

Nerhol *Household Vestiges***1 February (Sat) – 15 March (Sat), 2025**

Nerhol are an artist duo formed in 2007 by Yoshihisa Tanaka (b.1980) and Ryuta Iida (b.1981). Based on a material process of carving into stacks of sequential photographs of people, Nerhol's work has expanded in recent years to include naturalized plants, petrified wood, and documentary footage as they continue their unique investigations into time and space. Through efforts to address the migration of plants, and the production of physical materials resulting from fieldwork, Nerhol expose the time axis inherent within these subjects while also expanding their practice into fields such as sociology, history, and cultural anthropology. This exhibition, *Household Vestiges*, builds upon the pair's past creative activities and features a collection of work developed out of extracted elements from familiar structural units such as the home or household. Nerhol's work discovers within these elements a web of relationships that transcends individual characteristics, such as layers of time as well as latent historical and epochal contexts.

Within the gallery space, a stack of printed A3-size paper is piled on the floor. This pile of paper is a single film, printed as approximately 15,000 still images and stacked vertically to a height of 120 centimeters. When viewed from the side, a noisy accumulation of colors emerges, symbolically expressing the pair's attempt to perceive things from a completely different perspective. A wide variety of items from a single home—DVDs, movies, home videos, postcards, and more—can be seen as an expression of the individuality of the members of the household while also existing as part of larger contexts unfolding in the background. Using the small framework of the family as a foothold, Nerhol observe the world by moving between infinitesimal and infinite, chance and inevitability, a perspective which paradoxically also seems to connect to a depiction of the contours of a specific home.

In addition, this exhibition will feature work with a thistle motif from *Naturalized Species*, a series the duo have been working on since 2020, and new work that combines a recent photo of a Douglas Fir tree with a postcard found by chance in the artist's home. In this piece, the images of the two trees photographed in completely different times and physical spaces appear to be connected within the picture plane, evoking a sense of a grander timeline linked by the perspective of plant migration that takes place over hundreds of years.

This exhibition is an opportunity to survey the developments of Nerhol's artistic practice and serves as a prologue to their solo exhibition planned for July 2025 at The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama. With time and

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Yutaka Kikutake Gallery

space as core themes, Nerhol seek a foothold in larger perspectives and contexts. We invite you to share in the results of their constantly developing practice and the new frontiers onto which it unfolds.

Nerhol

Their exploration started from dissimulation of books, characters and fixed icons around the world. Since 2011, they have continued to develop their unique oeuvre through a distinct method of carving into stacks of over 200 different photographs they have taken of portraits, the result of which are images that appear to distort even the very time axis of the subjects themselves. They have since taken part in exhibitions at museums and galleries both within Japan and abroad and produced works based on subjects including a roadside tree, animals and water, as well as image data and recorded footage found on the internet as their source material. Such works have consistently engaged in an attempt to unveil the multilayered manner of existence harbored within organic entities, which often tend to be overlooked within the context of our day-to-day lives.

Ryuta Iida was born in 1981 in Shizuoka Prefecture. After receiving his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Sculpture from the Nihon University College of Art in 2004, he received MA from the Tokyo University of the Arts, Department of Intermedia Art. He is currently based in Tokyo.

Yoshihisa Tanaka was born in 1980 in Shizuoka Prefecture and has been based in Tokyo since graduating from the Department of Scenography, Display and Fashion Design, Musashino Art University in 2004.