

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spiritual Landscape • ○▲□

Moe Amano Hirotsugu Ueno Nao Sano Kaori Tanaka Tsutomu Haraguchi

Venue: HRD Fine Art (494-1 Kamigoryo-tatemachi, Kamigyo-ku, Kyoto)

Date: February 11 – March 27, 2021

Hours: **Thu: 11:00am - 3:00pm / Fri & Sat: 11:00am - 7:00pm**

(Sun-Wed: Open by prior appointment only)

HRD Fine Art is pleased to announce the opening of a group exhibition titled “Spiritual Landscape • ○▲□ (dot/circle/triangle/square),” on display from February through March 2021. This exhibition is co-curated by artist Tsutomu Haraguchi and HRD Fine Art as the sequel of “Spiritual Landscape” exhibition held at Eureka in Fukuoka in 2019.

The 2019 exhibition was inspired by the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquakes that shook central areas of Kyushu Island in April 2016. It focused on the conditions of human life faced with tremendous energy of nature and the earth. This year, the Kyoto edition of the project combines three artists from the Fukuoka version (Hirotsugu Ueno, Nao Sano, and Tsutomu Haraguchi) with two new artists who have ties with Kyoto (Moe Amano and Kaori Tanaka), while introducing a new theme: “mountain” as a symbol of regionality and spirituality. Painting and installation are the main features of the show, with five participating artists working together to create an integrated “landscape” within the whole space of the gallery.

In this exhibition, two remote places that are characterized with different cultures and histories, namely Kyushu and Kyoto, are linked through a broad variety of artworks and expressions presented by the five artists. And as a result, various keywords such as climate and landscape, geography and history, regionality and art, and more, emerge before us as if in a powerful volcanic eruption.

[CO-CURATOR’S STATEMENT]

Back in 2019, I organized a group show themed on “landscape” in Fukuoka, which referred to a series of big earthquakes that took place in Kumamoto in 2016. Titled “Spiritual Landscape,” the exhibition centered on painting, while overlaying man-made boundaries with natural geographic conditions. Our intention was to nullify “artificiality.”

Now, the exhibition “Spiritual Landscape •○▲□ (dot/circle/triangle/square)” consists of a group of artworks that stand side by side at the foot of “virtual mountain,” with various thoughts and ideas rising up as part of an installation. The exhibition’s main components are once again paintings, and it possesses the key that enables real landscapes to be integrated into human spirits.

Nao Sano creates sceneries that incite a sensation of déjà-vu using countless dots. Hirotugu Ueno paints transcending landscapes based on dioramas of his own making. Kaori Tanaka’s colorful, ice cream-like majestic mountains are inspired by traditional Japanese gardens. Tsutomu Haraguchi tells stories that relate to forbidden ruins found in the mountain on Tsushima Island. Moe Amano derives a wide variety of expressions from her everyday life in Fukuoka’s mountainous countryside.

This exhibition shows a landscape where realities and symbols switch with each other while going through many layers of filters of human spirit. Beauty that can be seen scattered throughout, from center to periphery, is captured in a manner that is similar to overwriting images on a digital monitor.

About the exhibition title:

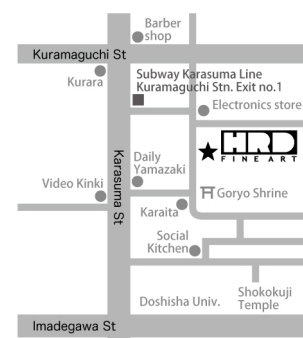
- (dot) stands for a specific geographical spot. This spot is confined to a peripheral area, but it shines bright with spiritual brilliance all the more because of the local suppressions.
- (circle) symbolizes wholeness, as opposed to the locality of the dot.
- ▲ (triangle) stands for mountains as landscape.
- (square) alludes to paintings, books, TV monitors, or smartphone screens. It symbolizes the prevalence and dominance of square shapes that expand in pace with the progress of human civilization.

