

**exonemo “CONNECT THE RANDOM DOTS”**

Exhibition Artist : exonemo

Duration : 10/16 (Sat.) - 11/14 (Sun.), 2021

\*There is no opening reception for this exhibition.

\*We are open on Wed to Sat. 12-7pm and Sun. 12-5pm

\*Closed on Mon., Tue. and National Holidays

[\\*Due to the spread of the COVID-19 infection, there is a possibility that the duration of the exhibition and opening hours may be changed. We will announce the latest information on our website and SNS. We thank you for your understanding.](#)

Venue : WAITINGROOM (1F-2-14-2 Suido, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 112-0005, JAPAN)

Tokyo, Japan – WAITINGROOM is pleased to announce a solo exhibition by exonemo “CONNECT THE RANDOM DOTS” through Oct.16th to Nov.14th, 2021. Exonemo is a New York-based artist unit formed in 1996 by Kensuke Sembo and Yae Akaiwa. For 25 years, they have been leading media art field in Japan, starting to present their works on the Internet, which was just beginning to spread at the time, and then moving back and forth between the Internet and real space with their unique sense of humor in various activities. This will be their second solo exhibition at our gallery, and will consist of new works on the theme of “randomness”. They produced a book inspired by the “connect-the-dots” method used in children's education, and display the pages of the books with their hand drawings in the exhibition space. In addition, they will sell the right to become the owner of each page as NFT, and also open a website where the information of the page owners can be viewed after the exhibition duration. Through the exhibition and website, they will attempt to question “value” and “ownership” from various angles.

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The exhibited works (excluding one) will be sold by lottery on the special website of the exhibition.

The ownership of each page of the book “CONNECT THE RANDOM DOTS” will be sold as NFT. Anyone can apply to purchase any page of their choice, but only those randomly selected after the exhibition will be able to make the final purchase. Since buyers are selected completely randomly by the computer system, it is possible to apply to multiple pages to increase your chances of purchase. Please note that we will not show the numbers of entries for each page or who has entered. For further details, please visit the special website below. If you have any questions or inquiries about the project or purchase order, please contact us at [info@waitingroom.jp](mailto:info@waitingroom.jp)

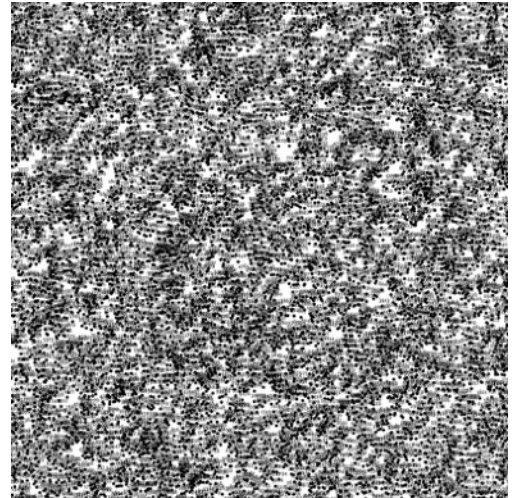
Special website : <https://connect-the-random-dots.ooo>

\*The site will be open from 12PM, Oct.16th, 2021 (Japan Time)

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**About the artist, exonemo**

The Japanese artist unit by Kensuke Sembo and Yae Akaiwa formed in 1996 on the internet. Starting in 2000, they started their activities in an actual space, presenting installation work, performance and event organize. Their experimental projects are typically humorous and innovative explorations of the paradoxes of digital and analog computer networked and actual environments in our lives. In 2006, they won the Golden Nica for Net Vision category at Prix Ars Electronica. In 2012, they formed Internet Secret Society named “IDPW” and have been organizing “Internet Yami-Ichi” in both Japan and abroad since then. They live and work in New York since 2015. At their solo exhibition “EXONEMO UN-DEAD-LINK [Reconnecting to Internet Art]” held in 2020 (Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Tokyo), they were awarded the 2020 (71st) Art Encouragement Prize for New Artists by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. Their recent exhibitions include a group exhibition “I am here by WAITINGROOM” (2021, CADAN Yurakucho, Tokyo), a group exhibition “Aichi Triennale 2019” (2019, Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Aichi), a group exhibition “Reincarnation of Media Art” (2018, YCAM, Yamaguchi), group exhibition “Hello World: For the Post-Human Age” (2018, Art Tower Mito, Ibaraki) and many others. In 2021, they were selected as the third artist for the Obayashi Foundation's grant program “Visions of the City - Obayashi Foundation Research Program”.



