawa

現代
美術に
潜む
文学

Literature in Japanese Contemporary Art

話して
誰の
物語は
誰の
物語は
誰の
物語は

北島敬三
Keizo Kitajima

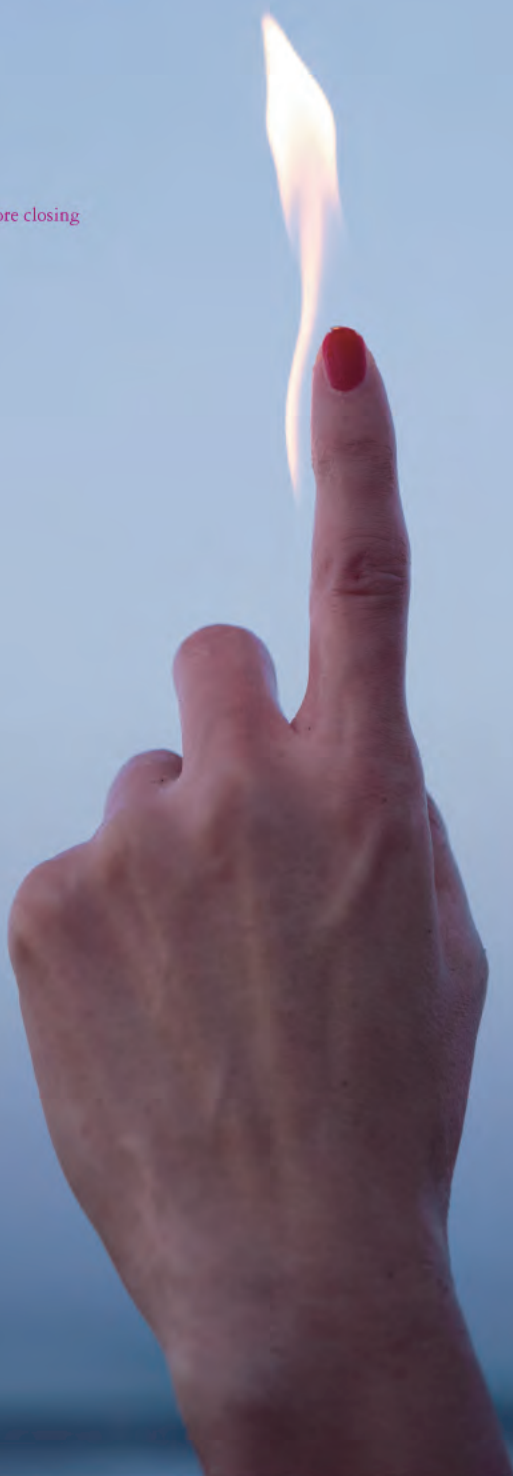
小林エリカ
Erika Kobayashi

ミヤギフトシ
Futoshi Miyagi

田村友一郎
Yuichiro Tamura

豊嶋康子
Yasuko Toyoshima

山城知佳子
Chikako Yamashiro



Exhibition Overview

This group exhibition features six Japanese contemporary artists, who are active both inside and outside the country. In addition to being born over a broad span of time, from the 1950s to the 1980s, the artists make use of a diverse range of expressive methods, including installations that incorporate videos and photographs.

Common to all of the artists' work is the notable presence of literary elements. The phrase, "*Ut pictura poesis*" (As is painting, so is poetry), derived from the ancient Roman poet Horace's *Ars Poetica* (The Art of Poetry), is frequently cited as proof for the close relationship between the artistic genres of poetry and painting. Discussions on the affinity between literary arts, such as poetry and prose, and visual arts, such as painting and sculpture, have been undertaken in a variety of ages and places.

As the title suggests, the theme of this exhibition is literature. But in this case, the word does not refer to literature as an artistic genre – i.e., literary works that take the form of a book. Rather, it indicates narratives made up of images that exist within the context of contemporary art. We hope that you will enjoy experiencing the wide array of literary expressions in Japanese contemporary art.

