

# Press Release | Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery

Press Release 2022.06.01

## Ryan Gander THE MARKERS OF OUR TIME



2000 year collaboration (*The Prophet*) 2018 Ishikawa Foundation Courtesy the artist and TARO NASU photo: Stevie Dix

This is the first large solo exhibition in Tokyo by internationally acclaimed artist Ryan Gander (born in the UK in 1976). Gander works in a range of genres, including objects, installations, paintings, photography and video. His works are typically inspired by the artist noticing something that we tend to take for granted and no longer even think about in daily life. The profusion of intellectual curiosity that underlies his practice is evidenced by his observations on the act of seeing and his astute analyses of everyday experiences. The resulting works stimulate viewers' thoughts and creativity, leading us to questions. The true value of Gander's works lies in how they create unexpected links and partially hide information, creating humorous opportunities for considering the origins of things or habits. Encountering one of his works triggers laughter, followed by a surprising discovery. Gander professes to be looking forward to this solo exhibition, in which he plans to treat an entire space as a single coherent work, incorporating even the new works that are included in the exhibition.

This solo exhibition was originally planned for 2021, but had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, the artist's generous offer of cooperation enabled the production that year of two *Collection Exhibitions curated by Ryan Gander* instead. Gander shone new light on the Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery's Terada Collection by clever application of a completely different approach that resulted in a successful exhibition despite the difficult circumstances. That confidence in his own creative abilities is a hallmark of Gander's work. In 2022, in addition to his long-awaited solo exhibition, Gander is taking over the upper floor gallery again to present *Collection Exhibition curated by Ryan Gander*.

### Ryan Gander THE MARKERS OF OUR TIME

Period Saturday, 16 July – Monday 19 September, 2022

Venue Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery

Open hours 11:00 – 19:00 (Last admission at 18:30)

Closed on Mondays (Tuesday if the Monday is a public holiday), 7 August (Sunday, maintenance)

Admission adults 1400 [1200] yen, university and high school students 1000 [800] yen, free for junior high and under

Organiser Tokyo Opera City Cultural Foundation

Sponsor Japan Real Estate Investment Corporation

Cooperation Nakagawa Chemical Inc., Ricoh company, Ltd., Ishikawa Foundation, Caitac Holdings Corp., TARO NASU

Supported by British Council

\*Rates include admission to "Collection Exhibition curated by Ryan Gander" and "project N 87 KUROSAKA Yu".

\*Rates in brackets indicate discount. Free for person with a disability certificate along with an attendant.

\*Only one concession or discount can be applied at a time.

\*Nonrefundable.

\*Check the Opera City Art Gallery website for requests to visitors regarding measures to control the spread of COVID-19.

## Highlights of *Ryan Gander THE MARKERS OF OUR TIME*

### ● First major solo exhibition in Tokyo

Ryan Gander's first solo exhibition in Japan was at the National Museum of Art, Osaka in 2017. His work has been presented in various art festivals, group exhibitions, and art fairs around the country. *Ryan Gander THE MARKERS OF OUR TIME* is the artist's first major solo show at a Tokyo art museum. The exhibition was originally planned for 2021, but had to be postponed due to the pandemic, and will finally open in July 2022. The whole of the gallery space at Tokyo City Art Gallery is dedicated to Ryan Gander to provide a full taste of the current output of an exciting artist whose reputation continues to grow worldwide.

### ● Questions and imagination emerge from "seeing"

Gander's diverse works include objects, installations, paintings, photography and video. The breadth of his creative practice is tied together by his observations on the act of seeing. He directs our attention to things that we normally fail to notice, things that we take for granted and things that we have forgotten about entirely, driving a multitude of questions about what we are seeing anew. Those questions lead us to think from new perspectives about things that had been settled in our minds, creating fertile ground for new discoveries. In that way, his works orient us towards being creative.

