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– Exhibition Announcement –

Hitoshi Nomura: *The History of Space-Time* 野村仁「宇宙開闢年表」

3 Stages Accomplished by Cosmic Sensibility, or Infinitely Distant Memories

Artcourt Gallery presents *The History of Space-Time*, a solo exhibition of new works by Hitoshi Nomura.

With a unique perspective that sees the passage of time in objects, Nomura continues to pursue new possibilities and a new world for sculptural expression through his engagement in a conceptual dialogue with nature. He uses photography as his primary production method, capturing the movement of objects and the order of the cosmos with his camera, while also often working with meteorites, DNA, and Paleozoic plant fossils to deal with works that shine a spotlight onto *life* and the *origin of the universe*.

For this exhibition, Nomura has chosen three events that he believes are the most significant in the Earth's history, which spans from the birth of the universe 13.8 billion years ago according to the Big Bang theory, to the birth of mankind. He has created around 25 works related to the time, light, and phenomena of each event that will all be displayed together.

The Three Stages *Based on the birth of the universe as year zero.

- Year 10.3 Billion – Photosynthesis begins
- Year 13.4 Billion – First land plants
- Year 13.8 Billion – First humans

As a continuation of last year's exhibition, which dealt with the light of heavenly bodies and time on Earth as themes, Nomura is trying to break new ground through a chronology of connections between life on Earth, and the time and space in which the light of the universe was born. On the opening day of the exhibition, we will be holding a talk with guest speaker, Minoru Tsukagoshi, a specialist on fossils plants. We will take a closer look at the energy of nature and humankind, and the aesthetic world that comes into view, through the fossils excavated from ancient strata, and the photos of galaxies that capture the light of deep space.



Hitoshi Nomura: *The History of Space-Time*

Courtesy of NASA/CXC/Univ of Hamburg/F. de Gasperin et al, SDSS, NRAO/VLA.

[Exhibition]

Exhibition Title : **Hitoshi Nomura: *The History of Space-Time***, 3 Stages Accomplished by Cosmic Sensibility, or Infinitely Distant Memories

Duration : February 17 (Sat) - March 17 (Sat), 2018 *Closed on Sundays and Mondays

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

Hours : 11:00am – 7:00pm [Saturdays until 5:00pm]

◆ Related Events: February 17 (Sat), 2018

Talk : 2:00pm - 4:00pm, "*The Journey of Plants onto Land*"

[Guest Speaker: Minoru Tsukagoshi (curator, Osaka Museum of Natural History), Discussant: Ai Kusumoto (research assistant, National Museum of Art, Osaka)]

Reception : 4:00pm - 5:00pm

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

◆ About the themes and works to be shown *Italicized: each series' title

Year 10.3 Billion – Photosynthetic Ocean and Galactic Lens • • • *A Stromatolite Fossil & A Galaxy Light*

Year 13.4 Billion – DNA on Land and Galactic Light • • • *A Fossil Branch & A Galaxy Light*

Year 13.8 Billion – Visible Light and Black Holes • • • *Chromatist Painting & Black Hole on the Grass 'Ohbako'*

Organized by ARTCOURT Gallery | Sponsored by Mitsubishi Estate Co., Ltd., Mitsubishi Materials Corporation, Mitsubishi Jisho Property Management Co., Ltd.

* Please contact Yuki Hamada at ARTCOURT Gallery for any inquiries including photographic materials.

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Hitoshi Nomura 野村仁

1945 Born in Hyogo Prefecture.
1967 BFA, Kyoto City University of Fine Art.
1969 MFA, Kyoto City University of Fine Art.

| Selected Chronology | (*until 2009)

