

© ACG Press Release - Exhibition Announcement -

Hitoshi Nomura *Cosmic Sensibility –The Sun, Oxygen–*



Soft Landing Meteor '96, 1991-1996 | Meteorite, solar panels, mixed media | 180 x 605 x 250 cm | Installation view at the solo ex. *Transit/Reflect*, Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, 2001 | Photo: Masataka Nakano



Stromatology: The Secular Retardation of the Earth Rotation, 1992 | Photograph | 80 x 100 cm

ARTCOURT Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition of contemporary artist Hitoshi Nomura. Last year we featured *Soft Landing Meteor '97*; this year's exhibition turns to its counterpart, *Soft Landing Meteor '96* (1991-1996), a large-scale work in which a meteorite is set atop the tail fin of a YS-11 aircraft. Accompanied by photographic works exploring the themes of the sun and oxygen, as well as a score that translates starlight into sound, the works in this exhibition illuminate Nomura's ongoing inquiry into the connections between the cosmos and life on Earth.

Perceiving in objects the traces of the "passage of time," Nomura, from 1970 onward, pioneered a sculptural realm in which photography became his primary medium. Since turning his camera from the Earth to the movements of celestial bodies, he has examined cosmic phenomena and the workings of nature through a conceptual lens, giving form to them across diverse media through his singular inventiveness, while creating sites where receptivity becomes a shared experience.

"What I am attempting here is to perceive the mysterious tapestry of correspondences linking the cosmos and movements of celestial bodies with earthly life and culture." (From Hitoshi Nomura's statement for *Soft Landing Meteor*)

Meteorites, said to have journeyed through the cosmos to Earth bearing the origins of life; stromatolites, formed by the primordial sea-dwelling microorganisms that first produced oxygen and whose layered forms continue to inscribe the passage of time; and the sun, the unceasing stream of light and energy that nurtures life. Nomura draws on these primal elements that underlie the living bodies we inhabit today, integrating them into his works and revealing the links between the cosmos and life on Earth.

The *Score* series, marking the moment he turned his lens to celestial bodies, has come to be regarded as Nomura's life's work, uniting the cosmos and humankind. On view in this exhibition is *'pleiades' score*, produced like its counterpart *'moon' score* by layering multiple exposures on film imprinted with musical staff. The work is a "score of the stars," capturing the Pleiades cluster glowing blue in the night sky. On October 3, Tetsujiro Suita, who has long collaborated with Nomura in transcribing, composing, and performing from his photographs, will join us to share stories and reflections on the development of the *Score* series, which concluded in 2023.

【 Exhibition Information 】

Title: **Hitoshi Nomura *Cosmic Sensibility –The Sun and Oxygen–***

Duration: September 30 [Tue.] - November 29 [Sat.], 2025

*Closed on Sundays, Mondays and Holidays.

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

Hours: 11:00am - 6:00pm [Sat. -5:00pm]

© Related event: October 3 [Fri.] 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Dialogues on Hitoshi Nomura's Art: Unveiling the Score Series

Guest speaker: Tetsujiro Suita (Sound artist)

Organized by ARTCOURT Gallery (Yagi Art Management, Inc.),

Sponsored by Mitsubishi Estate Co., Ltd., Mitsubishi Materials Corporation, Mitsubishi Jisho Property Management Co., Ltd.

Cooperated with Nomura Kenkyūshitsu.

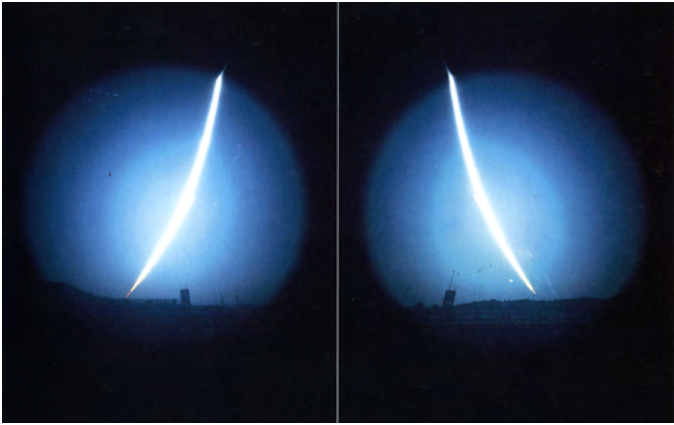
【 Main exhibited works 】

- *The Sun: May* (1985-1992)
 - *Oxygen: Three Thousand Five Hundred Million Years of Life*, *Stromatology: The Secular Retardation of the Earth Rotation*, *Stromatolites: 435 Days in the Year*, *Stromatolites Sea* (1992)
 - *Soft Landing Meteor '96* (1991-1996)
 - *'pleiades' score: Exciting Vacuum* (1980-1981)
 - *Black Hole on the Grass 'Ohbaco'* (2017/2018)
- and other related works, for a total of 10 pieces.