### ● Time/values/education/things that get overlooked...

For this exhibition, Gander is combining a variety of new and older works to turn an expansive gallery into a single work. Each of the individual works splays open one or more of the elements that have fascinated the artist from early in his career—time, values (or value), education and things that get overlooked. What is the true nature of things that are important to each and every one of us? Gander's world is one where we can think about the origins of things, with a touch of humour. Loosen up your mind and dive in. That way, you should start to see the signs of the age that we live in today—the markers of our time.



*In the very beginning, before words, there were...* 2021 Courtesy the artist and gb agency, Paris photo: David Tolley

*Overtaken Frank Lloyd Wright and Arata Endo chair after a couple of inches of snowfall* 2022 Courtesy the artist and TARO NASU photo: David Tolley



*Time well spent* 2019 TAGUCHI ART COLLECTION Courtesy the artist and TARO NASU photo: Thierry Ball, TARO NASU

*Only a matter of time* 2020 Courtesy the artist



*A weight around your neck (to remind you that you've not wasted your time)* 2019 Courtesy the artist and TARO NASU photo: Stevie Dix

*Because editorial is costly* 2016 Ishikawa Foundation Courtesy the artist and TARO NASU photo: Yasushi Ishikawa, Okayama Art Summit

*The world no longer revolves around you* 2008 Obayashi Collection Courtesy the artist and TARO NASU photo: TARO NASU

●All our stories are incomplete...  
Colours of the imagination  
Collection Exhibitions curated by Ryan Gander

Preparations for the solo exhibition planned for April 2021 were impacted by lockdown in the UK, leading to a decision to postpone the exhibition only four months before it was due to open. In the wake of the decision, Gander asked the bewildered curators if there were "anything I can do to help in this situation?" and commented that "I think the curation of a collection exhibition can be done from the UK". That suggestion led to a collection exhibition curated by Ryan Gander using all the main exhibition spaces in the gallery.

Eventually, it was decided to present two concurrent exhibitions with different themes, *All our stories are incomplete...* on the 3rd floor and *Colours of the imagination* on the 4th floor. And as a result of giving the museum over to ideas that could only have come from Gander, each of these collection exhibitions was a surprise. Taking inspiration from the fact that the Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery's collection is a private eye collection by the late Terada Kotaro, Gander produced an exhibition that brought the focus onto Terada's gaze. Ryan Gander asserts that every human has the ability to understand the same thing in multiple ways. His collection exhibition for 2022 will surely bring new surprises, too.



Collection Exhibition curated by Ryan Gander: Colours of the imagination installation view 2021 photo:NAKAGAWA Shu

Collection Exhibition curated by Ryan Gander: All our stories are incomplete...installation view 2021 photo:NAKAGAWA Shu

### Publication

A book featuring Ryan Gander works will be published in association with the exhibition. Beginning with the artist's own scribbles and notes, it covers exhibits from the exhibition, ranging from early works to his latest works. It also documents last year's exhibitions curated from the museum's collection.

Published by HeHe <http://hehepress.com>

### Products

Ryan Gander merchandise will be available during the exhibition period. See the website and press releases for details.

### Ryan Gander

Born in 1976 in the UK, Ryan Gander has been a major figure on the international art scene, breaking new ground in conceptual art, with a major solo exhibition at Kunsthalle Bern in 2019 and other international exhibitions including Documenta and the Venice Biennale. He is also known for his public art, such as his outdoor sculptures in Central Park, New York in 2010. In Japan, a solo exhibition at the National Museum of Art, Osaka and an exhibition of the museum's collection, curated by Gander, were held in 2017.



Courtesy the artist and TARO NASU  
photo: Jon Gorrigan

Updates will be posted on our website and social media platforms and on the exhibition website.

### ■Inquiries

Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery [Curator] NOMURA Shinobu [Press] ICHIKAWA Yasuko, YOSHIDA Akiko  
Tel : 03-5353-0756 / Fax : 03-5353-0776 / Email : [ag-press@toccfc.com](mailto:ag-press@toccfc.com)