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Yasuaki Onishi: Edges



ARTCOURT Gallery presents *Edges*, an exhibition by the internationally acclaimed contemporary sculptor Yasuaki Onishi (b.1979). Working with themes of volume, gravity and distance, Yasuaki Onishi has developed a body of works of sculpture that give visual forms to those “negative” spaces that are often referred to as “hollow” or “blank”. Using materials that do not retain shapes easily, such as glue and polyethylene sheeting, he applies a delicate sensibility to trace and contour the forms that lie at the boundary between human agency and nature. This exhibition will focus on the new work edges, and also feature the dramatically unfolding sculpture work inside of volume, and the flat piece plate of traces, which Onishi created with the reversal of front/back and depth as his key concept.

Creation is work that makes current borderlines clear, and renews contours.

I am suggesting systems that go beyond the human hand to trigger the body sensations of sharing a work and a space, and I am exploring ways of knowing this world and its reverse.

Using materials that tend not to retain shapes, I create works that have significant effects on spaces.

They are sculptures that do not point to particular phenomena, but leave much to be interpreted by the viewer.

The countless lines of glue and the air-enveloping membranes of polyethylene sheeting function as a container that stores up my actions, and the effects arising from them, that I have concentrated into the space.

Handling what is “other than it” allows “it itself” to become clearly visible.

By considering its extremities and its opposite side, and supplementing the hollows and voids with imagination, it is possible for a person to find their actual substances on the basis of sparse clues.

Yasuaki Onishi

【Work Description】

Bathed in gradations of light as they repeatedly expand and contract – the balloons of *Edges*. Rather than deriving patterns from particular phenomena, Onishi’s works function as vessels that, in a comfortable manner, upend such concepts as scale and inside/outside and front/back, and store up the viewer’s boundless thoughts and imagination. Onishi is an artist who sculpts the space of display, and who sets up reciprocal relationships that make use of simple components while engaging in careful observation of a place’s defining characteristics. In the experience of surveying the exterior of a work while being enveloped within it, the viewer sometimes gains from the inorganic material a sense of an organic presence; and sometimes there are things of vastness and minuteness conjured up that undergo repeated interplays of dividing and uniting within constantly converting dimensions. The images one obtains from the work evolve with ever-increasing speed, and one’s imagination spreads in all directions.

The soft materials store up the tracks of one’s actions (time), and simultaneously human agency and the invisible presences of gravity/air-current/phenomena persist in vying forms. A panel covered with glue and then subjected to repeated pressure-bonding, reheating and scratching: plate of traces. A sculpting of “hollowness” inside a cube, affording various viewpoints: inside of volume. These formations, which are also found manifesting in the wavering presence of reverse of volume with its floating polyethylene membrane hung on countless thin vertical lines, present a new, light-feeling kind of sculpture that treats “emptiness” and “change” as its essence.

【Exhibition】

Exhibition title: Yasuaki Onishi: *Edges*

Duration : January 14 (Sat) – February 18 (Sat), 2017 / Closed on Sundays, Mondays and national holidays

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

Opening hours : 11:00am-7:00pm (Saturdays 11:00am-5:00pm)

◆ Events : Talk Show and Reception

January 14 (Sat), 2017

> Talk Show : 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm / Yasuaki Onishi and Ms. Akiko Kasuya (Professor, Kyoto City University of Arts)

> Reception : 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

* Talk Show and Reception are free of charge, but an RSVP is required for the talk. Please email info@artcourtgallery.com or call

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

images>> **vertical volume AT** Polyethylene sheeting, LED, fan, timer, other / each: h180 xø80 cm (set of 7, installation size is variable) / 2015 |

inside of volume 16T1 Acrylic box, glue, stainless steel / 30x30x30 cm / 2016 | **ditch of time, edge of space** Polyethylene sheeting, fan, timer, thread, other / 180xø180 cm / 2016

*Please contact Mitsue Yagi or Mizuho Haida at ARTCOURT Gallery for any inquiries including photographic materials.

