

“Rei Naito: come and live - go and live”

an exhibition at Le Forum, Ginza Maison Hermès

OUR GESTURES DEFINE US AND SHOW WHO WE ARE

PRESS RELEASE — SEP. 6, 2024

The Fondation d'entreprise Hermès is pleased to present the solo exhibition “Rei Naito: come and live – go and live.”

Rei Naito's work consistently explores the question “Is our existence on the Earth a blessing in itself?” She views elements of nature, the humble objects and scenes of everyday life, and elusive and easily overlooked phenomena caused by changes in light, shadow, water, and air as “primordial scenes of life,” and by connecting these forms within the viewer, she invites us to delve into our own states of contemplation.

This exhibition was conceived in concert with a synonymous exhibition that is on view at the Tokyo National Museum until 23rd of September. The schedule of the museum exhibition partially overlaps with that of the Ginza Maison Hermès Le Forum exhibition, and the event as a whole is presented so as to form a great circle by integrating various elements and themes.

In contrast to the Tokyo National Museum, whose historic buildings house a vast collection of cultural properties from different eras, the Forum is located in the modern Ginza Maison Hermès building and does not have a permanent collection. Situated in the heart of the city, the space appears vacant at first glance, but is in fact brimming with natural light filtering through glass blocks and artificial light and colors from the urban environment, marking it as a space apart from the world of the past. Naito seeks “immersion in life” by letting the gaze reside temporarily in this space, as she directs our eyes toward life rendered even more ephemeral yet intense by the shifting light.

The two venues are linked through an array of paintings and sculptures. Notably, the series of paintings color beginning/breath, which the artist worked on continually in her studio from 2023 to 2024, is a moment-to-moment chronicle of the artist's days leading up to the exhibition. It highlights the irreversibility of physical time, and forms a narrative axis connecting the two venues.

Although the two exhibitions do not fully overlap, a moment in space is formed from the intersection of fragmentary artworks, atmosphere, and gaze that arise out of the intimate encounters with prehistoric Jomon period earthenware and animal bones at the museum, vestiges of pretend play, and the memory of the route through the many galleries. A sense of transcendent harmony is manifested in the figures of people in the space and on the low “seat.”

Just as we cannot physically meet people who lived in past eras, we will never meet those who will live after we are gone, or even engage with the times we call “yesterday” or “tomorrow.” In this transitory state, when Naito's invitation to “come and live, go and live” emerges on the viewer's horizon, it may allow us to perceive in the surrounding scenery the awe and prayer directed at nature and human existence that has persisted from ancient times, as well as the creative energy and spiritual realms these have fostered. And all life, as it moves toward the future, may hope to be filled with the breath of mercy and grace.

ARTIST

Rei Naito 内藤 礼

Naito was born in Hiroshima in 1961 and currently works in Tokyo. Her notable solo exhibitions include: One Place on the Earth (Sagacho Exhibit Space, Tokyo, 1991); One Place on the Earth (The Japan Pavilion, 47th Venice Biennale, 1997), Being Called (Karmeliterkloster, Curation by Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt am Main, 1997); Tout animal est dans le monde comme de l'eau à l'intérieur de l'eau (The Museum of Modern Art, Kamakura, 2009), the emotion of belief (Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum, Tokyo, 2014); the emotion of belief (The Japan Cultural Institute in Paris, 2017); Two Lives (Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv, 2017); on the bright Earth I see you (Contemporary Art Center, Art Tower Mito, Ibaraki, 2018); Mirror Creation (21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa (2020); and breath (Staatliche Graphische Sammlung München, Munich, 2023). Naito's permanent installations include: Being given (Kinza, Art House Project, Naoshima, Kagawa, 2001) and Matrix (Teshima Art Museum, Teshima, Kagawa, 2010).

She was recognized as one of the Promising Artists and Scholars of Contemporary Japanese Arts in the genre of installations (Japan Arts Foundation, 1994) and was awarded the First Asahi Beer Arts Award (Asahi Beer Arts Foundation, 2003), the 60th Mainichi Art Prize (2018), and the 69th Minister of Education Award for Fine Arts (2019).

Related Exhibition

"Rei Naito: come and live - go and live" is organized in collaboration with the Tokyo National Museum.

A solo exhibition with the same title is on view at the Tokyo National Museum.

Details are as follows:

"Rei Naito: come and live – go and live"

Dates: Tue., June 25 – Mon., September 23 (public holiday)

Venue: Tokyo National Museum

Thematic Exhibition Room (Heiseikan), Room T5 and 1F Lounge (Honkan)

Hours: 9:30-17:00 (Last entry 16:30)

Closed: Mondays (except September 16 and 23), September 17 (Tue.)

Admission: Adults: ¥1,500 / University students: ¥1,000 / High school students and under: Free

Reservations for this exhibition will be required.

For details, see the Tokyo National Museum website.

Free Shuttle Bus Service Between Tokyo National Museum and Maison Hermès Forum

On weekends and public holidays during an exhibition period when both venues are open, free shuttle bus service will be available between the Tokyo National Museum located in the Ueno district and the Ginza Maison Hermès Forum in the Ginza district.

Dates of service: September 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, and 23, 2024

Fare: Free (Limited to 20 people on a first come, first served basis)

[Schedule]

Buses depart from the Tokyo National Museum (Ueno)

on the hour, every hour between 11:00 and 17:00

Bus stop: Main Gate (Meeting at Heiseikan lounge only on Sept. 7)

* Boarding is available 15 minutes before the departure time. When boarding from the Tokyo National Museum, please present your exhibition ticket. Junior high school students and younger, disabled persons and one carer do not need to present a ticket.