Please contact Miwa Ohba at ARTCOURT Gallery for any inquiries including photographic materials.

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© Artist Statement



The Sun: May, 1985-1992 | 2 photographs | 92.5 x 73 cm, each



From Stromatolites Sea, 1992 | 6 photographs | 40 x 60 cm, each

Will Nature Reveal Its True Form Over Time?

Nomura Hitoshi

A meteorite that traveled from the furthest reaches of space now lies before me.

As I sit looking at it, I try to imagine the incredible period of time that must have passed while it was in space; I reach out gently to touch it and I am filled with an indescribable, strange emotion. It is the same emotion I experience as my solar car slices through the wind. Looking back, I recognize that I've come in contact with the universe many times in the past. For instance, when I've turned my lens on a natural phenomenon for a long exposure or repeated double exposures, I've often understood that the universe exists close at hand.

This awareness of the extreme proximity of the universe has permeated my being and firmly established itself as I continue to photograph.

In 1967 as I watched the power of nature alter the shape of a cardboard box, I realized that something exists entirely unconnected to my will. The longer I gazed at the box, the more I came to believe that something had emerged there. As I watched gravity destroy my work in *Tardiology*, I was able to see something by carefully studying the shape of a natural, rather than manmade, form.

This experience led me to take note of the passage of time, and I decided to produce works in which "the characteristics of time and space are equally conspicuous." Ever since, I have used the camera as my means of communication and photographs as the basic form of my work. I hope that by working in this way, I may expose the "source" that underlies and gives birth to various phenomena.

What kind of "place" do we occupy and how do the workings of nature reveal themselves to us?

At the end of 1992 I finally achieved my long - cherished desire to visit Hamelin Pool on the western coast of Australia. It is an overwhelming place where nothing exists but stromatolites (see the note) and the ocean. Confronted with this primeval landscape, I had the strong feeling that something essential exists, linking both matter and life.

On further reflection, I wondered to what extent our way of thinking, promoted through our profound links to Earth, could remain valid. When we are parted from this green Earth, how will we think?

In a few decades, we will be able to inhabit space, living our everyday lives in an artificial environment, a fact that will have a powerful impact on our bodies and minds. We will very likely reconsider the meaning of "awe." I think that people will undergo a fundamental change, and when this happens, art, rather than being limited, will expand; art will speak and inform us of human existence.

The multi-layered expansion of time and space gives rise to a consciousness that will discover the meaning of time and space.

Note

Oxygen did not exist on primeval Earth and is said to have been first produced by cyanobacteria [blue-green algae]. These bacteria produce a viscous fluid at night that creates a limestone film which gradually expands to form a kind of rock, named stromatolite. The daily growth created a striped pattern like coral, and by analyzing the growth of the fossils that produced it, we are able to determine that 850,000,000 years ago, one year consisted of 435 days. The fact that the deceleration of the Earth's rotation is engraved upon the product of microscopic animals' activities means that these stromatolites can truly be described as "deposits of time." For someone like me, who aims to describe the heavens through their daily actions, they present truly an important subject.

(NOMURA HITOSHI: *Perception - Changes in Time and Field*, 2009, The National Art Center, Tokyo, p.14)

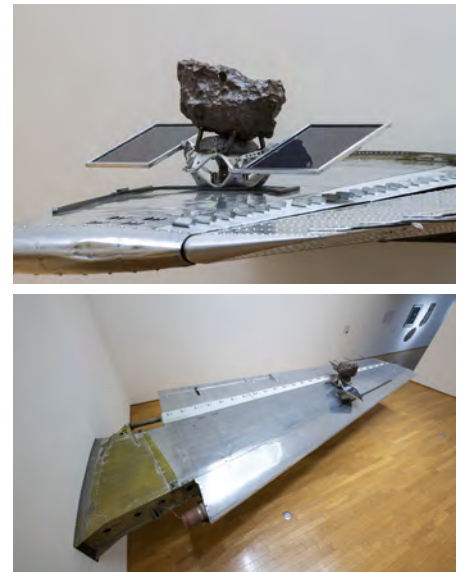
© Artist CV

Hitoshi Nomura

1945 Born in Hyogo, Japan
1967 Graduated from Kyoto City University of Fine Art
1969 Completed the Graduate course at Kyoto City University of Fine Art
2023 Died on October 3 at age 78