《CONNECT THE RANDOM DOTS》 2021, image

## ARTIST STATEMENT

I feel something like karma in the randomness.

We didn't choose where we were born, when we were born, what we look like, our gender, or even our personality. Sometimes we hate these randomly determined parameters, but often we stick to them and cherish them more than the characteristics we acquire later in life. It can be said that life is about giving meaning to such a randomly determined self.

"CONNECT THE RANDOM DOTS" was inspired by the "connect-the-dots" activities often seen in children's picture books, where children draw pictures by connecting dots in order. In this book, the positions of the dots are randomly generated by the computer, and even if you connect the lines in order, no meaningful shape is drawn. The result would be the same no matter who drew it. What is the meaning of an act to obtain a random result based on a random origin? I feel that it is in these elusive acts that we can find a perspective on art and the meaning of human existence that is beyond rationality.

Also, as part of this project, ownership of each page of the book will be for purchase. The data will be NFT tokenized and recorded in a blockchain, and the owners will be visible to each other as a small community. The idea is to draw a line that connects the randomly collected collectors. This project is also an attempt to create a connection that will continue after the exhibition.

exonemo 2021



《CONNECT THE RANDOM DOTS》2021, image

## TALK EVENT

**Date : 10/23 Thu. 2021 10:00-**

Speaker : exonemo (artists), Masanori Mizuno (media art & interface researcher / associate professor, Konan Women's University), Shunsuke Takawo (creative coder / lecturer, Konan Women's University), Tomoko Ashikawa (WAITINGROOM director)

Participation fee: Free

**\*Reservation required**

## exonemo

Formed in 1996 by SEMBO Kensuke and AKAIWA Yae.  
Live and work in New York since 2015.

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2020

*UN-DEAD-LINK*, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Tokyo  
*Slice of the Universe*, Masahiro Maki Gallery, Tokyo

2019

*U & I*, NOWHERE, New York, USA  
*LO*, WAITINGROOM, Tokyo

2018

*The Life-Cycle of Interfaces*, New Media Artspace gallery, Baruch College Library 1F-4F, New York, USA

2017

*Milk on the Edge*, hpgrp Gallery, New York, USA

2013

*TO THE APES*, Mitsubishi-Jisho Artium, Fukuoka

2008

*UN-DEAD-LINK*, Plug.in, Basel, Switzerland

2006

*WORLD B*, Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM], Yamaguchi

2003

*new FUNKtion*, Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Hiroshima

2000

*DISCODER*, command N, Tokyo

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2021

*I am here by WAITINGROOM*, CADAN YURAKUCHO, Tokyo

2020

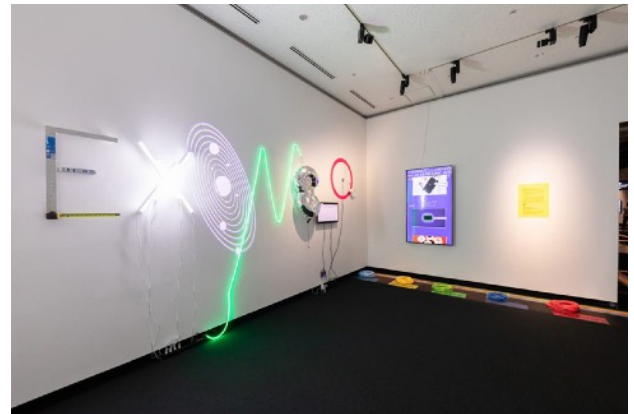
*10TH*, WAITINGROOM, Tokyo  
*Viewing Room Exhibition*, WAITINGROOM, Tokyo  
*Yebisu International Festival for Art & Alternative Visions*, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Tokyo

2019

*The Shape of the Things to Come: Technology, AI and Human*, Aoyama Gakuin University, Tokyo  
*Aichi Triennale 2019*, Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Aichi  
*The Invisible Hand*, 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney, Australia  
*Reincarnation of Media Art*, WRO Art Center, Wroclaw, Poland  
*TECH ART FOR COLLECTORS - ARTJAWS SPECIAL GUEST EXHIBITION*, Zürcher Gallery, New York, USA  
*Illuminating Graphics 2*, Creation Gallery G8, Tokyo  
*ARTPORT: SUNRISE/SUNSET*, Whitney Museum of American Art website, New York, USA

