

secession

Vereinigung bildender KünstlerInnen Wiener Secession
Friedrichstraße 12, A-1010 Wien
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Press release

Yuji Agematsu

2020

March 26 – June 20, 2021

Grafisches Kabinett

Preview for the press: Thursday, March 25, 2021, 11 a.m.

Guided tour of the exhibition

Please register at presse@secession.at

First day of the exhibition: Thursday, March 25, 2021, 2 – 6 p.m.

Free admission

zip: 01.01.2020 ... 12.31.2020

Secession is happy to present Yuji Agematsu's day-to-day collection of urban detritus finds turned into miniature sculptural formations from the entire 2020 calendar year. Displayed in custom-made acrylic glass shelves that represent monthly calendar sheets, and alongside diary entry notebooks, his *2020 zips* offer a fresh and decidedly unique review of a most remarkable year.

Yuji Agematsu is a kind of chronicler of our times and, moreover, he can be considered an experimental cartographer and archivist of only seemingly petty findings from the streets of his hometown. An urban flaneur, Agematsu has taken daily walks through the streets of New York ever since he moved there from Japan in the early 1980s. On this daily routine, which has now been part of his artistic practice for more than a quarter-century, he picks up and scrutinizes litter that attracts his attention—bits of paper, gum, scraps of plastic bags or wrappers, a feather, in short: otherwise overlooked evidence of the hustle and bustle of city life. If found worth collecting, he drops the find into a cellophane sleeve of a cigarette packet (a container the artist names "zips") and notes date, time and exact location of the item's discovery in a small diary.

Back in his studio, the found discarded materials undergo a process of composing, securing, organizing and cataloguing: the artist waits and reworks a chosen discovery before fixing it with resin—one micro-sculpture a day—and in doing so accumulates a continually growing archive of miniature readymade still lifes that is structured by day, month, year. The objects are dated and presented on acrylic glass shelves or more protective acrylic glass boxes that encapsulate a complete month's findings where they are arranged in orderly rows, following the pattern of the related calendar sheet.

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The strict and discreet presentation format allows all attention to be focused on the idiosyncratic and fascinating objects, which are—first and foremost—sculptural organizations comprised of overlooked city waste.

Yuji Agematsu, born in 1956 in Kanagawa, Japan, lives and works in New York.

The exhibition program is conceived by the board of the Secession.
Curator: Jeanette Pacher

Artist's book

Yuji Agematsu. *Four Seasons*

Format: 17,5 x 24,7 cm

Details: softcover, containing two integrated Swiss brochures of 64 pages each, ca. 250 images

Concept: Yuji Agematsu, Text: Robin Mackay

Publisher: Secession 2021, Co-Publisher: Revolver und Sequence Press, 2021

€ 35,00

Four Seasons is a unique artist book presenting Yuji Agematsu's renowned *zips*, miniature sculptures comprised of reanimated urban detritus collected by Agematsu on daily walks in New York City and encased within the cellophane wrappers of cigarette packs. The book features images of a selected month from each of the four seasons.

Designed by Claus Due, this Swiss brochure-bound edition ingeniously contains two books in one, organizing the lusciously reproduced, enlarged views of individual selected days from the zip works on the left, and the corresponding pages of the artist's meticulous, diary-like notebooks in which he records each day's trove on the right.

The essay written by philosopher and Urbanomic publisher Robin Mackay incisively captures and theorizes the spirit of the artist's daily assemblages, likening them to video game creator Keita Takahashi's "clump spirit [*katamari damashii*, 塊魂]—a cosmic disposition which places great hope in the obsessional collecting of heterogeneous stuff." Gathering inspiration from a wide swath of sources including Plato, Philip K. Dick, *Zoolander* and Dante's *Paradiso*, Mackay pays homage to Agematsu's work.

Press contact

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Press images

Installation views are available for download at <https://www.secession.at/en/presstype/aktuell/>

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Association of Visual Artists Vienna Secession
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Exhibitions

Hauptraum

Tess Jaray. Return to Vienna: The Paintings of Tess Jaray

February 19 – April 18, 2021

Galerie

Daniel Dewar & Grégory Gicquel

March 26 – June 20, 2021

Grafisches Kabinett

Yuji Agematsu. 2020

March 26 – June 20, 2021

Artist's books

Tess Jaray. Thinking on Paper, 336 pages, ca. 200 images, € 35,-
Daniel Dewar & Grégory Gicquel: published in the course of the exhibition
Yuji Agematsu. Four Seasons, 128 pages, ca. 250 images, € 35,-

Permanent Presentation

Gustav Klimt, *Beethoven Frieze*

Opening hours

Tuesday – Sunday 2 – 6 p.m.

Admission

Beethoven Frieze & Contemporary Art Exhibitions
Adults € 9,50; Pupils, students and senior citizens € 6,-

Press contact

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