ARTCOURT Gallery is pleased to present Walking in the Sky, a solo exhibition of new works by sculptor Kozo Nishino. With titanium and stainless steel, Kozo Nishino (1951-) has been using delicate yet dynamic sculptural expression to create unique natural landscapes. This exhibition will show new works of his trussed structures such as Spanning Space 2020, a ring measuring 7.2 meters in diameter afloat in midair, and Walking in the Sky, an approximately 10 meter long horizontal bridge that will float at the viewers’ feet, which together will create a space where one may picture themselves walking through the air.

Revolving around themes of natural phenomena like that of the wind and the sky, Nishino has had an artistic career since the mid-1980s, focusing on large-scale sculptures that show expanses of time-space through structural beauty with subdued volume. Not at the mercy of the contemporary trends, Nishino waits for what naturally wells out from within, and uses his feelings of yearning for and awe of the sky and outer space as a starting point that is then incorporated into his work. The sky continues to be a strong presence for him as a large source of inspiration. An experience in his boyhood that left him feeling as if he had been engulfed by the sky, the sight of the sky as the sun is setting, or the view from an airplane flying above the clouds; these “memories of the sky” that Nishino has within him became the outline for his works, shown in each and every line of metal he has drawn in subtle curves.

Furthermore, one of Nishino’s most representative motifs is the ring as an image of infinity, which he has dealt with in his work across many years. Drawn in an arc starting at the fulcrum, the lines that become more and more detailed as they approach the tip and reach the extremity seem to continue on to melt into their surrounding landscape, connecting the gaze and consciousness towards the grandeur of the sky. Nishino’s sculptures, with their organic movements that play along with nature and keep their own unique sense of time, are all created through a delicate sense of handiwork without using blueprints. Even now as an accomplished artist, he is engrossed discovering ways of improving and new joys in the act of creating.

When speaking about his work Sky Memory*, installed at 4 World Trade Center building in the summer of 2013, Nishino described later on how he “had the sense that the work itself, with its floating appearance, had become the sky—and that sky was gazing down at us, or at the very least, at me.” The “memory of the sky” inherent in his work from around this point “also represents humans living in the embrace of something greater” and expresses the preciousness and warmth that dwells in people. Now, how will we be able to experience what Nishino will show us as “walking in the sky”?

A number of works from his series using the motif of musical instruments, produced from 1986 to 1994 while garnering a wide response and much attention, will also be exhibited for the first time in 30 years. Evidence of his rapid development shortly after, the endeavors leading up to his large-scale works can already be seen in these pieces. We hope to draw your attention to the work of Kozo Nishino.

Kozo Nishino: Walking in the Sky

Exhibition title: Kozo Nishino: Walking in the Sky  
Venue: ARTCOURT Gallery  
Duration: January 11 (Sat) - March 14 (Sat), 2020  
Hours: 11:00am - 7:00pm (Saturdays - 5:00pm)

◆ Related Events: January 25 (Sat), 2020
3:00pm - 4:00pm Artist Talk [Tadashi Kobayashi (Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art) & Kozo Nishino]
4:00pm - 5:00pm Reception

*RSVP is required for the talk. Please email info@artcourtgallery.com or call +81-6-6354-5444.
*Free admission.


[Winter Break] The gallery will be closed during the following dates: December 29 (Sun), 2019 - January 6 (Mon), 2020

* Please contact Mizuho Haida or Miwa Ohba at ARTCOURT Gallery for any inquiries including photographic materials.
OAP ARTCOURT 1F, 1-8-5 Tennabashi, Kita-ku, Osaka, 530-0042 | info@artcourtgallery.com | T: (+81) 6-6354-5444 | F: (+81) 6-6354-5449 | artcourtgallery.com
Kozo Nishino: Walking in the Sky

Kozo Nishino

1951 Born in Hyogo, Japan.
1977 Graduated from Kyoto City University of Art.
1978-79 Travels around to many ruins in regions throughout Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

Solo Exhibitions
2019 Gallery Yamaki Fine Art, Hyogo
2014 LIXIL GALLERY 2, Tokyo (April 18 – May 27)
ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka
2011 Hongo Shin Memorial Museum of Sculpture, Sapporo, Hokkaido
2004 Spiral Garden, Tokyo [‘97, ’92]
ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka
2000 INAX Gallery, Tokyo
1997 Toyama Shimin Plaza, Toyama
1986 Galerie 16, Kyoto