【Selected Solo Exhibition】

1970 *Iodine and Time Table*, Gallery 16, Kyoto
1987 *Recent Works 2 Nomura Hitoshi - Spin & Gravity*, The National Museum of Art, Osaka
1989 *Cosmo Chronography*, INAX Gallery, Tokyo
1993 *CRYO PHENOMENA*, ARTIUM, Fukuoka
1995 *CHANGE over TIME*, Spiral Garden, Tokyo
CHRONOSCORE, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Tokyo
1996 *CHRONON & PROTOMORPH*, Chukyo University Art Gallery C・SQUARE, Nagoya
As the Cosmic Sensibility Works..., Gallery KURANUKI, 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 *Nomura Hitoshi Genesis of Life: The Universe, The Sun, DNA*,
Contemporary Art Center, Art Tower Mito
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
Nomura Hitoshi Cosmo - Arbor, ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka
2007 *Nomura Hitoshi Chrono & Chroma*, ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka
2008 *Gravitational Shape and Flavor - The Sun, Meteorites and The Body*, ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka
2009 *NOMURA HITOSHI: Perception - Changes in Time and Field*, National Art Center, Tokyo
View From Space, From Here On..., ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka
2010 *Hitoshi Nomura: Making Time*, McCaffrey Fine Art, New York
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
2018 *Hitoshi Nomura: The History of Space - Time*, ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka
Japanese Art Sound Archive Hitoshi Nomura: Operating Records with Tune, Intensity and Time in Mind, 1973, Art & Space Cocokara, Tokyo
2021 *Hitoshi Nomura Space-Time and Life: Signifying Conjecture and Manifestation*, ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka
2022 *ACG Villa Kyoto Vol.009 Hitoshi Nomura Cosmic Sensibility: Photons and Expansion*, ACG Villa Kyoto, Kyoto
2024 *Hitoshi Nomura: Cosmic Sensibility*, ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka



Soft Landing Meteor '97, 1991-1997
solo ex. *Hitoshi Nomura: Cosmic Sensibility*
ARTCOURT Gallery, 2024
Photo: Kazuo Fukunaga

【Selected Group Exhibition】

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
The Universe and Art Princess Kaguya, Leonardo da Vinci, team Lab, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo/ ArtScience Museum, Singapore [-'17]
2017 *JAPANORAMA - New Vision on Art Since 1970*, Centre Pompidou - Metz, France [-'18]
2018-19 *Awakenings: Art in Society in Asia 1960s - 1990s*, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo/ National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, Korea/ National Gallery Singapore, Singapore
New Wave: Japanese Contemporary Art of the 1980s, National Museum of Art, Osaka
2019 *Le Jardin Convivial (The Convivial Garden)*, Kyoto Botanical Gardens, Kyoto
REBORN ART FESTIVAL 2019, White shell beach, Oginohama area, Ishinomaki, Miyagi
DECODE: Events & Materials, The Work of Art in the Age of Post-Industrial Society The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama
2023 *Re: Startline 1963 - 1970/ 2023 Sympathetic Relations between the Museum and Artists as Seen in the Trends in Contemporary Japanese Art Exhibition*, The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto
Collection: Frame and Wave, Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, Aichi
Special Display: The Path to "Tardiology", Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art, Kyoto
2025 *MOMAW Collection Contemporary Art*, The Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama
L'Écologie des choses, Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris, France
Träumerei, Hara Museum ARC, Shibukawa
ACG Reflections 2: Practices of Transition - Satoshi Kawata, Hitoshi Nomura, Saburo Murakami -, ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka

【Major Public Collection】

Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka/ Kitakyusyu Municipal Museum of Art/ The Museum of Fine Arts, Gifu/
The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto/ Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art National Museum of Art, Osaka/
The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama/ Museum of Modern Art, Shiga/ Chiba City Museum of Art/ The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo/
Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Fine Arts/ Tottori Prefectural Museum of Art/ Hara Museum/ Himeji City Museum of Art/
Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art/ Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art/ Meguro Museum of Art, Tokyo/ Mori Art Museum/
The Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama/ Dallas Museum of Art/ Getty Research Institute/ International Center of Photography/
Musée d'Art Moderne Saint-Étienne/ Museum of Modern Art, New York/ San Francisco Museum of Modern Art