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— Exhibition Announcement —

Tsuyoshi Maekawa: In Commemoration of the Publication of *MAEKAWA* and *MAEKAWA II*



ARTCOURT Gallery would like to announce a solo exhibition by the major Gutai Art Association artist Tsuyoshi Maekawa (1936 –).

This exhibition has been planned both to commemorate the publication of two monographs focusing on the activities of Tsuyoshi Maekawa during the 1960s and 1970s – *MAEKAWA* (2014) and *MAEKAWA II* (2016) – and to convey the appeal of this artist's work once again from his native Kansai. A contemporary artist who has been gaining recognition in recent years in the international art scene, Tsuyoshi Maekawa will be presented in this exhibition by way of a three-part composition: early-period works from the 1950s (before joining Gutai), pieces from the 1970s (before and after the dissolution of Gutai), and new works from 2017.

Maekawa first participated in the Gutai Art Exhibition at its eighth installment in 1959, and became an active member of the group in 1962. During his Gutai period in the 1960s, Maekawa became known for painting works that used powerfully protruding forms of rough-textured burlap as support media. Developing such free-ranging ideas as the pasting together of fabric, string and rope, his creativity continued to deepen, and he gained notice as a central artist of the second generation of Gutai. In the 1970s, after the group's dissolution, Maekawa made rapid progress, exploring the creation of new painting spaces with a wide range of "sewing" techniques, and receiving numerous awards in Japan. As Maekawa says, "I am always interested in the new spaces that emerge as a result of the differences between materials and the ways of enclosure," and for more than half a century, he has continued to delve into the challenges of realizing new expressions in painting.

Starting in 2016 and continuing into this year, Tate Modern held the collection exhibition "The Disappearing Figure: Art after Catastrophe", which was followed by Saatchi Gallery's large-scale solo exhibition of Maekawa's work (both in London). Then, at the "Beyond Matter" exhibition (Gagosian, San Francisco), with its focus on Maekawa's work during the 1960s and 1970s, new light was shed on both the work of Maekawa and that of his contemporaries Fontana and Castellani, and his ground-breaking explorations were presented and acknowledged in a global context. Furthermore, with his ongoing engagement in a variety of events in the Asian region, including solo, group and collection exhibitions, Maekawa has continued to broaden the scope of his activities in recent years and has been receiving greater recognition than ever before.

ARTCOURT Gallery is taking this opportunity to compile and publish Japanese-language booklets containing translations of the written contents of *MAEKAWA* and *MAEKAWA II*, and an event will be held during this exhibition to commemorate the publication of these volumes. As we would like Maekawa's work to be seen by a large number of people, we would very much appreciate your participation and assistance in spreading news of this exhibition.

[Monograph Details]

image: *Untitled* | ca. 1956 | Oil, burlap | 34.5 x 100 cm

MAEKAWA, first edition 2014, published by Axel & May Vervoordt Foundation

MAEKAWA II, first edition 2016, published by Axel Vervoordt Gallery

- ◆ Booklets in Japanese, to be published in September 2017 by ARTCOURT Gallery

[Features:]

Tsuyoshi Maekawa, interview by Koichi Kawasaki / essays by Shōichi Hirai & Axel Vervoordt
Tsuyoshi Maekawa II, essays by Koichi Kawasaki & Boris Vervoordt

[Exhibition]

Exhibition Title: Tsuyoshi Maekawa: In Commemoration of the Publication of *MAEKAWA* and *MAEKAWA II*

Dates: September 5 (Tue) – 30 (Sat), 2017 / Closed on Sundays, Mondays, & national holidays

Venue: ARTCOURT Gallery (OAP ARTCOURT 1F, 1-8-5 Tenmabashi, Kita-ku, Osaka, 5300042 Japan)

Hours: 11:00 am - 7:00 pm (until 5:00 pm on Saturdays)

- ◆ Related Events: September 16 (Sat)

Artist Talk: 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

[Shōichi Hirai (curator, The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto) & Tsuyoshi Maekawa]

Reception: 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

*RSVP is required for the talk. Please email info@artcourtgallery.com or call 06-6354-5444. *Free admission



Work (1963)

Linen, oil on canvas | 65 x 53 cm

* Reference work

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

*Please contact Ami Fukuda or Mizuho Haida at ARTCOURT Gallery for any inquiries, including photographic materials

OAP ARTCOURT 1F, 1-8-5 Tenmabashi, Kita-ku, Osaka 530-0042 | info@artcourtgallery.com | T: +81(0)6-6354-5444 | F: +81(0)6-6354-5449 | www.artcourtgallery.com

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【About the works to be shown】

◆ Before joining Gutai

One or two pieces of Maekawa's early-period, 1950s work. Very few pieces extant. By 1956, already he has begun to make use of burlap as a support medium.