Participating ArtistsKeizo Kitajima

Born 1954 in Nagano. Lives and works in Tokyo.

After joining Daido Moriyama's class at the Workshop School of Photography, Kitajima became active as a photographer in 1975. The snapshots he took in Koza, Okinawa the same year led to a series of pictures taken in Tokyo, New York, Eastern Europe, and the Soviet Union. In 1992, he began an ongoing series called PORTRAITS, in which he shot people dressed in white clothing from a fixed point. In 2014, Kitajima embarked on UNTITLED RECORDS, a series of landscape photographs taken all over Japan. In 1983, he received the 8th Ihei Kimura Photography Award. Kitajima periodically shows his work at a jointly-run venue called photographers' gallery (established in 2001) in Shinjuku. In 2009, Kitajima held a solo exhibition of his work called *Kitajima Keizo 1975–1991: Koza / Tokyo / New York / Eastern Europe / U.S.S.R.* at the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography.

Erika Kobayashi

Born 1978 in Tokyo, where she now lives and works.

Kobayashi's work deals with motifs such as invisible entities, time, history, family, and memory. Her books include *Breakfast with Madame Curie* (Shuseisha, 2014; shortlisted for the 27th Yukio Mishima Prize and nominated for the 151st Akutagawa Prize), and a two-volume manga on the scientific history of radiation called *Children of Light: LUMINOUS* (Little More, 2013 and 2016). In recent years, Kobayashi has created numerous installations in which she combines videos, drawings, and texts. Her recent exhibitions include the solo shows *IF in the Forest of Wild Birds* (Yutaka Kikutake Gallery, Tokyo, 2019) and *Trinity* (Karuizawa New Art Museum, Nagano, 2017), and the group shows *Harsb Astral. The Radiants II* (Galerie Francesca Pia, Zürich, 2018; Halle für Kunst, Lüneburg, 2018), and *Roppongi Crossing 2016: My Body, Your Voice* (Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, 2016).

Futoshi Miyagi

Born 1981 in Okinawa. Lives and works in Tokyo.

Using videos, photographs, objects, and texts, Miyagi's work deals with socio-political phenomena, particularly sexual and minority issues. Miyagi's ongoing project *American Boyfriend*, a work he began in 2012 in which he considers whether it is possible for an Okinawan man to fall in love with an American man in Okinawa, is made up of a series of photographs, videos, texts, printed ephemera and blog entries. His published works include the novel *Distant* (Kawade Shobo Shinsha, 2019). In 2019, he was nominated for the 44th Ihei Kimura Photography Award. His recent exhibitions include the solo show *The Dreams That Have Faded* (CAI02, Hokkaido, 2018) and the group show *Contemporary Japanese Photography Vol. 15: Things So Faint But Real* (Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Tokyo, 2018–19).

Participating Artists

Yuichiro Tamura

Born 1977 in Toyama. Lives and works in Kyoto.

Tamura's work centers on installations and performances derived from existing images and objects. Using a uniquely reflective approach that transcends traditional artistic genres, Tamura not only sets out to convey a message to visitors from the privileged world of contemporary art, but also invites an unusual form of communication with the viewer. Tamura creates multi-layered narratives, containing a mixture of fact and fiction, based on a wide range of sources from indigenous historical themes to well-known popular subjects. His recent exhibitions have included the solo shows *Hell Scream* (Kyoto City University of Arts Art Gallery @KCUA, Kyoto, 2018) and *G* (Yuka Tsuruno Gallery, Tokyo, 2018), and the group shows *The Seven Lamps of the Art Museum* (Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Hiroshima, 2019), *Where Am I?: The Art and Design of Signage* (Toyama Prefectural Museum of Art and Design, Toyama, 2019), and *Roppongi Crossing 2019: Connexions* (Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, 2019).

Yasuko Toyoshima

Born 1967 in Saitama, where she now lives and works.