Selected Group Exhibitions
2017 Port of Kobe 150th Anniversary Port City Kobe Art Festival, Kobe Port, Hyogo
Sculpture by the Sea, Cottesloe, Australia
2016 Sculp the by the Sea, Sydney, Australia [‘08]
2015 The 27th Kyoto Fine Arts Cultural Award Memorial Exhibition, The Museum of Kyoto
2012 Reactivation–The 9th Shanghain Bienalle, Power Station of Art, Shanghai, China
2009 Sculpture by the Sea, Aarhus, Denmark
2005 The 21st Exhibition of Contemporary Japanese Sculpture, Ube Outdoor Sculpture Museum, Yamaguchi [‘99, ’97, ’89]
2001 Gimpo International Open-air Sculpture Exhibition, Gimpo, Korea
2000 Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial 2000, Niigata
1996 Art is Fun 7 “IN/OUT”, Hara Museum ARC, Shibukawa, Gunma
1993 Exhibition by Four Sculptors, Meguro Gajoen, Tokyo
1992 Urban Index—Contemporary Sculpture and Environment Exhibition, Takashimaya Department Store, Tokyo
Tokyo Art Expo Special Exhibition, International Convention Center, Tokyo
1990 Odawara Castle Open-air Sculpture Exhibition, Odawara Castle Park, Kanagawa
1989 Setoda Biennale, Hiroshima
Contemporary Figurative Arts 6, Museum of Fine Arts, Gifu
1988 11th Suma Detached Palace Garden Contemporary Sculpture Exhibition, Suma Detached Palace Garden, Kobe, Hyogo
1987 3rd Henry Moore Grand Prize Exhibition, The Utsukushi-ga-hara Open-air Museum, Ueda, Nagano [‘85]
1986 16th Japan International Art Exhibition, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Art and Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art [‘84]
1985 Art & Craft Exhibition of Selected New Artists 1985, Kyoto Prefectural Center for Arts and Culture
Japan Contemporary Art Exhibition, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Art and Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art [‘81]
1984 Kyoto Art Exhibition, Kyoto Prefectural Center for Arts and Culture [‘81]

Selected Awards
2014 The 27th Kyoto Art and Culture Award
2011 The 15th Hongo Shin Memorial Prize
2002 Nagano City Open-Air Sculpture Prize
2001 The 32nd Teijiro Nakahara Prize, Excellence Award
1997 The 17th Exhibition of Contemporary Japanese Sculpture, Mainichi Newspapers Award
1995 The 6th AACA Award, Special Prize
1990 Odawara Castle Open-Air Sculpture Exhibition, Grand Prize
1988 11th Suma Detached Palace Garden Contemporary Sculpture Exhibition, Asahi Newspapers Prize / The Museum of Modern Art (Saitama) Prize

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Kozo Nishino: Walking in the Sky

Major Collections and Installation Locations

Outside of Japan
2016 Tianhui Plaza, igc, Zhujiang Xincheng, Guangzhou, China
2015 ACT (Australian Capital Territory) Canberra, Australia
2013 4 World Trade Center, New York, U.S.A.
Power Station of Art, Shanghai, China
2012 ACT (Australian Capital Territory), Canberra, Australia
2010 Hannam the Hill Sculpture Park, Seoul, Korea
2008 Sydney, Australia
2001 Gimpo Sculpture Park, Gimpo, Korea

In Japan
2018 Otemachi Place, Tokyo
Panasonic Museum, Osaka
Taiyo Seimei Nihonbashi Building (6th floor), Tokyo
2016 Tokyo Garden Terrace Kioicho (office floor), Tokyo
2013 WATERRASS, Tokyo
2010 Sosugawa Park, Sapporo, Hokkaido
2007 East exit, JR Shimizu Station, Shizuoka
2005 East side of Yagamuchi University Hospital
2003 Hokkaido Ryokukan (treatment center for disabled children, Asahikawa, Hokkaido)
Shimodate Museum of Art, Ibaraki
Outside JR Aioi Station, Hyogo
2002 East exit, JR Nagano Station
2000 Toppan Koishikawa Building, Tokyo
Nita, Tokamachi City, Niigata
1999 Kirishima Open-air Museum, Ario-gun, Kagoshima
Katakura Park, Ube, Yamaguchi
1998 International Convention Center, Toyama
1997 Ube Outdoor Sculpture Museum, Yamaguchi
1995 Chigasaki Park Pool, Kanagawa
1994 Act City, Hamamatsu, Shizuoka
1993 Ohashi Park, Nagasaki
1989 The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
Island-wide Art Museum, Onomichi, Hiroshima
1988 Museum of Modern Art, Saitama
1985 Kyoto Prefectural Library and Archive

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