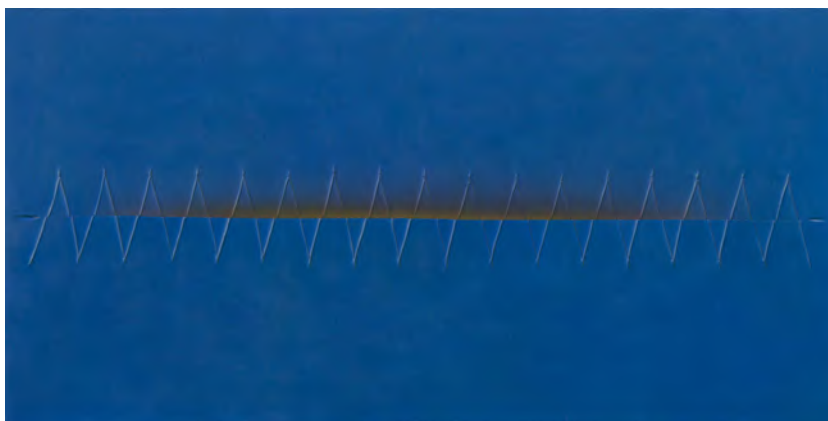
Untitled | ca. 1956 | Oil, burlap | 34.5 x 100 cm



◆ After the dissolution of Gutai

In the 1970s, after the dissolution of Gutai, Maekawa broadened his realm of expression by way of various machine-sewing techniques. By stitching together scraps of undyed hemp cloth, sewing numerous small folds over them and then blotting paint through from the backside, or by using tucked seams of thin cotton fabric to produce delicate, ripple-like undulations and shadings, for example, Maekawa was able to manipulate both cloth and canvas at will, and in doing so, he produced groundbreaking works of painting.

Untitled | 1977 | Cotton cloth, acrylic, sewing | 92 x 183 cm



◆ New works from 2017

Five to seven new works made with burlap. Unlike his 60s works, with their impressions that seem to excite the tactile senses, there is a simple, linear unevenness that has been added to the burlap, to which color has been applied while wrinkling. Pushing the boundaries of expression from the 60s onward, Maekawa pioneered entirely new realms.

Untitled | 2017 | Burlap, acrylic, sewing | 55 x 50 cm



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Tsuyoshi Maekawa

- 1936 Born in Osaka.
- 1955 Graduates from Kogei Senior High School.
- 1962 Joins Gutai Art Association [participates in all Gutai Exhibitions until break up in '72].

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 1963 *Tsuyoshi Maekawa Solo Exhibition*, Gutai Pinacotheca, Osaka
- 1975 Solo Exhibition, Osaka Prefectural Gallery ['79]
- 1977 *Tsuyoshi Maekawa Solo Exhibition*, Shinanobashi Gallery, Osaka
- 1978 *Tsuyoshi Maekawa Solo Exhibition*, Tor Road Gallery, Hyogo
- 1980 Solo Exhibition, Fuji Gallery, Osaka ['82]
- 1983 Solo Exhibition, Hiramatsu Gallery, Osaka ['85]
- 1986 Solo Exhibition, Yamaki Art, Osaka ['88, '90]
- 1989 Solo Exhibition, Gallery Hanamitsu, Osaka ['90, '93]
- 1991 Solo Exhibition, Tsubaki Kindai Gallery, Tokyo ['93, '03]
- 1993 Solo Exhibition, Gallery Yume, Tokyo ['94, '95, '97, '99, '02, 09]
- 1996 Solo Exhibition, LADS Gallery, Osaka ['99, '01, '03, '06, '10, '13]
- 2014 *Tsuyoshi Maekawa*, Dominique Lévy Gallery, New York
Maekawa - The Gutai Works, Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Antwerp
- 2015 *Tsuyoshi MAEKAWA: Energy Extortionis*, Whitestone Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2016 *Tsuyoshi Maekawa in the 1970s*, Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Antwerp
- 2017 *Tsuyoshi Maekawa*, Saatchi Gallery SALON, London

