

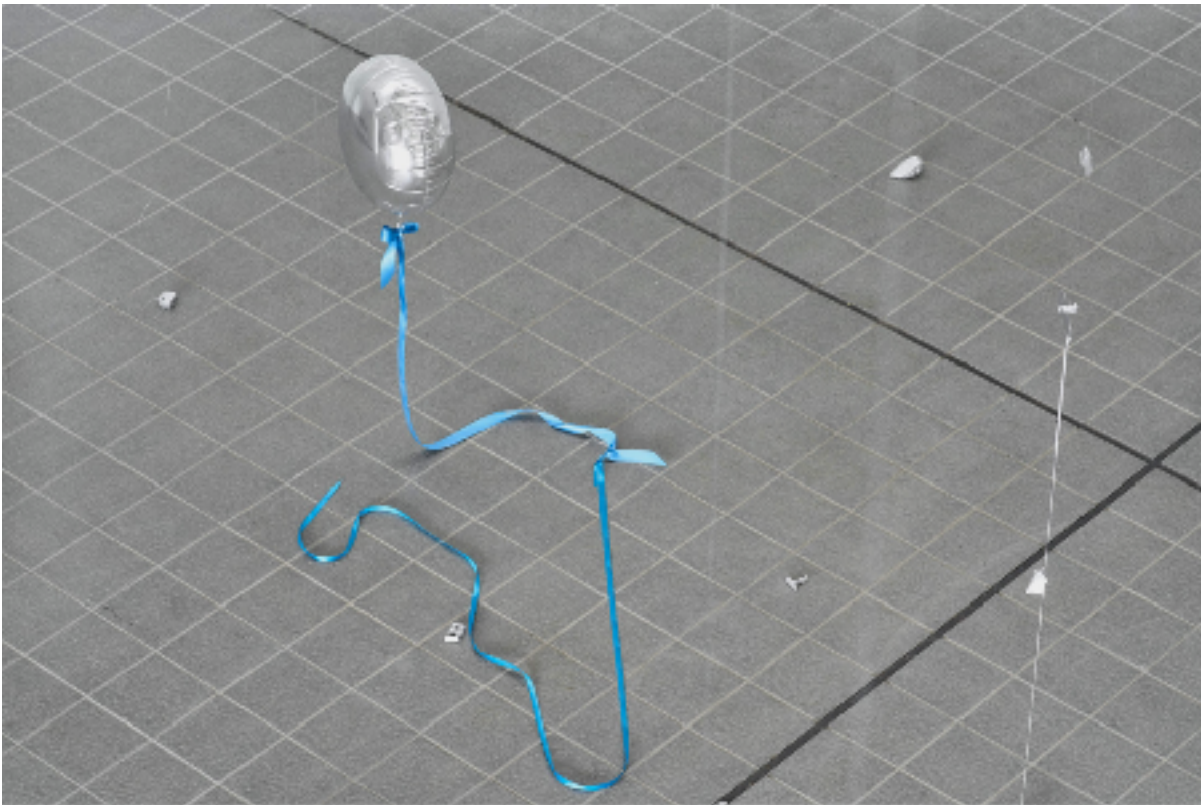
SHIHO KAGABU

The Blessed Land of "Kotodama (言霊) "
—The dream of Amaterasu, Helios and Kāne

June 25 - July 14, 2024

Opening reception : June 25 17:00-19:00

Venue: CADAN YURAKUCHO



Lateral Thinking, 2021, Aluminium, helium, ribbon, dimensions variable, photo by Hayato Wakabayashi

CADAN YURAKUCHO: 3-1-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo Kokusai Building 1F

Open: Tuesday – Friday 11AM-7PM Saturday, Sunday and National Holidays 11AM – 5PM

Closed: Mondays and Days following National Holidays

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Lateral Thinking
2021
Aluminium, helium, ribbon, dimensions variable
photo Hayato Wakabayashi

We are pleased to announce that from June 25th, we will be holding an exhibition titled The Blessed Land of "Kotodama (言霊)"—The dream of Amaterasu, Helios and Kāne by Shiho Kagabu at CADAN YURAKUCHO.

Kagabu uses various objects such as broken found items and construction materials to create sculptural works. In her works, the everyday meanings and functions of these objects are dismantled, and through their combination, new relationships are formed and placed within the space. Kagabu, who says, "I doubt the rules defined by humans, but I believe in the earthly and cosmic rules," approaches objects, listens to the voices they emit, and becomes part of them, constructing the principles of creation and circulation, which can be called the laws of nature, within the exhibition space.

In this exhibition, works made of aluminum and balloons will be displayed, changing shape over time. The title is derived from a phrase in the Manyōshū, "Kotodama no Sakiwau Kuni," which reflects the artist's hope to create a rich land that spreads out into the world, much like Japan, which was originally considered a blessed land filled with the power of beautiful words and kotodama (the spirit of words). The subtitle references deities associated with the sun in the Kojiki, Greek mythology, and Hawaiian mythology. In her works, Kagabu places great importance on balance. Triggered by the Great East Japan Earthquake on 3/11, she has heightened her awareness of natural disasters such as earthquakes and, through her experiences of childbirth and child-rearing, she has deepened her recognition of the body as a part of nature, including its sexuality. In addition to her long-standing interest in "time" and "change," she has been exploring the earth through comparative mythology and the commonalities of landforms. Over the past decade, she has been engaging in this exploration through daily activities such as cooking, walking, traveling, and living. Kagabu has physically visited volcanic regions like the seas and mountains of Japan, Italy, Hawaii, and recently, the Greek islands of Crete and Santorini. By walking, swimming, and tasting local fruits, she experiences the differences in water, climate, terrain, and culture, reflecting on time and occasionally feeling the effectiveness of images and narratives. While considering the creation of her sculptural works, she seeks a common language with various objects, environmental changes, and physical conditions.

The Blessed Land of "Kotodama (言霊)"

—The dream of Amaterasu, Helios and Kāne

Splash of Sunlight

The brilliance of sunlight falling between the waves of the clear sea, water drawn up from the soil forming clumps of droplets on the underside of leaves, shadows sinking into the asphalt and dust clouds covering the field of view.

Borrowing the wisdom of Daedalus, Ariadne abandoned her home to help Theseus escape, only to be left behind and abandoned on an island once she was no longer needed. Daedalus and the fate of his son Icarus, who escaped with solidified wings.

From various climates and landscapes on Earth, myths and folktales with common themes have been passed down through the ages in different regions.

Many gods of war, gods who govern wisdom and technology, and icons of flora and fauna. Gratitude for the blessings of nature and offerings and festivals to ward off threats.

The behavior of selfish gods, who push forward driven by desires, often disregarding moral consciousness, can sometimes inspire a sense of breaking free from the constraints felt by modern people. They offer hints for laughter and thought for now and the future.

I often contemplate the existence of Kotodama (the spirit of words). Words written, spoken, and cast as wishes and prayers,

are not meant to function as tools but as something with substance. When calling someone's name, it is spoken carefully and sent forth with care.

In most cases, even if the appropriate words come to mind, they cannot be conveyed effectively to the other party (not limited to humans) right away.

Due to the heat and time emitted from both sides and the waveforms of color, it is difficult to articulate properly.

Besides conversations that resemble soliloquies, the words fall and solidify on the ground.

Sometimes, a beautiful favorite song comes to mind, calming the heart, not for anyone in particular, and is sung as a delicate prayer, but in joy of the beauty of light.

By witnessing and experiencing the here and now through small, simple methods, while touching and moving various things through the physical limitations of bending of wings, I feel that this moment, this reality, that holds the meaning of creation.

Seeing, touching, singing, and praying.

May the fading soul not turn into anger, but rather light a fire and rise as a source of energy. Just like feeling the buoyancy and gravity by wading through the waves with fingers and hands, or observing by throwing pebbles at rocks, one considers the dynamics and atmosphere of the Earth and engages in exchanges about existence within the universe.

A land overflowing with the spirit of words spreads, and humanity, having made choices for life as a species, can they burn with the awareness of their finite lives?

Shiho Kagabu

5/14/2024

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"The Land Blessed by the Spirit of Words"

Manyoshu (Volume 5-894) by Yamanoue no Okura

"The country of Yamato on the island of Shiki is a land where the spirit of words aids. May you be blessed."

"This land of Japan is a country where the soul of words helps people. I hope you remain safe."

Manyoshu (Volume 13-3254) by Kakinomoto no Hitomaro

Shiho Kagabu was born in 1981 in Kanagawa, Japan. Gained B.F.A. in Art and Design from Bunka Women's University and M.F.A. in Sculpture from Tama Art University. Kagabu received Japanese Government Oversea Research Program Grant, Agency for Cultural Affairs and lived and worked in Milan, Italy from 2017 to 2018. Currently, lives and works in Tokyo.

Solo exhibition "Lateral thinking -I dream that I fly in the sky. The stars, the tears, do not flow." at Sculpture Gallery of Tama Art University, Tokyo, 2021, "DOMANI: The Art of Tomorrow 2021" at The National Art Center, Tokyo, 2021, "Made in Fuchu 20 years of open studio production" at Fuchu Art Museum, Tokyo, 2020, solo show "Mantle Plume -The Anger of Izanami and Pele" at KAYOKOYUKI, Tokyo, 2019, solo show "Dipende" at Tempio del Futuro Perduto, Milan, Italy, 2018, solo show "Critical Point" at gallery21yo-j, Tokyo, 2017, "Tokorozawa Biennial of Contemporary Art "railroad siding 2015" in Saitama, "KAKEHASHI Project" at Japan Society, New York, 2014, "Artist File 2013: The NACT Annual Show of Contemporary Art" at The National Art Center, Tokyo, "TAMAgawa tatta hi" at JIKKA and NADiff window gallery, Tokyo, 2013, "Signals// Itabashi//2011 Live the landscape" at Itabashi ArtMuseum, Tokyo, "VOCA2010" at The Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo, "Open Studio Program No.51" at Fuchu Art Museum, Tokyo, "back to the drawing board" at geh8 Kunstraum und Ateliers e.V., Dresden, Germany.

<http://www.kagabu.com/>



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photo Hayato Wakabayashi



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SHIHO KAGABU

<http://www.kagabu.com/>

1981 Born in Kanagawa, Japan

2004 B.A.in Art and Design from Bunka Women's University (Tokyo)

2005 B.F.A. in Sculpture from Tama Art University (Tokyo)

2007 M.F.A. in Sculpture from Tama Art University (Tokyo)

2017-2018 Lived and worked in Milan, Italy with Japanese Government Oversea Research Program Grant, Agency for Cultural Affairs.

Currently lives and works in Tokyo, Japan.

Selected solo exhibitions

2024 "The Hero's Journey - Between Day and Night" (Art Center Ongoing / Tokyo)

2022 "The Statues for Suicides"(gallery21yo-j /Tokyo)

2021 Sculpture Gallery of Tama Art University, Tokyo

2019 "Mantle Plume -The Anger of Izanami and Pele"(KAYOKOYUKI / Tokyo)

"Love and Wind - Hockney in the kitchen"(Art Center Ongoing / Tokyo)

"Piazza del Paradiso"(AZUMATEI PROJECT / Kanagawa)

2018 "Dipende"(Tempio del Futuro Perduto / Milan, Italy)

2017 "critical point" Unknown Sculpture Series No.7 #2(gallery21yo-j / Tokyo)

2015 "Sunrise Surfer"(KAYOKOYUKI / Tokyo)

2014 "freeze"(Art Center Ongoing / Tokyo)

2013 "TAMAgawa tatta hi"(JIKKA / Tokyo)(NADiff window gallery / Tokyo)

2012 "DANCING MOONS"(switch point / Tokyo)

2011 "LOVE, Time to be mad"(Art Center Ongoing / Tokyo)

2010 "Open Studio Program No.51" (Fuchu Art Museum / Tokyo)

2009 "serendipity"(curated by MORI Keisuke, switch point / Tokyo)

"ENTRANS FIELD"(nabis galley / Tokyo)

2008 "Focusing on a new generation in Japan"(Tokyo Contemporary Art Meeting: nabis gallery / Tokyo)

"Pass the house from one to the other"(Omotesando gallery / Tokyo)

2007 "Pass the house from one to the other"(Artist's former residence,"Kagabu Heights" / Kawasaki)

"font/Look at the Sun/Day through a~"(nabis galley / Tokyo)

Selected group exhibitions

2023 "films - TRAMPLE THE BORDER"(Feb /Tokyo)

2022 "ENVIRONMENT MAPPING"(Art Center Ongoing /Tokyo)

"films-DAZER IN TOKYO"(Feb gallery /Tokyo)

2021 "ARTRANDOM-WINTER ART MARKET"(Feb gallery /Tokyo)
2021 "DOMANI: The Art of Tomorrow 2021"(The National Art Center /Tokyo)
2020 "Made in Fuchu 20 years of open studio production"(Fuchu Art Museum /Tokyo)
"VIVIDOR"(AZUMATEI PROJECT / Kanagawa)
"Oki Hiroyuki presents [cho tama tama 17]"(Koganei Art Spot Chateau 2F / Tokyo)
2019 "Engravings"(Yotsuya Unconfirmed Studio / Tokyo)
2017 "Winter show"(KAYOKOYUKI / Tokyo)
2016 "TERATOTERA 2016 -Involve"(Tokyo)
2015 "Tokorozawa Biennial of Contemporary Art –railroad siding 2015"(Saitama)
2014 "Anti-War -Resistance against the Anticipated War-"(SNOW Contemporary / Tokyo)
2013 "Tokorozawa Biennial of Contemporary Art SIDING RAIL ROAD 2013"(Saitama)
"Oki Hiroyuki presents [cho tama tama 11]" (Koganei Art Spot Chateau 2F / Tokyo)
"Artist File 2013:The NACT Annual Show of Contemporary Art" (The National Art Center, Tokyo)
2012 "TERATOTERA Festival-MOVIE-"(Baus theater / Tokyo)
"MOTHERS"(Koganei Art Spot Chateau 2F / Tokyo)
2011 "In Memory of TAKAMI Akihiko"(Omotesando Gallery / Tokyo)
"TERATOTERA"(Kichijohji PARCO / Tokyo)
"Yokohama Triennnale 2011 related program [Essential Ongoing]"(Shin Minatomura / Kanagawa)
"Tokorozawa Biennial of Contemporary Art SIDING RAIL ROAD 2011"(Saitama)
"let in light curated by KAYOKOYUKI"(Shinjuku Ophthalmologist Gallery / Tokyo)
"Tohgenkyo Kagabu- Daisakusen"(Gallery SATELLITE / OKAYAMA)
"Skin and MapII"(Shinjuku Ophthalmologist Gallery / Tokyo)
"MUSEUM of LIFE" -curated by: Kagabu Shiho (Akibatamabi21 / Tokyo)
"Ladies and Gentlemen"(Koganei Art Spot Chateau 2F / Tokyo)
"Signals//Itabashi//2011 Live the landscape"(Itabashi ArtMuseum / Tokyo)
2010 "Dakkyu"(island / Chiba)
"back to the drawing board"(geh8 Kunstraum und Ateliers e.V.,Dresden / Germany)
"data and vision"(AKI Gallery / Taipei, TAIWAN)
"VOCA"(The Ueno Royal Museum / Tokyo)
2009 "The 1st Tokorozawa Biennial of Contemporary Art [SIDING RAIL ROAD]"(Saitama)
"DE MYSTICA II"(nabis gallery / Tokyo)
2008 "Sustainable Art Project"Koto-no-Enishi"(produced by Tokyo National University of Fine Arts
& Music, Taito-ku, Former Sakamoto Primary School / Tokyo)
2007 "KOSHIKI ART PROJECT"(Koshikijima Island / Kagoshima)

Lecture

2014 "The Next Big Thing! Five Contemporary Japanese Artists"(Japan Society / New York)

Workshop

2010 Open Studio Program No.51 (Fuchu Art Museum / Tokyo)

2009 The 1st Tokorozawa Biennial of Contemporary Art "SIDING RAIL ROAD"(Saitama)

2006 Workshop with Children(Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial / Niigata)

Talk show

2020 "On the Blessedness of Sculpture" by Noe Aoki (Sculptor), Akiko Ikeuchi (Artist), Nodoka Odawara (Sculptor, Sculpture research), Shiho Kagabu (Sculptor, Artist) and Miki KUBOTA (Sculptor) at Fuchu Art Museum, held without audience