Toyoshima creates work imbued with multiple perspectives by altering existing objects such as abacuses, dice, and safety pins, and a wide range of materials that are common associated with art such as pencils, oil paint, and wooden frames. By sampling various models of thinking from a social system, she develops a structure that corresponds to the model in her work. At the same time, Toyoshima has undertaken a series of projects in which she repeatedly buys stock and opens bank accounts to transform her identity as the holder from an individual into a collective, and reexamines the established relationship between fixed actions and shared roles in everyday life. Her recent exhibitions include the solo show *Stainless Steel* (M-gallery, Tochigi, 2018), and the group shows *Beyond the Future of Meld Sculpture* (Maki Fine Arts, Tokyo, 2018), and *The Knowledge and Beliefs of the World* (Komagome SOKO, Tokyo, 2018).

Chikako Yamashiro

Born 1976 in Okinawa, where she now lives and works.

Yamashiro delves into issues such as the U.S. military bases and war in Okinawa, and examines conceptual boundaries between connection and separation, succession and interruption, the center and the periphery, and life and death. In recent years, by approaching these as universal historical problems that are ubiquitous all over the world and not peculiar to Okinawa, Yamashiro has made works that reference narratives rooted in historical facts and oral legends. She has shown her work in exhibitions such as *Kyoto Experiment: Kyoto International Performing Arts Festival 2018* (Kyoto Art Center, Kyoto, 2018), *Asia Pacific Breweries Foundation Signature Art Prize 2018* (National Museum of Singapore, Singapore, 2018), and *From Generation to Generation: Inherited Memory and Contemporary Art* (The Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco, 2016–17). In 2018, she received the Zonta prize at the 64th International Short Film Festival Oberhausen, and in 2017, the grand prize at The Asian Art Award 2017 supported by Warehouse TERRADA.

Keizo Kitajima



01
Keizo Kitajima
TSILCARL VILLAGE ARMENIA
(From the series *USSR 1991*)
1991 / 2019
Pigment print
66.0×93.0cm
Collection of the artist
© KITAJIMA KEIZO



01
Keizo Kitajima
IITATE
(From the series *UNTITLED RECORDS*)
2011 / 2019
Pigment print
83.0×103.7cm
Collection of the artist
© KITAJIMA KEIZO

Erika Kobayashi



03
Erika Kobayashi
My Torch
2019
C-print
54.9×36.7cm (each, set of 47)
Collection of the artist
© Erika Kobayashi
Courtesy of Yutaka Kikutake Gallery
Photo: Kasane Nogawa



04
Erika Kobayashi
Dollar
2017
Uranium glass, mirror, ultraviolet lamp
61.0×41.0×7.5 φ70 cm
Private collection
Cooperation: Fairywood Glass Museum
© Erika Kobayashi
Courtesy of Yutaka Kikutake Gallery

Futoshi Miyagi



05
Futoshi Miyagi
A Lamp
(From *In a Well-lit Room: Dialogues Between Two Characters*)
2019
Digital C-print
Collection of the artist
© Futoshi Miyagi



06
Futoshi Miyagi
From the Palace on the Hill #2
(From *In a Well-lit Room: Dialogues Between Two Characters*)
2019
Digital C-print
Collection of the artist
© Futoshi Miyagi

Yuichiro Tamura



07
Yuichiro Tamura
Stone of Madagascar
2017
Dimensions variable
Collection of Yuka Tsuruno Gallery
© Yuichiro Tamura
Courtesy of Yuka Tsuruno Gallery



08
Yuichiro Tamura
Midnight Rainbow
2017
Dimensions variable
Collection of Yuka Tsuruno Gallery
© Yuichiro Tamura
Courtesy of Yuka Tsuruno Gallery

Yasuko Toyoshima



09
Yasuko Toyoshima
Discrepancy
2018
Paper, split pin, acrylic paint, ballpoint pen
φ11.5 cm
Collection of the artist
Photo: KIOKU Keizo