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 1959 *8th Gutai Art Exhibition* [Participates in all Gutai Exhibitions until '68 (Venue varies)]
- 1962 *Don't Worry, the Moon Won't Fall Down! (Gutai Art and Morita Modern Dance)*, Sankei Hall, Osaka
- 1963 *Gutai Art New Works Exhibition*, Gutai Pinacotheca, Osaka
- 1964 *Gutai Art New Small Works Exhibition*, Gutai Pinacotheca, Osaka
Gutai Art Small Works Exhibition, Gutai Pinacotheca, Osaka ['69]
- 1965 *Gutai Five-Person Exhibition*, Daiwa Gallery, Hyogo
Groupe Gutai, Galerie Stadler, Paris/ Cologne Art Association, Cologne/ Galerie Mickery, Loenersloot, The Netherlands
- 1966 *Nul 1966*, International Gallery Olez, The Hague, The Netherlands
Gutai Three-Person Exhibition (Tsuyoshi Maekawa, Takesada Matsutani, Shuji Mukai), Gutai Pinacotheca, Osaka
2nd International Salon of the Pilot Galleries in Lausanne, Musée Cantonal Des Beaux-Arts, Lausanne, Switzerland
- 1967 *Gutai Small Work Exhibition*, Design House, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Gutai's Austrian Exhibition, Heide Hildebrand Gallery, Klagenfurt
- 1970 *Gutai Japan Expo '70*, Midori Pavilion, Expo '70, Osaka
- 1975 *The 10th Japan Art Festival Exhibition*, National Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand/ National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne/ Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
30 Cubic Centimeter Box, Hakusan Gallery, Hyogo/ Gallery doi, Hyogo
- 1976 *1st KAC Exhibition*, Osaka Prefectural Gallery
- 1978 *Art Now '78*, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Modern Art
- 1979 *Jiro Yoshihara and Contemporary Aspects of Gutai*, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Modern Art
- 1981 *Pictorial Art Now Osaka '81*, Contemporary Art Centre, Osaka ['82, '85, '87]
- 1982 *Japanese Contemporary Art Exhibition*, Camden Arts Centre, London
Japanese Contemporary Artists, Paris/ Tokyo/ Kyoto
- 1985 *Jiro Yoshihara and Gutai 1954-1972*, Civic Art Centre, Ashiya, Hyogo
Action and Emotion, Painting in the 1950s: Informel, Gutai, COBRA, The National Museum of Art, Osaka
Contemporary Japan Painting Exhibition, National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, India
Gutai: Action and Painting, Spanish Museum of Contemporary Art, Madrid, Spain/ Museum of Contemporary Art, Belgrade, Serbia/ Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Modern Art
- 1986 *Japanese Artists*, Galerie Stadler, Paris
- 1989 *Contemporary Design - Soil, Fabric, Thread: Araki Takako, Maekawa Tsuyoshi, Hamatani Akio*, The Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama
- 1990 *Gutai: The Avant-Garde Group Unfinished*, Shoto Museum of Art, Shibuya, Tokyo

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Tsuyoshi Maekawa

- 1992 *Artists of the Gutai Art Association*, The Miyagi Museum of Art
1993 *Gutai 2 and Gutai 3*, Ashiya City Museum of Art and History, Hyogo
Challenge of Art After the War: Jiro Yoshihara and the Gutai Group, The Museum of Art, Ehime
1999 *Gutai*, Jeu de Paume National Gallery, Paris
2002 *Artists of the Gutai Art Association*, The Miyagi Museum of Art
2004 *Gutai: A Retrospective*, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art
2011 *Nul=0cThe Dutch Nul Group in an International Context*, Stedelijk Museum Schiedam, The Netherlands
2012 *Gutai: The Spirit of an Era*, The National Art Center, Tokyo
2013 *50 Years of Japanese Painting*, The Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama
Osaka's Cultural Golden Age: The Gutai Pinacotheca as a Ground Experiment, Osaka University General Science Museum
Tàpies: The Eye of the Artist, Palazzo Fortuny, Venice
2014 *GUTAI×INTERNATIONAL: Go Overseas*, Ashiya City Museum of Art and History, Hyogo
2015 *Gutai-jin in Karuizawa*, Karuizawa New Art Museum, Nagano
2016 *A Taste of Gutai: Lito & Kim Camacho Collection*, Ayala Museum, Makati City, Philippines
Gutai-jin in Karuizawa ~Standard of Avant-garde~, Karuizawa New Art Museum, Nagano
Gutai- 3M, Lin and Lin Gallery, Taipei
The Disappearing Figure: Art after Catastrophe, Tate Modern, London
2017 *Beyond Matter*, Gagosian, San Francisco
INTUITION, Palazzo Fortuny, Venice

