

Hiroshi Sugimoto, Sophie Calle, Ryota Aoyagi
UNSOLD UNSOLD

2024.11.21 (Thu) – 12.14 (Sat)



GALLERY KOYANAGI

Gallery Koyanagi presents the 3 artists show "UNSOLD UNSOLD" by Hiroshi Sugimoto, Sophie Calle and Ryota Aoyagi from Thursday, November 21 to Saturday, December 14, 2024. This show will be a re-installation of the exhibition we had titled "UNSOLD" in November 2014.

10 years ago, the leftover "unsold" objects that were carefully selected by the 3 artists and put on sale at a flea market, were transformed and were put on sale again as an installation artwork titled "UNSOLD" as they were transferred to an art gallery space.

However unfortunately, that work also was not purchased, remaining "unsold".

Today, after 10 years, we are putting the installation on sale again as "UNSOLD UNSOLD". Would the work finally be sold this time, or would it become "UNSOLD UNSOLD UNSOLD"?

From "UNSOLD" (2014)

Sophie Calle met a young artist Ryota Aoyagi by quaint fate. And Hiroshi Sugimoto got to know Aoyagi through her. On a day in March 2013, the three set up stands in a flea market at Yasukuni Shrine undercover.

On March 17, 2013, between 7am and 3pm, Sophie Calle, Ryota Aoyagi, and Hiroshi Sugimoto set up three stands at the flea market at the Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo.

Sophie's display was composed of recently found objects having no sentimental value but accompanied by real personal stories linked to similar such objects. She sold 10 of them for the total value of 108,500 yen. 13 were unsold.

Sugimoto's display was a collection of real semi-antiques and one of his photos, having sentimental value and accompanied by fake stories linked to those elements. He sold 4 of them for the total value of 67,000 yen. 12 were unsold.

Ryota displayed what he usually shows at flea markets: real antiques, or a real installation, or both, with their titles but no stories. He sold 9 of them for the total value of 740,000 yen. 10 were unsold.

In the middle of the day, an American guide passed by their three stands and said to his group of tourists: "No need to stop, this is worth nothing."

Here are the unsold.

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We are reprinting the exhibition catalog issued in 2014, adding a new text by Sugimoto and changing the title to "UNSOLD UNSOLD".

On the first day of the exhibition, on Thursday November 21 from 5 to 7 pm, we will have an opening reception in presence of Hiroshi Sugimoto, Sophie Calle and Ryota Aoyagi. This will be a unique occasion where the 3 artists gather, so please come to the gallery to meet them. (Important: On the first day, November 21, the gallery opens from 5 pm which is different from its usual hours.)

Established in 1995, Gallery Koyanagi is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2025. This exhibition as a kickoff, we will be putting up shows with our artists whom we've worked with over the years, in the course of next few years.

Sophie Calle is the 35th Laureate of painting of Praemium Imperiale in Honor of Prince Takamatsu. The award ceremony was held on Tuesday, November 19.

Please contact the gallery for exhibition images, and please let us know when the article is published.

Related exhibitions and events

Ryota Aoyagi's one work from his new series "SANDPLAY" will be exhibited during the exhibition period of "UNSOLD UNSOLD" in Gallery Koyanagi's viewing room. A work from the same series will be exhibited at LIVE ART GALLERY (LAG, see details below).

Artist: Ryota Aoyagi

Exhibition title: SANDPLAY

Exhibition dates: Friday, November 15 – Saturday, December 7, 2024

Venue: LAG (Live Art Gallery)

1F, 2-4-11 Jingu-mae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo

Website: https://www.live-art-books.jp/lag/exhibition/en/ryotaaoyagi-sandplay_en/

Artist: Sophie Calle

Exhibition title: Commemorative Reopening Exhibition: Absences - Sophie Calle & Toulouse-Lautrec

Exhibition dates: Saturday, November 23, 2024 – Sunday, January 26, 2025

Venue: Mitsubishi Ichigokan Museum

2-6-2 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

Website: <https://mimt.jp/>

Artist: Hiroshi Sugimoto

Opera title: ORCHARD PRODUCE 2024 Masato Suzuki & Bach Collegium Japan × Hiroshi Sugimoto with G.B.Piranesi Mozart: Don Giovanni

Dates: Thursday, February 20 – Monday, February 24, 2025

Venue: Meguro Persimmon Hall

1-1-1 Yakumo, Meguro-ku, Tokyo

Website: <https://www.bunkamura.co.jp/english/orchard/20250221.html>

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Press images

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Artists



Hiroshi Sugimoto

Born in Okachimachi of Taito-ward, Tokyo in 1948. In 1970, he moved to the US with ambition to be an artist. In 1978, he was represented by the prestigious Sonnabend Gallery but stayed destitute, that he opened an antique shop named Mingei. As an occupation he visited flea markets all over Japan. Since his solo show with the Metropolitan Museum in 1995 he evaded poverty, but he never came out of the longtime habit of hunting and spending money on antiques to this day.



