

PRESS RELEASE

Yuta Nakamura “‘Willow Festival Little Willow Festival’ tanzaku by Kaichiro Koyanagi” installation material, 2017

Yuta Nakamura: Willow Festival Little Willow Festival

November 18, 2017 – January 27, 2018

Gallery Koyanagi is pleased to present a solo show by Yuta Nakamura, titled “Willow Festival Little Willow Festival” from Nov.18 (sat) 2017 to Jan. 27 (sat) 2018. He will construct a metaphorical cityscape of Ginza, using documents and merchandise from “Toho Koyanagi (Koyanagi Ceramics)” and other commercial entities such as Shiseido, in the form of an installation art. The effect is to visualize the efforts made by the predecessors to make believe a happy and ideal lifestyle, despite the catastrophic events like the Kanto Great Earthquake and WWII. The work was made possible by the artist’s research, looking into the archive of the Koyanagi’s, formerly a small department store specialized in ceramics, established in 1852.

Yuta Nakamura was born in 1983 in Tokyo, and now lives and works in Kyoto. In his dissertation when receiving PhD in Art from Kyoto Seika University, he researched the history of tiles and ceramics from an anthropological point of view. His style to create artworks based on minute examination gained recognition, and was invited to major group exhibitions such as Aichi Triennale and the 20th Biennale of Sydney both in 2016. He has an original and subjective approach, to weave the historical fact and cultural state into his artworks. The objects and installations composed of collected elements such as cracked pieces of ceramic, old books, old photographs, post cards and architectural plans, mixed with newly hand created things, seems to tell a fond story.

“Willow Festival” as you see in the exhibition title, was an actual festival that celebrated the symbolic willow trees along the Ginza main street, still cherished to this day. “Little Willow Festival” was a pun and a sales campaign directed by the 5th proprietor Kaichiro Koyanagi (1922–2010). (*Ko* means little and *yanagi* means willow in Japanese) He himself designed a small vertical banner-like *tanzaku* to festively and fashionably decorate his ceramic shop.

The solo show is in two parts, “Willow Festival” and “Little Willow Festival”. In “Willow Festival” he created 4 showcases, inspired by selected 4 facades that actually existed, shown along with chosen merchandise and documents. In “Little Willow Festival” he created a display shelf with ceramics and *tanzaku* banners in the manner of a still life painting depicting a dining table.

On the first day of the exhibition (Nov. 18) from 4–5:30 pm, the artist will have a gallery talk with Mami Kataoka, the chief curator of Mori Art Museum who has carefully watched the artist’s activities. From 6–8 pm the opening reception will be held in the presence of the artist. Please contact Gallery Koyanagi for additional visuals and documents.

Press Images



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Reference images – past works



Yuta Nakamura “Atlas of Japanese Ostracon” 2016
installation view of *Aichi Triennale 2016* (Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, 2016)
Photo: Omote Nobutada © Yuta Nakamura



Yuta Nakamura “Tile and Botanical Garden: Tourism of Tropical Plants” 2017
Photo: Omote Nobutada © Yuta Nakamura



Yuta Nakamura “Atlas of Japanese Ostracon: Yamazakicho, Higashiyama-ku Kyoto-shi, Kyoto” 2014
Photo: Omote Nobutada © Yuta Nakamura



Yuta Nakamura “Tiles, small shrine and tourism: Suujin Kaminocho” 2015
Photo: Omote Nobutada © Yuta Nakamura

Information

Yuta Nakamura: Willow Festival Little Willow Festival
November 18, 2017 – January 27, 2018

Opening Reception: Saturday, November 18, 18:00–20:00
* The artist will be in attendance.

Gallery Talk by Yuta Nakamura and Mami Kataoka (Chief Curator of the Mori Art Museum):
Saturday, November 18, 16:00–17:30
* This event will be conducted in Japanese only.