Buses depart from Maison Hermès Forum (Ginza)

at 12:30, 13:30, 14:30, and 15:30

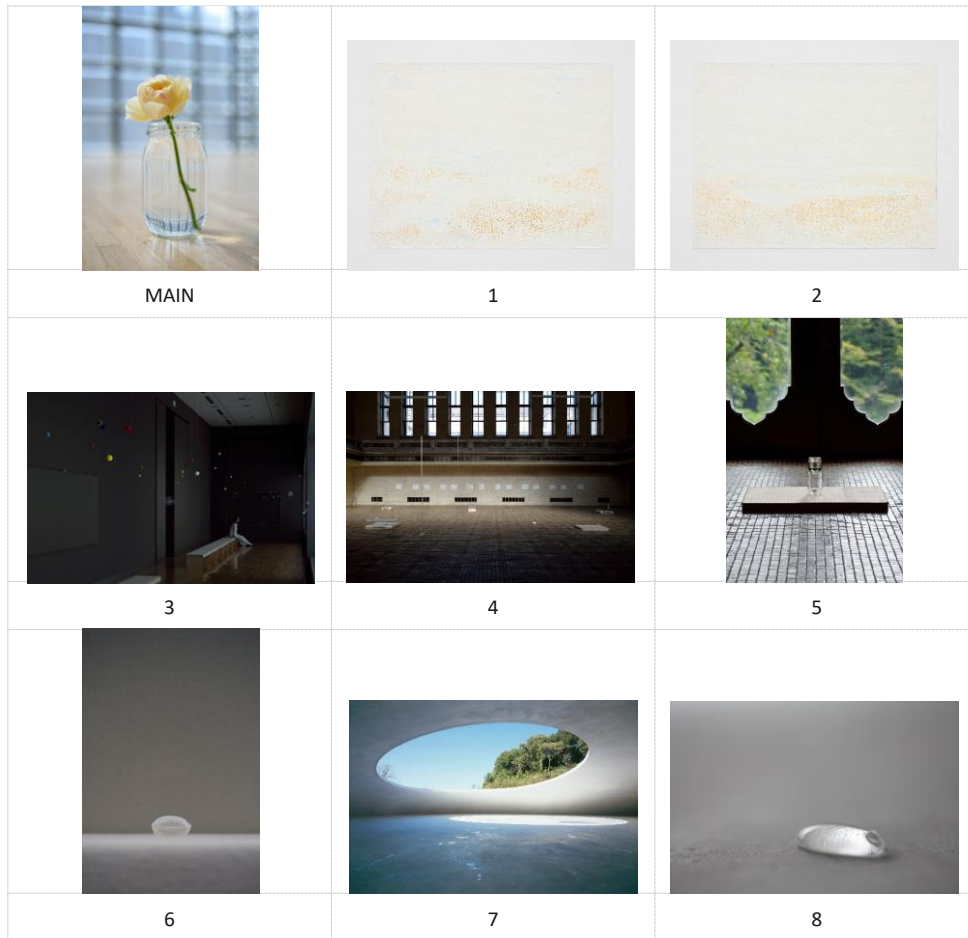
Bus stop: Sotobori-dori, near Sukiyabashi Crossing

*Bus tickets are distributed at the Ginza Maison Hermès Forum 15 minutes before departure time in front of the lift at the Forum entrance on the 1st floor of Ginza Maison Hermès. Reservations are required for exhibitions at the Tokyo National Museum.

Please note the following:

1. The bus ride takes approximately 30 minutes, but is subject to delays depending on traffic conditions.
2. Strollers must be folded and stored near your seat.
3. For the latest information on bus service, including the schedule and boarding area, please inquire at one of the venues. The bus may be cancelled due to inclement weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances.

Press Images



MAIN Rei Naito | *untitled* | 2024 | flower, water, glass jar
Photo: Naoya Hatakeyama

1,2 Rei Naito | *color beginning/breath* | 2024 | Acrylic on canvas
Photo: Kenji Takahashi

3,4 Rei Naito | Installation view "Rei Naito: come and live – go and live" at Tokyo National Museum | 2024
Photo: Naoya Hatakeyama

5 Rei Naito | *matrix* | 2024
Installation view at Tokyo National Museum, 2024
Photo: Naoya Hatakeyama

6 Rei Naito | *Pillow for the Dead* | 2023
Installation view at Tokyo National Museum, 2024
Photo: Naoya Hatakeyama

7 Rei Naito | *Matrix* | 2010
Teshima Art Museum
Photo : Ken'ichi Suzuki

8 Rei Naito | *Matrix* | 2010
Teshima Art Museum
Photo : Noboru Morikawa

Images may be downloaded from the following website. Please access the [URL](https://reservation-jp.hermes.com/press/login.html), and enter the ID and password

<https://reservation-jp.hermes.com/press/login.html> | ID : forum | Password : comeandlive

Installation view



Credit

Rei Naito | Installation view "Rei Naito: come and live – go and live"
at Ginza Maison Hermès Le FORUM | 2024

Photo: Naoya Hatakeyama / Courtesy of Fondation d'entreprise Hermès

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Images may be downloaded from the following website. Please access the URL, and enter the ID and password

<https://reservation-jp.hermes.com/press/login.html> | ID : forum | Password : comeandlive2

“Rei Naito: come and live - go and live”

September 7, 2024 (Sat.) –January 13, 2025 (Mon./public holiday)

Hours: **12:00-19:00** (Last entry 18:30)

Closed: Wednesdays, October 24 (Thu.)

*Please check the website for up-to-date information on opening days and hours

Admission: Free

Venue: Ginza Maison Hermès Le Forum

(8F / 9F, 5-4-1 Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Tel: +81(0)3-3569-3300)

Organized by: the Fondation d’entreprise Hermès

Co-organized with: Tokyo National Museum

With support from: Taka Ishii Gallery

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