2018

*Ars Electronica Festival 2018: ERROR - THE ART OF IMPERFECTION*, Gallery Space, Linz, Austria  
*Indonesian Netaudio Festival 2018*, Jogja National Museum, Jog Jakarta, Indonesia  
*Reincarnation of Media Art*, Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM], Yamaguchi  
*Rhizome Net Art Anthology*, Rhizome - New Museum, New York, USA  
*Open Space "In Transition"*, NTT Intercommunication Center [ICC], Tokyo  
*New Japan. Observer Effect*, Solyanka State Gallery, Moscow, Russia  
*Gradation*, hpgrp gallery, NY, USA  
*Micro Internet Yami-ichi*, NADA Art Fair, NY, USA  
*Hello World - for the Post-Human Age*, Art Tower Mito, Ibaraki



Solo exhibition "UN-DEAD-LINK" installation view  
(Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Tokyo, 2020)  
Photo by Ryuichi Maruo

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS (continued)

2017

*Forever Fornever*, Rhode Island College, Bannister Gallery, Providence, RI, USA  
*SIGHT + SOUND 2017*, Never Apart, Montreal, Canada  
*Ars Electronica in Berlin 2017*, DRIVE. Volkswagen Group Forum, Berlin, Germany  
*World Wide Water - Friday Late x Boiler Room*, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK  
*CAPRI BY NIGHT*, Schauspiel Köln, Cologne, Germany  
*NARS Spring Open Studios*, NARS Foundation, NY, USA  
*Landscapes: New vision through multiple windows* \*directed by exonemo, Japan Creative Centre, Singapore

2016

*Spirit and Digit*, Electro Museum, Moscow, Russia  
*Hybrids: On the borderline between Art and Technology*, Onassis Cultural Centre, Athens, Greece  
*POSTDIGITAL ECOSYSTEMS*, Babycastles, New York, USA  
*Digital Illusion*, Gallery Senne, Brussels, Belgium  
*DA DA \* DA! – HACKING ART x LIFE*, Goethe-Institut Tokyo, Tokyo  
*Internet Bedroom @Print Screen Festival*, Print Screen Festival, Israel, Holon  
*Single channel*, Anthology Film Archives, New York, USA  
*Internet Yami-ichi in London*, Offprint festival, Tate Modern, London, UK  
*ICC Open Space*, NTT Intercommunication Center [ICC], Tokyo  
*Eco Expanded City*, WRO Art Center, Wroclaw, Poland

2015

*First Look: Real Live Online*, New Museum, New York, USA  
*HOLIDAY BRING YOUR OWN BEAMER NYC – REVERSE + BABYCASTLES*, Reverse, New York, USA  
*Refest*, La MaMa, New York, USA  
*The Vault – Image, perception, the alchemy of light*, ACT Center, Gwangju, Korea  
*Elements of Art and Science*, Ars Electronica Center, Linz, Austria  
*Post City*, Ars Electronica Festival, Linz, Austria  
*Memory Burn*, bitforms gallery, New York, USA  
*Sayoko Yamaguchi - The Wearist, Clothed in the Future*, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo  
*3331 ART FAIR 2015*, 3331 Arts Chiyoda, Tokyo

2014

*The Cave of Light*, kumagusuku, Kyoto  
*CODE: Language of Our Time*, The Lab. Knowledge Capital, Grand Front Osaka, Osaka  
*DAI-KOJIKI-TEN*, Nara Prefectural Art Museum, Nara  
*BCTION*, Demolition Building, Yotsuya, Tokyo  
*Sapporo International Art Festival*, Chi-Ka-Ho, Sapporo  
*Good Morning Mr. Orwell 2014*, Nam June Paik Art Center, Korea  
*Art Hack Day Berlin: Afterglow*, transmediale, Berlin, Germany

2013

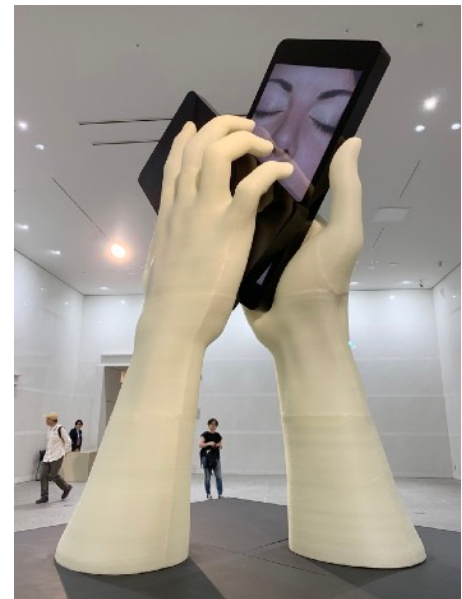
*Better Than Universe*, Daegu Media Art ZKM 2013, Daegu, Korea  
*Republic of the Two*, Arko Art Center, Seoul, Korea  
*Money After Money*, EYE OF GYRE, Tokyo