Opening hours: 11:00-19:00
Close on Sundays, Mondays, and National Holidays.
Winter Holidays: December 24, 2017 – January 8, 2018

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Biography

Nakamura Yuta was born in Tokyo in 1983. He now resides in Kyoto. Nakamura received his PhD in Art from Kyoto Seika University in 2011. His dissertation was titled “Views about industrial arts in suburban houses: acceptance of white tiles used for the bathrooms in the Taisho Period.” He is engaged in production of tiles and ceramic wares from the viewpoint of “craft on the periphery of folk art and architecture.” Recent exhibitions include “Roppongi Crossing 2013/ Out of Doubt...in pursuit of future landscape,” held at Mori Art Museum in 2013. “The 8th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art” held at Gallery of Modern Art in 2015. “20th Biennale of Sydney” held at Carriageworks in 2016. “Aichi Triennale 2016” held at Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art in 2016. He is running a curriculum called “APP ARTS STUDIO” to deepen the knowledge of industrial arts as applied arts and look at their production method from the viewpoint of producers.

NAKAMURA Yuta

- 1983 Born in Tokyo, Japan
 2005 Graduated from the faculty of arts (ceramics) of Kyoto Seika University (B.A.)
 2007 Took M.A. at Kyoto Seika University
 2011 Took Ph.D in arts at Kyoto Seika University
 2016 Program of Overseas Study for Upcoming Artists, short program, [Australia, Sydney],
 Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan
 Currently lives and works in Kyoto

Selected solo exhibition

- 2017 Tile and Botanical Garden: Tourism of Tropical Plants, Higashiyama Botanical Garden, Aichi
 Willow Festival Little Willow Festival, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
 2009 The Owner of an Optician's Shop Painted it, Neutron Tokyo, Tokyo
 Tofu and Aburaage, Neutron Kyoto, Kyoto
 2008 SHOW/ROOM, Shin-bi, Kyoto
 2007 NOW NO SWIMS ON MON, Neutron, Kyoto

Selected group exhibition

- 2017 Takamijima-Kyoto: On the Far Side of Daily Life, Kyoto Seika University Gallery Fleur, Kyoto [APP ARTS STUDIO]
 Asia Corridor Contemporary Art Exhibition, Kyoto Art Center, Kyoto
 2016 20th Biennale of Sydney, Carriageworks, Sydney, Australia
 Open Theatre KAAT Totsuzen Museum 2016, Kanagawa Arts Theater, Kanagawa
 Aichi Triennale 2016, Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Aichi
 Tiles, small shrine and tourism season3, Gallery PARC, Kyoto
 Setouchi Triennale 2016, Takamijima, Kagawa [APP ARTS STUDIO]
 Shigaraki Art Festival 2016, Hiraiwa's house, Shiga
 2015 Unknown City: distant neighborhood, kara-S / Tukurū bldg 104A, Kyoto
 Still moving, Former Suujin Elementary School, Kyoto [APP ARTS STUDIO]
 Unknown City: Inside Out, Kyoto Seika University Gallery Fleur, Kyoto
 Tiles, small shrine and tourism season2, Gallery PARC, Kyoto
 The 8th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Queensland Art Gallery & Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia
 2014 Tiles, small shrine and tourism, Gallery PARC, Kyoto
 Saga Media Arts Project 2014: Media Butterfly in Arita, Akaemachi-koubou, Saga
 Soy sauce bowl, Stone bowl, Gallery Keifu, Kyoto
 2013 Roppongi Crossing 2013: Out of Doubt, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo
 2012 KYO, Ecole Regionale Des Beaux Arts, Besançon, France
 2010 One Floor 2010: Simplicity and Techniques, Kobe Art Village Center, Kobe
 Rokko Meets Art, Rokko Alpine Botanical Garden, Kobe [^]
 The Mountain Behind and the Tiles, Gallery Yuragi, Kyoto
 2008 Gadget, Kyoto Art Center, Kyoto
 2007 Asian Ceramics Network, the National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia