



Toru Ishii, *Going Work Battle 08*, 2019

H54.3 × W54.3 cm/ H21.3 × W21.3 inches, Itome Yuzen dyeing on organdy silk, foil, wood panel

## Qualia

Toru Ishii,      Mika Horie,      Myriam Mechita,      Yoon Heechang,

Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup> 2020

Sokyo Annex

375-SSS Bld.3<sup>rd</sup> FL Ichinofunairicho, Kyoto, Nakagyo ku, Kyoto 604-0924

Open hours: 10:00-6:00PM    Closed on Sunday and Monday

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## Press Release

Sokyo Gallery is pleased to announce that there will be an exhibition "Qualia" presenting two-dimensional works by four artists at Sokyo Annex. "Qualia" refers to individual senses that are subjectively experienced, and a unique texture based on sensory and subjective experiences.

This phenomenon, which is translated as sense in Japanese, appears only in the subjectivity and cannot be replaced with objective data. In this exhibition, We will exhibit works of Yoon

Heechang who creates abstract paintings using ceramic powder and river sand, Toru Ishii, who uses textiles as a medium, and Mika Horie, who shows blueprints on Japanese paper, adding that Miriam Mechita, who mainly creates ceramics and glass sculptures of bizarre animals and Greek mythology as motifs, will exhibit a strong red drawing for this exhibition.

We hope that this exhibition will give you an opportunity to feel the artist's qualia that expresses the work using a unique technique, and at the same time to feel the qualia that the viewer receives from the work.

Called "The contemporary ukiyo-e artist", **Toru Ishii** uses Itome Yusen dyeing, Japan's only traditional technique, to satire modern society in a humorous manner. "Itome Yuzen's elements include the characteristic flatness, contour lines, bleeding and blurring of Japanese art. By using this technique, myself, I think that it will be possible to make a Japanese interpretation of what has been developed in Western contemporary art." says Ishii. The works in this exhibition include the series of office workers in samurai style expressed in bright colors, the series of garbage that I met while traveling, and the Humidity series that he started working on in recent years.

**Mika Horie** is engaged in production activities with her own style of printing photographs taken with the Japanese paper made by herself as photographic paper. Using a plant called ganpi as a raw material for Japanese paper, she creates works that express the beauty of Japan. The process of collecting ganpi, the raw material of Japanese paper, peeling it, making it, and making it into Japanese paper is all done by herself, and finally the photograph is printed in solid blue. She finds in blue the sources of life such as the sea, the sky, and the universe, and links the silence of human mind, human imperfections, and delicate humor to the color of blue. The scenery captured by Horie is nostalgic, as if you had visited somewhere before, and you feel as if you were in a place of nostalgic memories. Nowadays, Horie has many fans mainly in the United States and Europe, and has become recognized in Japan, where she is based.



In recent years, **Myriam Mechita** has many sculptures made of ceramics and glass. She expresses her unique world, such as birds without eyes and works that combine humans and plants. The works introduced in this exhibition are drawings drawn in bright red. This work was drawn in a situation where Mechita was emotionally moved to the extreme when she moved to New York. Black spots are scattered around the realistically drawn rabbit. Mechita says “Life, death, pain, and fun are conflicting concepts that conflict with one another in everyday life, and my work is always in conflict.... I'm interested in the appearance of things and the seemingly hidden things. There is a tension between these things. I'm always swaying between sophistication and extremism, trying to figure out how to combine this extreme stuff. “The fusion of life and death in her unique work breaks the contradiction and create a new concept.

**Yoon Heechang**'s ceramic powder painting started by scraping the surface of a three-dimensional sculpture made of ceramics and drawing it on a flat surface with crushed powder. The work entitled "Something" is what the artist called "the scenery of "is" and presented the ambiguity of the existence of things that "is" and "is not." "Sand River Work," which he has been working on since 2011, draws sand from rivers such as the Thames, Seine, Kamo, Ibo, and Yodo rivers to trace human civilization and draw abstract landscapes. A variety of colors are created by burning the sand of rivers directly collected in various places and then burned in a kiln at different temperatures. The finely crushed sand conveys a unique texture and feel through the sight in the landscape. In this exhibition, two works of "something" and works using sand of Kamo and Seine will be exhibited. The materials of ceramic, and river sand, are washed down by the river and piled up, and then piled up on top of each other to complete the town. He finds movements of people, things, and information in such properties of the accumulated soil and sand, and expresses the flow of time and the transition between them.

*In a time that has not changed since ancient times, Sand River-sand has continued to flow and has created landscapes along with human activities. By burning the sand of the river and painting will allow us to touch the essence of landscapes Isn't it?*

*-Yoon Heechang*

**Toru ISHII** was born in 1981 in Shizuoka, Japan. Currently lives and works in Saitama, Japan. He received B.A. in Textile Arts, Tokyo University of the Arts in 2006. Studied in an Exchange Student Program at Chelsea College of arts and design, London, UK in 2008. M.A. in Textile Arts, Tokyo University of the Arts in 2010. Ph.D. Textile Arts, Tokyo University of the Arts in 2014. Awards includes Judge's Award, 8<sup>th</sup> Spiral Independent Creators Festival (2007); David Solo Award, Ise Cultural Foundation Exhibition (2011); Nomura Art Prize, Doctoral Program





Final Exhibition (2013); Nomination Award, The Annex Collection Acquisition (2017).  
Collections include Tokyo University of the Arts Museum, Tokyo, Japan; Victoria and Albert Museum, London, U.K.; Morikami Museum, F.L., U.S.A.

**Mika HORIE** was born in 1984, Kyoto, Japan. Currently lives and works in Ishikawa, Japan. B.A., Information Design at Kyoto University of Art and Design in 2007. M.A., European Art Practice, Kingston University London in 2009. Established her own studio in Yamanaka Onsen, Kaga, Ishikawa and started pursuing aesthetic value and the primitive passion of Japanese paper and blue photographic expression. Exhibitions include Japan, Korea, Belgium, Netherlands, and U.K.

**Myriam MECHITA** was born in 1974 Strasbourg France. She received National Diploma of Plastic Expression, Decorative Arts School of Strasbourg in 1997. Teaching at Training Center for Intervening Plastic Artists, stationed at ESAM in Caen. Artist in Residence include Quebec, Canada in 2006; Severs, France in 2006-2011; N.Y., U.S.A. in 2011; Lisbon, Portugal in 2015; Adelaide, Australia in 2017. Creating energetically and experienced many group exhibitions in Europe especially in France. Collections include Museum of Arts and Design, N.Y., U.S.A.; Musee National de Ceramique ,Severs, France; Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain de Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France.

**Yoon HEECHANG** was born 1963 in Hyogo. Currently lives and works in Tokyo. He received M.A., Tama Art University, Tokyo in 1988. An agency for cultural affairs overseas trainees in U.K. for one year. An agency for cultural affairs overseas Special trainees for research at British Museum in U.K. for one year. Currently, He is a professor for craft at Tama Art University. Collections include Terada Art Collection, Tokyo, Japan; Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery, Tokyo, Japan; Ibaraki Ceramic Art Museum, Ibaraki, Japan; Tokoname City, Aichi, Japan; Passenger Ship of Guntu, Hyogo, Japan; Hyogo University Building 4, Hyogo, Japan; Shizuoka Cancer Center, Shizuoka, Japan.

We would be very grateful if you could kindly consider this new innovative exhibition on your publications. If you have any questions, please contact the following;

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