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# Kyotaro Hakamata: *Sculptural Negative*

ARTCOURT Gallery 20th Anniversary Vol. 5

## Exhibition

Exhibition Title: **Kyotaro Hakamata: *Sculptural Negative***

Duration: **Sep. 16 (Sat.) - Oct. 14 (Sat.), 2023** \*Closed on Sundays and Mondays

Venue: ARTCOURT Gallery 1F, 1-8-5 Tenmabashi, Kita-ku, Osaka 530-0042

Hours: 11:00am–6:00pm [Sat. –5:00pm]

◆ Events: **Sep. 16 (Sat.)**

2:00–3:30pm Talk session

Takashi Fukumoto (Curator, National Museum of Art, Osaka) & Kyotaro Hakamata

\*RSVP required for the Talk session (Up to first 20 people)

3:30–5:00pm Reception

## Artist Statement



### *Sculptural Negative (The Joy in Creation)*

I have been working on the issue of replica in sculpture for a long time. While replica implies the rational creation of things, it has the morally questionable aspect of imitation. In this contradiction, I found the visceral sensation of stepping foot into the boundary of what it means to create something. And from this, what I call ‘Sculptural Negative’ was born.

Although ‘replica’ is the creation of things in an operative process, it can hardly be called a creative endeavor. But within that practical and tedious process, I recently realized there is an intense ‘joy in creation.’ While quite far from ‘art,’ it is a joy that comes precisely from the rigorousness and automatic nature of the operative process. And if it were not for this, I would not have chosen to do this kind of austere labor.

The material of the sculpture already possesses an image before the artist even touches it. To create a sculpture is to destroy it and remake it into another image. Before considering the good and bad aspects of the new image that is born, what matters is the appearance of the new image and the wonder that it invokes. Clay becomes human lips.

Cloth becomes curtains, which creates unsettling spaces. Carrots and daikon radishes become letters and words. Acrylic boards become colorful stripes. I want to extract the exact moment, when those strong images are conveyed into the material, as intact as possible. The morally questionable ‘sculptural negative’ exists at the interface between clear imagery and the inescapability of the material.

**Kyotaro Hakamata (August 17, 2023)**

Organized by ARTCOURT Gallery (Yagi Art Management, Inc.) / Sponsored by Mitsubishi Estate Co., Ltd., Mitsubishi Materials Corporation, Mitsubishi Jisho Property Management Co., Ltd.

\* Please contact ARTCOURT Gallery for any inquiries including photographic materials.

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[Right] Kyotaro Hakamata *Sander* (detail) 2023 Jesmonite etc.  
 [Left] Kyotaro Hakamata *Ore-no-Mazushii Kotoba (carrot)* 2023 Ink jet print



### About the Exhibition

We are pleased to announce *Sculptural Negative*, a solo exhibition of new works by Kyotaro Hakamata.

Hakamata questions the oppositional relationship between the sculpture’s surface and its unseeable interior and the interconnectedness between authenticity and imitation on the theme of ‘replica.’ He continues to explore the question, ‘What is essential in the creation of sculpture?’ by focusing on the inextricability of the act of creation and the act of destruction. Since the 1990s, Hakamata’s works have consistently garnered interest due to his unique sense of balance and humorous craftsmanship, which utilizes industrial products that ‘are not reliant on conventional sculptural materials.’

In 2007, he produced *Families*, a set of four works featuring his family as a motif. Since then, he has been creating human figures made from layered acrylic sheets of color and this ‘replica’ series in which he reconstitutes cut-out parts of commercially available products. In recent years, Hakamata has drawn inspiration from 20th-century modernist sculpture and portraiture. And through the ‘replica’ of his artistic production, he has opened a space allowing us to confront societal realities.

This exhibition will consist of approximately 15 new works in a wealth of mediums, which include a large-scale work developed from August Sander’s photographic portrait of two blind children and photographic works of letters fashioned from carrots and daikon radishes. Following his solo exhibition at the Toyama Prefectural Museum of Art this spring, this exhibition will be an opportunity to introduce what Hakamata had begun to discover beyond the act of ‘replica,’ his singular concept of *Sculptural Negative*.