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Yasuaki Onishi

- 1979 Born in Osaka
2001 Completed B.A. Sculpture Course, School of Art & Design, University of Tsukuba
2004 Completed M.A. Sculpture Course, Graduate School of Art, Kyoto City University of Arts

| Selected Solo Exhibitions |

- 2016 *reverse of volume*, Les Champs Libres, Rennes | France
VERTICAL VOLUME, The Mine, Dubai | UAE
reverse of volume, Arte Sella, Borgo Valsugana | Italy [’-18]
2015 *contour of gravity*, Gallery OUT of PLACE TOKIO, Tokyo
Jomon and Gendai vol.3 "penetrating bowl", Geijutu-kan, Kyoto University of Art and Design, Kyoto
2014 *Sakuya Konohana Collection 'Yasuaki Onishi Exhibition – empty sculpture'*, Artcourt Gallery, Osaka
vertical emptiness, Gallery Out of Place, Tokyo
2013 *reverse of volume*, Joyce Gallery, Beijing | China
2012 *inner space*, The Wilfrid Israel Museum of Asian Art and Studies, Hazorea | Israel
reverse of volume, Rice University Art Gallery, Houston, Texas | USA
2011 *reverse of volume*, Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Nagoya
2010 *reverse of volume*, Vermont Studio Center Red Mill Gallery, Johnson, Vermont | USA
horizontal forest, Not Quite Gallery, Fengersfors | Sweden
ridge of boundary, para_SITE Gallery, Graz | Austria
reverse of volume, Kinokino Centre for Art and Film, Sandnes | Norway
2008 *mountain*, Kongsli, Enschede | Netherlands
daily distance, Sølyst Artist in Residence Centre, Jyderup | Denmark
2007 *inner skin*, Neutron, Kyoto
vertical clue, Gallery b. Tokyo
space between face and reverse, Pantaloon, Osaka
2006 *vertex*, Neutron, Kyoto
visible, Sfera Exhibition, Kyoto
2005 *breath nebula*, Inax Gallery 2, Tokyo
clue in the void, Sfera Exhibition, Kyoto
clue in the case, Neutron, Kyoto
restriction sight, Under Public, Osaka
2004 *restriction sight*, Neutron B1 gallery, Kyoto
see darkness, Gallery b. Tokyo
2003 *thing of darkness*, Gallery b. Tokyo

| Selected Group Exhibitions |

- 2016 *Islamic Arts Festival*, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah | UAE
Tatsuno Art Project 2016 International Arts Festival: Resonance of Time and Space, Tatsuno Cho, Hyogo
Materiality - Immateriality Design & Innovation, ddd Gallery, Kyoto
SURFACING EARTH, Rôda Sten Konsthall, Gothenburg, Sweden
2015 *Gakuenmae Art Week 2015*, Tezukayama University, Nara
MAISON BLEU STUDIO, L'Espace Communes, Paris, France
from 8 Selection/Collection, Gallery OUT of PLACE NARA
Drawing 04, Ginza Shibuya Gallery, Tokyo
Erosion/Transfiguration, Zuiun-an, Kyoto
Reliefs, Frac Centre, Orléans | France
Seeing Time – Time Traveller, Kala Gallery, Berkeley, California | USA
2014 *Maison & Objet Trend Exhibition – Landscape*, Paris Nord Villepinte Hall 7, Paris | France
In Search of Critical Imagination, Fukuoka Art Museum
2013 *The Mine – Launch Group Exhibition*, The Mine, Dubai | UAE
Mono No Aware. Beauty of Things. Japanese Contemporary Art, The State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg | Russia
Hanarart 2013, Asai Winery, Nara
Rokko Meets Art 2013, Rokko International Musical Box Museum and other locations, Kobe
dreamscape – La porte de l'écume, Kyoto Art Center
2012 *Paper Space: Drawings by sculptors*, Inman Gallery, Houston, Texas | USA
agora – Miniartextil, Villa Olmo, Como | Italy
2011 *Ways of Worldmaking*, The National Museum of Art, Osaka
Japan Media Arts Festival, Hartware MedienKunstVerein, Dortmund | Germany
2010 *The Transforming State*, Religare Arts Initiative, New Delhi | India