- 1969 Mar. Presented *Tardiology*, in which cardboard boxes collapsed under their own weight.
Oct. Took part in the “2nd Contemporary Plastic Art” exhibit (Kamogawa Park, Kyoto) and presented his work *Dryice*, which depicted the process in which dry ice sublimates.
- 1970 Mar. Took part in the “Kyoto Independent” exhibition at Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art, presenting the photographic works, *Dryice: 1969* and *Time on a Curved Line*.
May Took part in the “10th International Art Exhibition of Japan—Between Man and Matter” (Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Tokyo) for which Nakahara Yusuke was the General Commissioner.
- 1972 Jan. Shot *Turning the Arm with a Movie Camera: Person, Landscape and The Center of Gravity : Movement* (16mm films).
Mar. Began work on *Photobook or the Brownian Motion of Eyesight* using a 16mm movie camera (-Feb. 1982).
- 1975 Produced the photograph work *age: M→F* ('78 video work).
Because of the fact that the moon seen through power cables resembled a music score, Nomura began photographing the ‘moon’ score series (which is ongoing). Thereafter, Nomura starts work on other score series: ‘pleiades’ score ('78-), ‘birds’ score ('83-), ‘Grus’ score ('04-).
- 1978 Oct. Produced the first work related to the Sun.
Dec. Began work on *The Earth Rotation* (-Nov. 1979).
- 1979 Nov. Released the LP recording ‘moon’ score (hv/001).
- 1980 Mar. Began work on *A Spin in Curved Air* series, using a fisheye lens to record the passage of the sun through the sky over the course of a day (-Dec. 1988).
- 1982 Mar. After participating in the “5th India Triennial” in New Delhi, Nomura visited various sites connected to Shakyamuni Buddha.
Began *The Sun on Lat. 35°N*, which is completed in 1987 after five years of work.
- 1983 May Nomura encounters the musical score for “Bach’s Suite for Cello” and notes how it resembles birds flying. This leads him to start work on the ‘birds’ score series where birds in flight are double exposed on top of a musical staff (an ongoing series).
Nov. Obtains his first meteors. One resembles the Zen priest Bodhidharma, sitting in front of a wall in deep meditation, and another the figure of Buddha with a robe billowing outwards as he walked. Nomura becomes fascinated by the mysterious creative power of the universe, referring to it as a “cosmic sensibility”, and subsequently begins to use meteors in his work.
- 1984 Nomura has been photographing the waterfall at Nachi in Wakayama Prefecture since 1982, but begins traveling there more regularly to photograph the waterfall with stars and the sun, creating the works *Spin* and *Gravity*.
- 1985 While photographing the sun, Nomura notices that the shadow of a lightning conductor does not fall due north at noon, thereby realizing that a discrepancy exists between clock time and the movements of the sun. He discovers that the time it takes for the sun to rotate around the celestial sphere is not exactly 24 hours, a phenomenon known as the “equation of time”. This inspires Nomura to record the sun’s position at the same time everyday over the course of a year to create the *Analemma* series.
- 1988 Feb. Presents *Time Arrow: Oxygen-183°* and *Time Arrow: Nitrogen-196°* using liquid oxygen and nitrogen in a two-person show with Murata Chiaki entitled “Is Temperature a Fundamental Factor of Substance?” at ABC Gallery, Osaka.
Oct. Ceases work at the broadcast company, where he had been employed for almost twenty years, to become Assistant Professor at Kyoto City University of Arts.
- 1989 Sep. Releases the CD ‘moon’ score (hv/010).
- 1991 May Releases the CD ‘pleiades’ score (hv/011).
- 1992 Dec. Visits the Hamelin Pool in Australia to photograph Stromatolites. Confronted by these primeval forms Nomura ponders the connection and relationship between inorganic and living matter.
- 1993 May Establishes the *Solar Power Lab* (SPL) and creates *Sun Structure '93*, thereafter producing a solar powered car annually, until 1999.
- 1994 Dec. Releases the CD ‘birds’ score (hv/100).
- 1995 May Begins plotting the route for a solar car to traverse the United States.
- 1999 Jul. With 10 members of the SPL, Nomura traverses the United States completing the *HAAS Project—Harnessing the Sun: A Journey Across America by Solar Car* (Jul. 15th–Sep. 4th).
- 2000 Jan. In response to the Space Shuttle’s (STS-99) “Shuttle Radar Topography Mission” (SRTM), Nomura carries out the *Space Shuttle + Daimonji Project*.
- 2002 Mar. Begins construction of observation equipment for *The Analemma*.
Aug. Carries out joint research with NASDA (now JAXA), and visits NASA to participate in interviews with Japanese astronauts Noguchi, Wakata, Mukai and Doi.
- 2003 May Begins work on *Octopusic Conversation: Chromatist*.
Jul. In order to identify the movements of the sun over a 4-year period including a leap year, Nomura once again begins to photograph *The Analemma* (an ongoing series).
Sep. Using an oblong musical staff, Nomura produces the musical score and DVD *Elliptic Score: In Falling*.
- 2004 Jun. Photographs cranes on the Izumi Plain in Kagoshima Prefecture.
- 2006 Aug. *Sparkling Neurons (Cosmic Rays Hitting Neurons)* and ‘moon’ score: *ISS Astronaut* are selected for the “ISS/Kibo Cultural and Humanistic Science Utilization”, a pilot mission for the application of cultural/social sciences.
- 2007 Jul. Long fascinated with Palaeozoic plants, which preceded animal life on land, Nomura acquires a sample of *Chara fragilis*, which is said to be the forerunner of terrestrial plant life.
Sep. Examining the influence of different frequencies of light on the cultivation of plant life, Nomura exhibits *Plants are Chromatists, Unending Since Emergence*, in the exhibition “Nomura Hitoshi—Chrono & Chroma” at ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka.
- 2009 Apr. ‘moon’ score: *ISS Astronaut’s Moon* is photographed by the astronaut Wakata Koichi.

* Please contact Yuki Hamada at ARTCOURT Gallery for any inquiries including photographic materials.