Tsutomu Haraguchi

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For further information or for artwork images please contact us:

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[ARTWORKS]



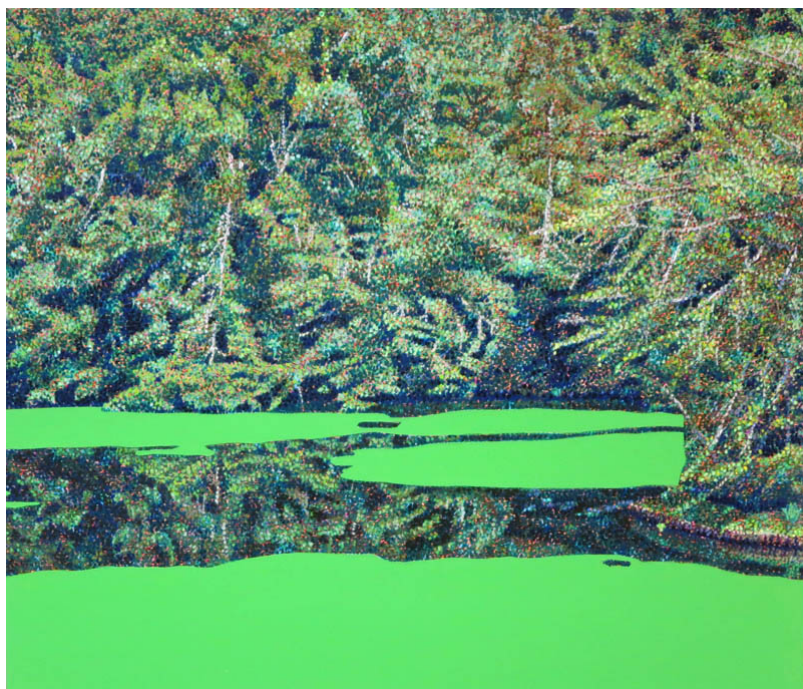
Moe Amano *Kuru-kuru picnic and screen*

installation (photo from "Seeds in Autumn 2019 - the Era of Flower Song - I'm Here," Eureka, Fukuoka, 2019)



Hirotsugu Ueno *Above the Clouds*

oil on canvas 38x45.5cm 2020



Nao Sano *A Summer Day*

oil, acrylic on panel and linen 45.5x53cm 2020



Kaori Tanaka *Moon, Mountain, Water and Cloud Sea No.2020.12*

oil on canvas 145.5x112cm 2020



Tsutomu Haraguchi *Painting in the Air*
packing tape, wood, books 120x120x300cm 2020

[ARTISTS' BIOGRAPHY ①]

Moe AMANO

Moe Amano creates paintings and sculptures with organic shapes that relate to mysticality and animism. She also engages in various creative/community activities that derive from her everyday life in the mountainous countryside village.

1982 Born in Fukuoka
 2004 BFA in Art, Faculty of Art and Design, Kyushu Sangyo University
 Lives and works in Fukuoka

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2004 "AT HOME" cafeDESSERT DINER, Fukuoka
 2005 "Like a smoke lings" GALLERY ANTENNA, Kyoto
 "scape" Gallery Sowaka, Kyoto
 2007 "invisible animals" CAP HOUSE Yamagawa Gallery, Kobe
 2010 "Kasumitatsu Yawarakai Ame" Galerie 16, Kyoto
 "amano moe iro iro" Halo Galo, Kyoto
 2011 "seek the sky" Umezono CAFE & GALLERY, Kyoto