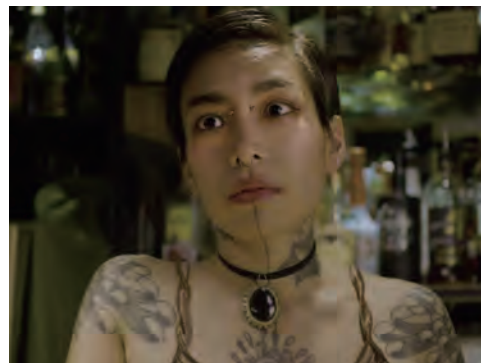


10
Yasuko Toyoshima
Square Margin Throwing Star
2018
Plywood, linseed oil, oil paint
91.0×91.0×2.7 cm
Collection of the artist

Chikako Yamashiro



11
Chikako Yamashiro
Chinbin Western: Representation of the Family
2019
4KHD Video, color, sound
Collection of the artist
© Chikako Yamashiro
Courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates



12
Chikako Yamashiro
Chinbin Western: Representation of the Family
2019
4KHD Video, color, sound
Collection of the artist
© Chikako Yamashiro
Courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates

Information

Exhibition title

Image Narratives: Literature in Japanese Contemporary Art

Date

August 28 (Wed.) – November 11 (Mon.), 2019

Closed: Tuesdays

Open on October 22 (Tue.) and closed on

October 23 (Wed.) instead

Opening hours

10:00–18:00

○ 10:00–21:00 on Fridays and Saturdays in August and September

○ 10:00–20:00 on Fridays and Saturdays in October and November

○ Last admission 30 minutes before closing

Admission (tax included)

General: Adults 1,000 yen | College students 500 yen

Advance/Group: Adults 800 yen | College students 300 yen

- Free admission on Sun., November 3, 2019 for Culture Day.
- Visitors who are under 18, including high school students, will be admitted for free.
- Disabled persons (along with one assistant) will be admitted for free upon presenting a Disabled Person's Booklet or an equivalent form of government-issued ID.
- Advance tickets on sale from June 28 (Fri.) – August 27 (Tue.), 2019.
- Tickets, both Advance and General, are available through the National Art Center, Tokyo (open days only), ONLINE TICKETS (e-tix), and Ticket Pia (Pcode: 769-757). Service charges may apply. (These services are only available in Japanese.)
- Group tickets (for groups of a minimum of 20 people) can only be purchased at the National Art Center, Tokyo.

Venue

The National Art Center, Tokyo,
 Special Exhibition Gallery 1E

Organized by

The National Art Center, Tokyo

- Visitors who present a ticket or ticket stub from another exhibition currently underway at the National Art Center, Tokyo, the Suntory Museum or the Mori Art Museum (the three facilities that make up the Roppongi Art Triangle) will be eligible for the group discount.
- Visitors 65 and over (I.D. with proof of age required) who present a ticket stub from the Artist Associations' Exhibition held at the National Art Center, Tokyo will be admitted to the exhibition at the college student group rate.
- Students, faculty and staff, or "Campus Members" can apply for group discounts.

The National Art Center, Tokyo

7-22-2 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-8558

Inquiries: +81 (0) 3-5777-8600 (Hello Dial)

Twitter: @NACT_PR

Facebook: @nact.jp

Instagram: @thenationalartcentertokyo

Related events

Information on events will be posted as soon as details are decided. For the latest information, please visit the National Art Center, Tokyo website.

Concurrent exhibitions

Christian Boltanski — Lifetime

Date: January 12 (Wed.) – September 2 (Mon.), 2019

Venue: The National Art Center, Tokyo

Special Exhibition Gallery 2E

Cartier, Crystallization of Time

Date: October 2 (Wed.) – December 16 (Mon.), 2019

Venue: The National Art Center, Tokyo

Special Exhibition Gallery 2E

Press Inquiries

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Access

Tokyo Metro Chiyoda Line, Nogizaka Station,
 direct access from Exit 6

Tokyo Metro Hibiya Line/ Toei Oedo Subway Line,
 Roppongi Station, approximately 4-minute walk from
 Exit 7

○ No parking