Yasuaki Onishi

- 2009 *Against the Sculptural – Three Dimensions of Uncertainty*, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul | Korea
Home – Artist in Residence Program 2009 Autumn, Aomori Contemporary Art Centre, Aomori
Residency Project Part II, Kala Gallery, Berkeley, California | USA
Eye of Pacific Rim Part 1 – SU:MBISORI, Jeju Museum of Art, Jeju | Korea
open studio 5 Part 1, Goyang Art Studio, Goyang | Korea
Moving Here, Space 15th, Seoul | Korea
Changwon Asian Art Festival, Sungsan Art Hall, Changwon | Korea
Phantasmagoria, Ieyoung Contemporary Art Museum, Yongin | Korea
- 2008 *point éphémère*, Bunkamura Gallery, Tokyo
Eyes & Curiosity – Japanese Contemporary Art, Soka Contemporary Space, Taipei | Taiwan
- 2007 *ARTS CHALLENGE 2007*, Aichi Arts Center, Nagoya
- 2006 *Remove a sign. piano, piano*, Osaka Port Red Brick Warehouse
- 2005 *Selected Artists in Kyoto 2005 – New Wave*, The Museum of Kyoto
- 2004 *Toyota Art Competition 2004*, Toyota Municipal Museum of Art
- 2003 *The 7th Gunma Biennale for Young Artists 2003*, The Museum of Modern Art, Gunma, Takasaki
- 2002 *Exhibition of Young Metal Sculptors – Intersection*, Metal Art Museum Hikarinotani, Inba, Chiba
The 5th Exhibition of the Taro Okamoto Award for Contemporary Art, Taro Okamoto Memorial Museum of Art, Kawasaki

| Awards |

- 2014 Granship Award, Granship Art Competition
- 2013 31st Sakuya Konohana Award
- 2007 1st Shu-Ou Foundation Award for Art Studies Abroad
 Taro Prize, The 10th Taro Okamoto Award for Contemporary Art
- 2006 Second prize, Jeans Factory Art Award 2006
 Nominee, 9th Japan Media Arts Festival, Division of Art, Agency for Cultural Affairs
- 2005 Grand prize, Amuse Art Jam 2005 in Kyoto
 Star Prize, 5th 21st Century Asia Design Competition
- 2004 Award for Excellence, Net Exhibition, Digital Photo Contest, Fine Art Section
- 2003 Jury's prize, Epson Color Imaging Contest 2003

| Grants and Residencies |

- 2012 Production assistance grant from Project to Support the Nurturing of Media Arts Creators.
 Grant and residency assistance from Oficinas do Convento, Montemor-o-Novo, Portugal.
- 2011 Received Pola Art Foundation Grant for Overseas Study by Young Artists 2010, and studies in England.
- 2010 Received fellowship from United States-Japan Foundation and carries out residency at Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, Vermont.
 Production assistance grant from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation.
 Received grant from Not Quite Gallery and carries out residency as invited artist, Fengersfors, Sweden.
 Residency, Religare Arts Initiative, New Delhi, India.
 Grant and residency, The Rondo Studios, Graz, Austria.
 Grant and residency, AiR Sandnes, Sandnes, Norway.
- 2009 Grant and residency, Aomori Contemporary Art Centre, Aomori, Japan.
 Received fellowship from Kala Art Institute and carried out residency at Kala Gallery, Berkeley, California.
 Received fellowship from IASK Asia Pacific Artists Receive Fellowship Residency Program (administered by National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art Korea), and in 2010, carried out residency at Goyang Art Studio, Goyang, Korea.
- 2008 Residency, Kunstenaarsinitiatief B93, Enschede, Netherlands.
 Grant and residency, Sølyst Artists in Residence Centre, Jyderup, Denmark.



reverse of volume RC
 Clue, polyethylene sheeting, other
 470×1,340×1,210 cm
 2012

Rice Gallery, Houston, USA
 photo: Nash Baker



▲ **ditch of time, edge of space**
Polyethylene sheeting, fan, timer, thread, other / 180 × ø180 cm / 2016



▲ **plate of traces 1405**
Glue, graphite, aluminum powder, wooden panel / 53×45.7 cm / 2014



▲ **inside of volume 16T1**
Acrylic box, glue, stainless steel / 30×30×30 cm / 2016