Selected Group Exhibitions

2002 "Gokoten" Fukuoka Art Museum Citizen's Gallery, Fukuoka
 2003 "WALD GRAPH5" Modern Art Bank Wald, Fukuoka
 "RoomRoom Exhibition" Galerie Recolte, Fukuoka
 2007 "Nekobee Show" Art Apartment House 88, Fukuoka
 "Fukuoka Art Mini Collection" Gallery Artlier, Fukuoka
 2008 "GEISAI Museum #2" Tokyo Big Sight, Tokyo
 "Street and Plaza - Transit" Gallery Artlier, Fukuoka
 "Resident/sina" PRAHA Project+deep sapporo 9J, Sapporo
 2009 Art Space Saga, Kyoto
 "After School" Former Rissei Elementary School, Kyoto
 "10x10" trance pop gallery, Kyoto
 2010 "Nekobee Returns" Art Base 88, Fukuoka
 2011 "Gekitotsu" UnsealContemporary, Tokyo
 "Waza Zemi 2010 Closing Report Exhibition" Kyoto Art Center, Kyoto
 2013 "Tour inside Buddhist Statue and Gazoku" Gallery of Kyoto Traditional Arts & Crafts, Kyoto
 2018 "Art Life Declaration" Kyushu Geibun-Kan, Fukuoka
 2019 "Seeds in Autumn 2019 - the Era of Flower Song - I'm Here" Eureka, Fukuoka

2020 "Chikugo Art Farm Project 2020 Love & Journey" MEIJIKAN Gallery, Fukuoka
"Crossing New Boundaries" konya-gallery, Fukuoka

Residency Programs

2008 PRAHA Project, Sapporo

Selected Awards

2019 "Arts Project School Summit 2019" Special Jury Prize: Katsuhiko Hibino

[ARTISTS' BIOGRAPHY ②]

Hirotsugu UENO

Hirotsugu Ueno constructs dioramas of imaginary places and then creates paintings based on those models. Reality and fiction are mingled together on the surface of his paintings.

- 1984 Born in Kumamoto
2006 BFA in Fine Art, Department of Fine Arts at the Faculty of Art, Sojo University
2008 MFA in Fine Art, Department of Fine Arts, Sojo University
Lives and works in Kumamoto

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2011 "Hirotsugu Ueno Exhibition" Collection OMO, Kumamoto
2016 "Vision" Nakao Gallery, Kumamoto
2018 "Biography" Sojo University Gallery, Kumamoto

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2007 "The 8th Setsuryosha Firenze Prize Exhibition" Setsuryosha Museum of Art, Niigata
2012 "The 21st Eiten" Tagawa Museum of Art, Tagawa, Fukuoka
2013 "Shell Art Award 2013" The National Art Center, Tokyo
2015 "FACE 2015" Seiji Togo Memorial Sompo Japan Nipponkoa Museum of Art, Tokyo
2017 "Shell Art Award 2017" The National Art Center, Tokyo
2019 "Spiritual Landscape" Eureka, Fukuoka
2020 "Kyushu New Art" Hakata Hankyu Department Store, Fukuoka

[ARTISTS' BIOGRAPHY ③]

Nao SANO

Nao Sano depicts the scene of places that she has actually visited using her exquisite pointillist technique, deconstructing and reconstructing the meanings of the subject and the personal memories attached to it in the process.

1987 Born in Kumamoto
2009-10 Studied at Chichester College, Chichester, UK
2011 BFA in Fine Art, University of Teacher Education Fukuoka
Lives and works in Kumamoto

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2014 "point rhythm" Shigekiba, Fukuoka
2017 Tsutaya Shoten Kumamoto Sannenzaka, Kumamoto
"Landscapes" Gallery BiN, Fukuoka

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2014 "Contemporary Western Paintings" Kenmin Department Store, Kumamoto
2015 "Nao Sano x Fumiko Takahashi" Gallery Seira, Tokyo
2018 "Nao Sano & Sakura Fukushima" Gallery Ogata, Fukuoka
2019 "VOCA 2019 - The Vision of Contemporary Art" The Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo
"Spiritual Landscape" Eureka, Fukuoka
"PARALLEL Mariko Ogawa x Nao Sano" Nakao Gallery, Kumamoto
2020 "Kyushu New Art" Hakata Hankyu Department Store, Fukuoka

Residency Programs

2018 Vermont Studio Center (Displaced Artists Fund), Johnson, Vermont, US

Selected Awards

2010 "Turner Award 2010" Future Prize
2017 "The 9th Kobai Art Award" Encouragement Prize

[ARTISTS' BIOGRAPHY ④]

Kaori TANAKA

Kaori Tanaka presents utopian landscapes in her “contemporary *shan-shui*” with fantastically colorful depiction, all while referencing traditional Oriental philosophy and religious worldview.