Selected Invitational Exhibitions

- 1955 *5th Nishinomiya City Exhibition*, Hyogo ['58, '60]
1956 *9th Ashiya City Exhibition* [Participates in all Ashiya City Exhibitions until '05 (Venue varies)]
1958 *8th Modern Art Association Exhibition* ['59 (Venue varies)]
1962 *12th Kansai Comprehensive Art Exhibition*, Municipal Museum of Art, Osaka
1978 *12th Japan International Art Exhibition*, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum / Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art ['82, '86]
1979 *14th Contemporary Art Exhibition of Japan*, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum / Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art ['81, '83, '87]
1982 *8th Japan-France Contemporary Art Exhibition* ['83, '84 (Venue varies)]

Selected Awards

- 1955 City Council Chairman's Prize, 5th Nishinomiya City Exhibition
1958 Chamber of Commerce Chairman's Prize, 8th Nishinomiya City Exhibition
1960 Second Prize, 10th Nishinomiya City Exhibition
1962 Chairman's Prize, Tenyugo Frame Factory Prize, 15th Ashiya City Exhibition
Grand Prize, 12th All Kansai Art Exhibition
1963 Ashiya City Art Association Prize, Turner Prize, 16th Ashiya City Exhibition
1975 Yoshihara Prize, 28th Ashiya City Exhibition
1981 Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum Prize, 15th Contemporary Art Exhibition of Japan
1982 The National Museum of Art, Osaka Prize, 4th Japan International Art Exhibition
Second Prize, 8th Japan- France Contemporary Art Exhibition
The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto Prize, 14th Japan International Art Exhibition
Grand Prize, 5th Exhibition of Contemporary Art Exhibition
1983 Third Prize, 4th Japan- France Contemporary Art Exhibition

Major Public Collections

The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto/ The National Museum of Art, Osaka/ Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo/
Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art/ The Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama/ The Miyagi Museum of Art/
Ashiya City Museum of Art and History, Hyogo/ Ube City, Yamaguchi/ Tate Modern, London/ The Art Institute of Chicago/
M+ , Hong Kong/ Long Museum, Shanghai/ Takamatsu Art Museum, Kagawa/ Osaka City Museum of Modern Art/
Tanba Municipal Ueno Memorial Art Museum, Hyogo/ Axel & May Vervoordt Foundation, Belgium

【Reference Images】

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Gutai members at the 13th Gutai Exhibition, Takashimaya Department Store, Osaka, December 1963.



Maekawa's work for the 13th Gutai Exhibition, Takashimaya Department Store, Osaka, April 1963.



13th Gutai Exhibition, Takashimaya Department Store, Osaka, April 1963. On the left: Takesada Matsutani; on the right: Saburo Murakami; Maekawa's work is at the back.



13th Gutai Exhibition, Takashimaya Department Store, Osaka, 1963. From left to right: Maekawa, Sadamasa Motonaga, Chiyo Uemae, unknown, Masatoshi Masanobu, unknown, Yasuo Sumi; on right: Jiro Yoshihara



Maekawa at the 13th Ashiya City Exhibition, Seido Primary School, Ashiya, June 1963.



Michel Tapié and Jiro Yoshihara at the Gutai Pinacotheca, Osaka, October 1963. Maekawa's work (plate 122) is in the back.



New works of Gutai Exhibition, Gutai Pinacotheca, Osaka, September 1963. Maekawa's work (plate 122) is on the right.



Maekawa in his studio, October 1963.



Maekawa in his studio, October 1963.