Sophie Calle

Born in Paris, France in 1953. She led a vagabond life for 7 years since her late teens and returned to Paris at age 26. Around then she started to make works, and eventually shown them in museums and galleries from 1980. Based on her own experiences, she interweaves fact and fiction, and produces installation work that incorporates text and photograph, and video.



Ryota Aoyagi

Born in Osaka in 1976. After graduating from La Salle High School, he went on to study in Tama Art University to be an artist. He started in 2005 to show his conceptual installation works. He started a shop in Kagurazaka in 2010 selling antiques, brick-a-brack, and found objects.

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Exhibition catalog

“UNSOLD UNSOLD”

36 pages / paperback / 21 x 15.5 cm

Publisher: Gallery Koyanagi

Number of copies: Limited to 300 copies

Price: 1,980 yen (Tax included)

The exhibition catalog “UNSOLD” issued in 2014, will be reprinted as “UNSOLD UNSOLD” adding a new text by Hiroshi Sugimoto. The catalog will feature texts by the three artists, photos of their stalls and the documented photography secretly taken at the flea market.

Exhibition outline

Artist: Hiroshi Sugimoto, Sophie Calle, Ryota Aoyagi

Exhibition title: UNSOLD UNSOLD

Exhibition dates: Thursday, November 21 – Saturday, December 14, 2024

[Opening reception: Thursday, November 21, 5–7 pm]

***We will open at 5pm on the first day of the exhibition, November 21.**

Opening hours: 12–7 pm

Closed on Sundays, Mondays and National Holidays

Address:

Gallery Koyanagi

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Press inquiry: please contact us to mail@gallerykoyanagi.com for further information

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Hiroshi Sugimoto

Born in Tokyo in 1948, Hiroshi Sugimoto moved to the United States in 1970 to study photography. A multi-disciplinary artist, Sugimoto works in photography, sculpture, installation, performing arts, architecture, gardening, and gastronomy. His art bridges Eastern and Western ideologies while examining the nature of time, perception, and the origins of consciousness. His photographic series include Dioramas, Theaters, Seascapes, Architecture, Portraits, Conceptual Forms, and Lightning Fields, among others. In 2008 he established the architecture firm New Material Research Laboratory and in 2009 he founded Odawara Art Foundation, a charitable nonprofit organization to promote traditional Japanese performing arts and culture. He has deep knowledge about traditional performing arts. Sugimoto Bunraku "Sonezaki Shinju: the Love Suicides at Sonezaki" received high acclaim nationally and internationally. In the fall of 2019, *At the Hawk's Well*, directed by Sugimoto, was featured as one of the opening programs of the season at The National Opera of Paris. Sugimoto's art works have been exhibited around the world and are in numerous public collections including The Guggenheim, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Museum of Modern Art in New York; the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.; the National Gallery and the Tate Gallery in London; and the National Museum of Modern Art and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo. Sugimoto is the recipient of the Hasselblad Foundation International Award in Photography in 2001. He was awarded the 21st Praemium Imperiale in 2009, Medal with Purple Ribbon by the Japanese government in 2010, and conferred the Officier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (The Order of Arts and Letters) by the French government in 2013, the Isamu Noguchi Award in 2014, and honored as a Person of Cultural Merit by the Japanese government in 2017. He was elected as a member of the Japan Art Academy.

Sophie Calle

Born in Paris in 1953, Sophie Calle spent seven years from her late teens traveling, and returned to Paris at the age of 26. It was then she began to create works and began to exhibit her works in 1980. Calle has had solo shows at major institutions worldwide, including Tate in London (1998) and the Centre Pompidou in Paris (2003). She represented France at the 52nd Venice Biennale in 2007.

In recent years, her work has been shown in her solo exhibitions at the Musée de la chasse et de la nature (2017) and the Musée Picasso in Paris (2023). In Japan, her solo exhibition *Exquisite Pain* (1999) was held at the Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, and *For the Last and First Time* (2013-2015) traveled to the Hara Museum, the Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, and the Nagasaki Prefectural Museum of Art. Her video work *Voir la mer* (2011) was displayed on the electronic billboard at Tokyo's Shibuya Scramble Crossing in 2019. Additionally, her book "True Story" (Heibonsha, 1999) has been translated into Japanese.

Ryota Aoyagi

Contemporary artist born in Osaka in 1976. Lives and works in Kyoto. After graduating from Tama Art University, he started in 2005 to show installation art using found objects, and continued to do so. From 2010 for a few years, he has managed an antique shop in a back alley of Kagurazaka, Tokyo and this experience cultivated his eye for artifacts and antiques. In 2014, he held an exhibition "UNSOLD" with Hiroshi Sugimoto and Sophie Calle at Gallery Koyanagi. In 2017 he held a solo show in a residential air-raid shelter in Tokyo, showing 2 works "2015" and "2016." This exhibition attracted a wide variety of attention, despite the limited presentation by appointment only for 9 days. In 2019, he held a solo show "sign" at Gallery Koyanagi. In 2023 he curated a show "Furudougu SAKATA: Our Choice" at BY ART MATTERS in Hangzhou China. From March 2018 on, he is writing a series of essays titled "Eureka" on a bimonthly art magazine "Bijutsu Techo".