- 1982 Born in Kyoto
- 2004 BFA in Painting, Seian University of Art and Design
- 2005 Completed Post-graduate Program of the Painting Course, Seian University of Art and Design

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2006 “Hourai” Art Space Niji, Kyoto
- 2008 “The Elegance of Silence Flowering” Gallery Art Composition, Tokyo
O Gallery eyes, Osaka
- 2009 Matsuzakaya Ueno, Tokyo
Mitsukoshi Sapporo Store, Sapporo
- 2012 “Moonlight Mountain” DEMADO PROJECT (HRD Fine Art), Kyoto
- 2013 “Floating Stone Island” KUNST ARZT, Kyoto
“Garden Island” gallery near, Kyoto
- 2014 “Moon, Mountain, Water, Flowing” Contemporary Art Gallery Zone, Osaka
- 2015 “Moon, Mountain, Water, Flowing” Gallery Inokumatei, Kyoto
- 2016 “Sand and Stone Falling” Gallery Inokumatei, Kyoto
- 2019 “Moon, Mountain, Water, Flowing” Art Gallery at Isetan Shinjuku Store, Tokyo

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2003 “Art Camp in CASO” CASO, Osaka
- 2006 “Art Camp in kunst bau” Gallery Yamaguchi, Osaka
- 2008 “Thinking and Painting” Gallery wks, Osaka
“Theory Art Award” Theory Aoyama, Tokyo
“Article Award” AJC Auction Gallery, Tokyo
- 2009 “Tokyo Wonder Wall 2009” Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo
- 2010 “Kyo-ten 2010” Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art, Kyoto
“Thinking and Painting 2” Gallery wks, Osaka
- 2011 “Manpukuji Art Festival - EN -” Manpukuhi, Kyoto
“Kyoto Current Vol.3” Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art Annex, Kyoto (also in 2012 and 2014)
“Art Auction story” Institut Francais, Kyoto
“Kyoto Aperto 2011: Open Studio Walk” artist’s studio, Kyoto

- 2012 "TRANSNATIONAL ART" Osaka Contemporary Art Center, Osaka
 "Gallery wks 10th Anniversary" Gallery wks, Osaka
 "ABEND" Gallery Ort Project, Kyoto
 "Kyoto Open Studio" artist's studio, Kyoto (also in 2013)
 Matsuyama Mitsukoshi, Matsuyama
- 2013 "Common Sense of the East" Gallery 175, Seoul
 "ART ROAD 77" Heyri Art Village, Paju, Korea
 "TAKE OUT ART!" gallery near, Kyoto (also in 2014)
 "ABEND vol.2" Kyoto Research Park Machiya Studio, Kyoto
 "Kuusou Bijutsu Award" Itochu Aoyama Art Square, Tokyo / Zokyudo, Kyoto
 "tokonoma" gallery near, Kyoto
 "Minoh no Mori Artwalk" Minoh, Osaka
- 2014 "Young Creators Award" MI Gallery, Osaka
 "Tensai 108" Zojoji, Tokyo
 "Engimono" Paku Paku An, Tokyo
 "Nature Explored: Interpretation of Japanese Landscape" Japanese Friendship Garden, San Diego
 "Kyoto Art for Tomorrow" The Museum of Kyoto, Kyoto
- 2015 "Absorbed in the Scenery" Tachibana Gallery, Osaka
 "Takao Elementary School Festival" Former Takao Elementary School of Minamiyamashiro Village, Kyoto
 "VIVID" Gallery Art Composition, Tokyo
- 2016 "Dancing in September" Tachibana Gallery, Tokyo
- 2017 "Gallery wks 15th Anniversary" Gallery wks, Osaka
 "Sakazuki" Art Spot Korin, Kyoto
 "MINA-TO Art Wall Vol.8 WONDERS vol.2 Greenscape" Spiral MINA-TO, Tokyo
 "Room Arrangements" Ryokan Mugen, Kyoto
 "Collection Exhibition for Young Artists" Gallery Kiku, Osaka
- 2020 "From Nippon! Modern Art Exhibition" Gallery at Ginza Mitsukoshi, Tokyo

