



Taka Ishii

Gallery

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## Zon Ito “The Strange Moves That We Make”

**Dates: Sep 16 – Oct 15, 2016**

**Location: Taka Ishii Gallery Tokyo**

**Opening Reception with the Artist: Friday, Sep 16, 18:00-20:00**

Taka Ishii Gallery is pleased to present “The Strange Moves That We Make”, a solo exhibition of works by Zon Ito, from September 16 to October 15. This will be his third exhibition and first in five years with Taka Ishii Gallery. The exhibition will feature approximately 10 works in various media.

“I stand up casually. See how I’ve stood up? I willed myself to stand up. I thought, I’ll stand up feeling like this. This is a type of emotional spirit.

When I think about standing, four hundred and some muscles move simultaneously in unity to actualize the movement of standing up.”

“I don’t know why such a thing is possible, but nevertheless, I can certainly do it. There is no doubt about this as I experience it daily.”

- Kiyoshi Oka, *Jōcho to Sōzō* [emotional spirit and creation] (Tokyo: Kodansha, 2002) pp.31-32

*When standing up for the first time, people are surprised by the fact that they are standing.*

*Their faces express their surprise.*

*They repeat and verify this surprising action to solidify their emotional spirit.*

*After a significant amount of time passes, a person stands up on a whim. A stray cat that had been lying down at some distance is startled, stands up, and looks over at the person.*

*At that moment, the person and the cat are looking at each other’s respective and different worlds.*

*What does the stray cat see?*

*The wave moves to and fro. When it comes over here, the person stands up and steps back to avoid getting wet.*

*The rhythm is in sync with the waves. What does the person see in that moment?*

- Zon Ito

Zon Ito, who has created works in numerous media including embroidery, pencil drawings, hand-drawn animation, video, and sculpture, has used a quotation from the mathematician Kiyoshi Oka in this press release. Throughout his art practice, Ito, who is interested in the relations between man’s interior and exterior worlds, has been drawn to the Oka’s idea that emotional spirits are formed through nurture. In recent years, Ito has constructed unique

methods of expression. He has been carrying out a “survey of living things” to examine the relation between the self and organisms, events, and phenomena that exist outside our recognition, and produced a partially embroidered sculpture, which evokes a giant boulder, and a work composed of branches and a drawing made with a single brush stroke. We sincerely hope you take this opportunity to see the new works included in this exhibition, such as the embroidered drawing on organically formed supports and clay pictures, which indicate a new development in Ito’s work. An exhibition catalogue will also be published.

Zon Ito was born in 1971 in Osaka. He graduated from Kyoto City University of Arts in 1996 and currently lives and works in Kyoto. He held a solo exhibition "The End of the Neighborhood", The Watari Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo in 2003. His work has been featured in multiple international exhibitions including; “Ways of Worldmaking”, The National Museum of Art, Osaka (2011); “Primary Field II”, The Museum of Modern Art, Hayama (2010); “Louisa Bufardeci & Zon Ito”, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney (2009); “When Lives Become Form: Dialogue with The Future Brazil / Japan”, Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, São Paulo (2008). His works are included in the permanent collections of Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; The Watari Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo; Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo; Takamatsu City Museum of Art, Kagawa; and The National Museum of Art, Osaka.

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www.takaishiigallery.com e-mail: tig@takaishiigallery.com Tue-Sat 11:00-19:00 Closed on Sun, Mon and National Holidays



Zon Ito, “A Mountain that Originated from One Small Bone”  
(detail), 2016 © Zon Ito

Zon Ito, “A Mountain that Originated from One Small Bone”,  
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