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ARTCOURT Gallery 20th Anniversary Vol. 5

【 Artist CV 】

### Kyotaro Hakamata

- 1963 Born in Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan
- 1987 Graduated from the Faculty of Sculpture in Musashino Art University
- 1994-95 Studied in Philadelphia Under Japanese Government Overseas Study Program for Artists
- 1996-97 Studied and Stayed in China, Tibet, Nepal, etc., by The Most Promising Young Talent in Fine Art Division of The Gotoh Memorial Cultural Award
- 2011 Awarded The 22nd Takashimaya Art Award, Takashimaya Culture Foundation
- 2012 Awarded The Shizuoka Prefectural Award of Cultural Advancement

| Selected Solo Exhibitions |

- 2023 “Replication (Sculptural Negative),” Toyama Prefectural Museum of Art and Design, Toyama
- 2020 MA2 Gallery, Tokyo [’16, ’12]
- 2019 “Non Circulating Lemon Yellow,” Museum Haus Kasuya, Kanagawa
- 2018 “Soft,Stab,” Mizuho Oshiro Gallery, Kagoshima
- 2016 “Standing Woman-Replica,” void+, Tokyo
- 2014 “Human, Smoke, etc.,” The Hiratsuka Museum of Art, Kanagawa
- 2012 “Hotei & Grape,” AISHO MIURA ARTS, Tokyo
- 2011 “Shizuoka Project 1. Kyotaro Hakamata solo exhibition,” Shizuoka City Museum of Art, Shizuoka
- 2010 Art Gallery X, Nihombashi Takashimaya, Tokyo
- 2009 “METAMORPHOSIS Objects Today,” Gallery αM, Tokyo [’02]

| Selected Group Exhibitions |

- 2023 MA2 Gallery, Tokyo [’17, ’11]
- 2022 “Rokko Meets Art,” Kobe, Hyogo [’13]
- 2021 “DOMANI: The Art of Tomorrow,” The National Art Center, Tokyo
- 2020 “αM+ vol.1 The National Museum of Art, Okutama “The National Mizumi of Art, Okutama”, -Supporting each other. OKUATMA coin-,” gallery αM, Tokyo
- 2019 “ACG Villa Kyoto Vol.002 Kyotaro Hakamata x Genta Ishizuka,” ACG Villa Kyoto
- 2016 “Arrangement Things,” Kiyotsu Warehouse Museum, Niigata
- 2015 “The Aesthetics of Lines,” Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Aichi
- 2013 “Minimal/post minimal : the contemporary Japanese art from 1970s,” Utsunomiya Museum of Art
- 2012 Gunma Museum of Art, Tatebayashi, Gunma  
“Relation: The Untold Legacy,” Musashino Art University Museum & Library, Tokyo  
“Melting Zone,” ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka
- 2011 “As Long As Rainbow Lasts,” SOKA Art Center, Taipei, Taiwan  
“OAP Sculpture Path human/humor,” OAP Sculpture Path, Osaka
- 2010 “Tsubaki-Kai Trans-FigurativeFigurative,” Shiseido Gallery, Tokyo

| Exhibition Planning |

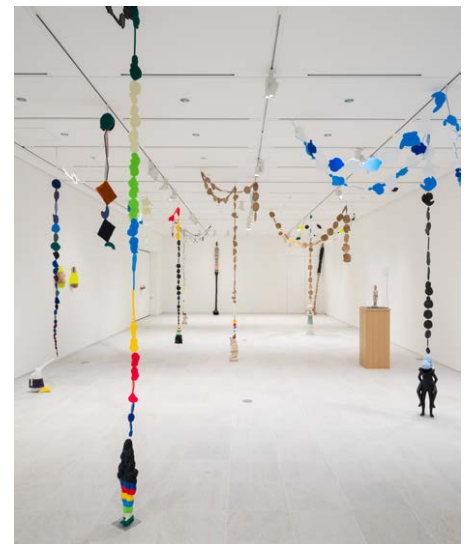
- 2012 “World and Solitude,” Art Gallery X, Takashimaya, Tokyo

| Major Collections and Selected Commission Work |

Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art / Utsunomiya Museum of Art / Saku Municipal Museum of Modern Art /  
Yokohama Museum of Art / Shiseido Art House / Seinan Gakuin University / Faret Tachikawa /  
Corporate R&D Laboratories, Pioneer Corporation /InterContinental Hotel Osaka /Conrad Tokyo /  
Shibuya Excel Hotel Tokyu / Elsa Tower / Yokohama Portside Place, etc.□□



[ Reference image ] Kyotaro Hakamata 《 Alanis 》 (detail)  
2014 | Photo: Mio Kisaca



[ Reference image ] Solo exhibition “Replication (Sculptural Negative)”  
Toyama Prefectural Museum of Art and Design, Toyama  
Photo: Ken Kato

\* Please contact ARTCOURT Gallery for any inquiries including photographic materials.