Selected Awards

- 2004 Award of Excellence, Graduation Exhibition of Seian University of Art and Design
- 2008 Silver Prize, Theory Art Award
- 2013 Nidec Corporation Prize, Kuusou Bijutsu Contest

[ARTISTS' BIOGRAPHY ⑤]

Tsutomu HARAGUCHI

Tsutomu Haraguchi used to create and show his paintings inspired by comic books in the pseudonym "arthorymen." In recent years Haraguchi is also actively engaged in presenting installation works based on research into local histories. Haraguchi is a co-curator of this exhibition.

1973 Born in Kumamoto
Lives and works in Kumamoto

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2012 "Horyman and Killer Whale" nap gallery, Tokyo / island MEFDIUM, Tokyo / Bambinart Gallery, Tokyo
- 2015 "BARAMAN/ANIMI-ZOOM" Bambinart Gallery, Tokyo / OralCare.Inc, Tokyo
- 2016 "Jomon Onsen Smoke" Kiyoshima Apartment, Beppu
- 2018 "arthorymen 2005-2018" Contemporary Art Museum, Kumamoto
- 2019 "arthorymen 2019" White Space One, Fukuoka
- 2020 "arthorymen2020" chu;jun, Taichung
"Gate, Beam, □" Tsushima Art Center, Tsushima

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2014 "The 17th Taro Okamoto Award for Contemporary Art Exhibition" Taro Okamoto Museum of Art, Kawasaki
- 2019 "Spiritual Landscape" Eureka, Fukuoka

Residency Programs

- 2016-17 Kiyoshima Apartment, Beppu
- 2019 Tsushima Art Center, Tsushima

Selected Awards

- 2014 "The 17th Taro Okamoto Award for Contemporary Art" Special Prize

[NEW CORONAVIRUS COUNTERMEASURES]

HRD Fine Art implements the following countermeasures to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus as we restart our exhibition program at the gallery.

i. Suspension of opening receptions

Previously, we used to host opening reception parties for our exhibitions held in the gallery to facilitate communication between the artists and the audience. However, to ensure safety of the visitors, we will suspend opening receptions for the time being.

ii. Body temperature measurement, facemasks, and hand disinfection

We kindly ask all visitors to measure their body temperature prior to their visit (on the same day). In some cases we might kindly request to measure the guest's body temperature using non-contact thermometer. Anyone with the body temperature at 37.5°C or higher, or anyone with respiratory symptoms such as coughing, will not be permitted entry to the gallery. All visitors are kindly requested to wear a facemask at all time during their visit. Please contact us beforehand if you cannot wear a facemask due to specific health condition. Visitors shall disinfect their hands before they enter the gallery using alcohol-based hand sanitizer provided by the gallery.

iii. Limited number of people allowed in the gallery at once

In order to avoid congestion, we might ask visitors to wait outside the building until other visitors already in the gallery finish viewing the exhibition and leave.

iv. Possibility of temporary closure of the gallery or shift to appointment-only system

As a result of close monitoring of the pandemic situation and in order to safeguard all people involved in a more secure manner, HRD Fine Art might temporarily close its door and suspend the exhibition program altogether, or introduce an appointment-only system without prior notice or on short notice. We will make sure to notify such changes as swiftly as possible through channels that include our website (www.hrdfineart.com) and social media.

Thank you for your kind understanding and cooperation!