

Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery Upcoming Exhibition Schedule

Masaya Chiba Exhibition

Saturday 16 January – Sunday 21 March, 2021 (55 days)



Masaya Chiba (1980-) has a growing international reputation, exhibiting around the world and having his work acquired by a public collection in the U.S. His first solo exhibition at an art museum has been keenly anticipated. Chiba begins by creating his human figures in papier-mâché and scrap wood, arranging them with meticulous care in a temporary landscape along with a variety of items that he has collected. He then produces a painting that depicts the scene – making good use of his superlative technique to finely distinguish the different textures of wood, metal, plastic, and other materials. His completed works may be displayed on simple, homemade wooden stands, or switched out for other works after a certain period. These additional modifications in real space serve to further blend together the worlds of painting and sculpture. His work attempts to shake the framework of contemporary art through the well-established medium of painting, while faithfully perpetuating the legacy of the achievements and accomplishments of painters throughout the ages, including the traditions of both East and West. This bold approach provides viewers with a truly unique and exciting experience. Chiba's pet turtle will also make an appearance at the gallery. Viewers are invited to take a turtle's-eye-view of the exhibition.

Turtle's life #3 / 2013 / oil on canvas / Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo / ©Masaya Chiba / Courtesy of ShugoArts

Concurrent exhibitions: From the Terada Collection 070 NAMBATA Tatsuoki: **Early Abstraction** / project N 81 OSE Mayuko

Ryan Gander: The Markers of Our Time

Saturday 17 April – Sunday 20 June, 2021 (57 days)



Magnus Opus / 2013 / Ishikawa Foundation, Okayama / ©Ryan Gander. Courtesy of Collection of Ishikawa Foundation, Okayama and TARO NASU. photo: Martin Argyroglo

This is the first major solo exhibition in Tokyo by UK-born Ryan Gander (1976). Gander is acclaimed worldwide for works inspired by art from many different periods and sources, and by very ordinary events in everyday life that would typically be soon forgotten. His practice spans a rich variety of genres, including objects, installation, painting, photography, and video.

Underlying each work is the artist's abundant intellectual curiosity, driving his observation of the act of looking and his astute analysis of everyday experiences. His works have unexpected couplings, partially concealed information, and a streak of humour. They draw viewers into thoughts of both past and future. The first reaction is to typically a chuckle, followed by the surprise of discovery. The artist plans to turn the whole exhibition space into a single installation, including new works.

Gander also curates the concurrent exhibition of works from the gallery's Terada Collection, applying a new perspective to the collection that TERADA Kotaro originally assembled to suit his own personal preferences. This experiment promises a fascinating result, incorporating the artist's eye, choices and tastes.

Concurrent exhibitions: Collection exhibition curated by Ryan Gander (title to be confirmed) / project N 82 MATSUDA Reika

KATO Tsubasa (title to be confirmed)

Saturday 17 July – Monday 20 September, 2021 (56 days)



Superstring Secrets: Tokyo / 2020 / Courtesy of MUJIN-TO Production

KATO Tsubasa (1984-) is famous for his *Pull and Raise* series, in which people pool their knowledge and use only their physical strength and ropes to pull down or erect giant structures. He has also produced many works full of sharp criticism for contemporary society, including *Woodstock 2017* (2017), in which four white men roped together play the American national anthem, and *Underground Orchestra* (2018), which turns attention to animals displaced by construction work on an oil pipeline across the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's reservation. KATO is one of the most interesting artists active today.

At a time when local communities are facing collapse under threats such as natural disasters, urban development and destruction of the environment, KATO demonstrates the significance of autonomous acts by people who take part and actually do something together.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, at a time when there are fears of increasing polarisation of nations and people, KATO Tsubasa's works help us to notice the potential for collaborative action and alliances to overcome division and confrontation.

Concurrent exhibitions: From the Terada Collection 071 Terada Collection Nihonga (title to be confirmed) / project N 83 KINUGAWA Akiko

WADA Makoto (title to be confirmed) **Saturday 9 October – Sunday 19 December, 2021** (62 days)



Wada Makoto / ©Wada Makoto / photo: Yoshida Hiroko

Anyone who has lived in Japan will have come across WADA Makoto's illustrations drawn with a light touch and tender colours, his essays on movies and music, his children's books full of wordplay or some of his many other creations.

WADA Makoto (1936-2019) is widely known for his work as an illustrator and graphic designer, including illustrations for books by authors such as TANIKAWA Shuntaro, HOSHI Shinichi and MARUYA Saiichi, theatre posters for INOUE Hisashi and TSUKA Kohei and jackets for records CDs. In addition, he published many essays and picture books of his own, directed his own movies and animations, created 3D artworks, wrote scripts for theatre and *rakugo* storytelling and composed lyrics and music. This genre-crossing creative output brought him broad-based recognition. Many are aware of fragments of WADA's work, but there have been few opportunities to see the full extent of his talents. This exhibition actively focuses on the variety of his work and reveals some of the sources of his creativity, including a look at some of his sayings, the people he encountered, and his childhood sketches.

Concurrent exhibitions: From the Terada Collection 072 NAMBATA Fumio (title to be confirmed) / **project N 84 YAMASHITA Hiroka**

Miquel Barceló (title to be confirmed)
Thursday 13 January – March (date to be confirmed), **2022**



La suerte de matar / 1990 / Collection of the artist / photo: André Morin

Miquel Barceló (1957), the highly-active preeminent contemporary artist, presents a major overview of his work for the first time in Japan. Barceló's career is based in Europe, beginning in Majorca where he was born. Since his stunning debut at Documenta 7 in 1982, he has set up studios in many different places around the world, including Paris and Africa, reflecting the climate, customs and history of each location in his work. Themes of sea and land, animals and plants, history, religion, bullfighting and portraiture account for a substantial part of his output, and each work is rooted in his affection, respect and awe for nature and human activity. While his practice demonstrates an interest in the various trends in contemporary art, his incisive artistic sensitivity keeps the international art context within his perspective. This exhibition covers his career from the earliest period to the present day, introducing about a hundred of his works, with sculpture, ceramics, and video work included along with his paintings, sketches, watercolours and other two-dimensional works.

Concurrent exhibition: project N 85 MITOBE Nanae

■ See the Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery website, social media and exhibition websites for latest details.

■ Press inquiries

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