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| Selected Solo Exhibitions |

- 1970 "Iodine and Time Table", Gallery 16, Kyoto.
- 1972 "Shifting the Center of Gravity", Gallery 16, Kyoto.
- 1977 "'moon' score & Arcuate Islands", Gallery 16, Kyoto.
- 1978 "'moon' score & 8 discs", Kobayashi Gallery, Tokyo.
- 1987 "Recent Works 2, Nomura Hitoshi-Spin & Gravity", The National Museum of Art, Osaka.
- 1989 "Cosmo Chronography", INAX Gallery, Tokyo.
- 1991 "Cosmo Chronography & Phonography", Gallery KURANUKI, Osaka.
- 1993 "CRYO PHENOMENA", MITSUBISHI ESTATE ARTIUM, Fukuoka.
- 1995 "CHANGE over TIME", Spiral Garden, Tokyo.
- "CHRONOSCORE", Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Tokyo.
- 1996 "CHRONO & PROTOMORPH", Chukyo University Art Gallery C•SQUARE, Nagoya.
- "As the Cosmic Sensibility Works.....", Gallery KURAUNKI, Osaka.
- "Soft Landing Meteor & DNA", Gallery GAN, Tokyo.
- 1998 "One with the Cosmos", Gallery KURANUKI, Osaka.
- 1999 "Mission to America & Jurassic Giant Tree in Tokyo", Gallery GAN, Tokyo.
- 2000 "New Vision Navigator—Harnessing Across America by Solar Car—", Chukyo University Art Gallery C•SQUARE, Nagoya/ Kyoto Art Center, Kyoto.
- "Nomura Hitoshi—Genesis of Life: The Universe, The Sun, DNA—", Contemporary Art Center, Art Tower Mito, Ibaraki.
- 2001 "Nomura Hitoshi—Transit/Reflect—", Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, Toyota.
- 2004 "Chroma & Chromatic", ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka.
- 2006 "Hitoshi Nomura—An Introduction, Photo works 1975-92—", McCaffrey Fine Art, New York.
- "Hitoshi Nomura—Cosmo-Arbor—", ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka.
- 2007 "Hitoshi Nomura—Chrono & Chroma—", ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka.
- 2008 "Hitoshi Nomura—Gravitational Shape and Flavor: The Sun, Meteorites and The Body—", ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka.
- 2009 "Hitoshi Nomura: Perception - Changes in Time and Field" National Art Center, Tokyo.
- "Hitoshi Nomura: View From Space, From Here On...", ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka.
- 2010 "Hitoshi Nomura : Marking Time", McCaffrey Fine Art, New York.
- 2012 "Discover Hitoshi Nomura In Hong Kong", Gallery 27, Hong Kong.
- 2013 "Hitoshi Nomura: Body/Perception, or I Who Think I Am 'I'", ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka.
- 2015 "Hitoshi Nomura: Contingency and Necessity", McCaffrey Fine Art, New York.
- 2017 "Hitoshi Nomura: Light and Earth Time", ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka.

| Selected Recent Group Exhibitions |

- 2003 "The History of Japanese Photography", The Museum of Fine Art, Houston, etc.
- "Purloined Nature", Kawamura Memorial DIC Museum of Art, Sakura.
- 2004 "TRACES-Body and Idea in Contemporary Art—", The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto/ The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo.
- 2005 "Possible Futures: Japanese postwar art and technology", NTT Inter Communication Center, Tokyo.
- "Reconsidering Mono-ha", The National Museum of Art, Osaka.
- 2006 "The Art Museum Dreams of the Cretaceous Period", The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama.
- 2007 "ART ANTI-ART NON-ART -Experimentations in the Public Sphere in Postwar Japan 1950-1970", Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles.
- "UCHUMIEZU", Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, Aichi.
- 2009 "Waiting for Video: Works from the 1960s to Today", The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo.
- "Enokura, Nomura, Takamatsu: Photographs 1968-1979", McCaffrey Fine Art, New York.
- "MEDICINE AND ART: Imagining a Future for life and Love", Mori Art Museum, Tokyo.
- 2011 "Hitoshi Nomura, Sigmar Polke, Yukinori Yanagi: Works in Progress", McCaffrey Fine Art, New York.
- 2013 "Re: Quest Japanese Contemporary Art since the 1970s", Museum of Art Seoul National University, Korea.
- 2015 "Re: play 1972/2015 - Restaging 'Expression in Film '72'", The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo.
- 2016 "ART1 2016: Stepping into Fresh Snow", ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka.
- 2016-17 "The Universe and Art Princess Kaguya, Leonardo da Vinci, team Lab, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo/ArtScience Museum, Singapore.
- 2017 "ASSEMBRIDGE NAGOYA 2017", Minatomachi POTLUCK BUILDING, Nagoya.
- "JAPANORAMA- New Vision on Art Since 1970", Centre Pompidou-Metz, Metz.
- "When Attitude Becomes Form: Japanese Art of the 1970s through the Photography of Anzai Shigeo", The National Museum of Art, Osaka.

| Public Collections |

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