2012

*Media City Seoul*, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea  
*Yebisu International Festival for Art & Alternative Visions*, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Tokyo  
*[Internet Art Future~] - Reality In Post Internet Era*, NTT Intercommunication Center [ICC], Tokyo

2011

*Ways of Worldmaking*, The National Museum of Art, Osaka  
*YCAM LabACT vol.1 "The EyeWriter"*, Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM], Yamaguchi  
*Little Tokyo Design Week 2011*, Little Tokyo City, LA, USA



"The Kiss", 2019, installation view  
 Aichi Triennale 2019  
 (Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Aichi)



## GROUP EXHIBITIONS (continued)

2010

*Vibrations of Entities*, NTT Intercommunication Center [ICC], Tokyo  
*Random Access*, Nam June Paik Art Center, Seoul, Korea  
*Cyber Arts Japan*, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo  
*Exploration in Possible Spaces*, NTT Intercommunication Center [ICC], Tokyo

2009

*Got exists.*, NTT Intercommunication Center [ICC], Tokyo  
*eARTS BEYOND*, Oriental Pearl TV Tower, Shanghai, China  
*CODED CULTURES – Exploring Creative Emergences*, The frei\_raum Q21, Vienna, Austria  
*Between Site & Space*, ARTSPACE, Sydney, Australia

2008

*YUDA ART PROJECT*, Yuda hot spring area, Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM], Yamaguchi  
*Diorama of the City: Between Site & Space*, Tokyo Wonder Site, Tokyo  
*LISTE 08 -The Young Art Fair*, Basel, Switzerland  
*SYNTHETIC TIMES*, National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China

2007

*Beautiful New World*, Long March Space/Inter Art Center/Guangdong Museum of Art, Beijing/Guangzhou, China  
*Pocket Film Festival*, Tokyo University of the Arts, Kanagawa  
*Aoba En-nichi 2*, sendai mediatheque, Miyagi  
*My Own Private Reality*, Edith Russ Site for Media Art, Oldenburg, Germany  
*L'Expérience Japonaise*, Le Haut-parleur culturel à Marseille [WAAW], Nimes, France  
*ICC: Open Space*, NTT Intercommunication Center [ICC], Tokyo  
*DEAF07: Interact or Die!*, Las Palmas, Rotterdam, Netherlands  
*Lab\*Motion*, Tokyo Wonder Site Hongo, Tokyo  
*The Power of Expression, JAPAN*, The National Art Center, Tokyo

2006

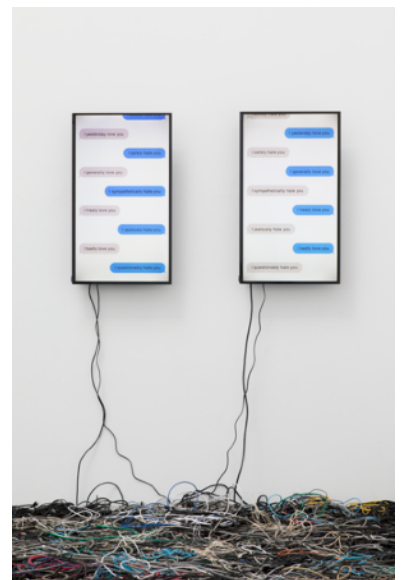
*Connecting Worlds*, NTT Intercommunication Center [ICC], Tokyo  
*CyberArts 2006*, O.K. Centrum, Linz, Austria  
*Cyberlounge*, Museo Tamayo, Mexico City, Mexico  
*ICC: Open Space*, NTT Intercommunication Center [ICC], Tokyo  
*AIT HOUR MUSEUM*, Panasonic Center Tokyo, Tokyo  
*KANDADA*, command N KANDADA, Tokyo

2005

*MobLab*, Institute of Advanced Media Arts and Sciences [IAMAS], NTT Intercommunication Center [ICC], sendai mediatheque [smt], Saito IMI Graduate School, Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] etc., Japan  
*Rock the Future*, FACT, Liverpool, England  
*Jakarta Video Festival 2005*, Jakarta, Indonesia  
*Beijing International New Media Arts Exhibition*, China Millennium Museum, Beijing, China  
*EXPO 2005 AICHI JAPAN*, EXPO Plaza, EXPO Vision, Aichi  
*Art meets Media: adventures in perception*, NTT Intercommunication Center [ICC], Tokyo

2004

*SonarSound Extra*, Ebisu Garden Place, Tokyo  
*Nam June Paik Award 2004*, Phoenixhalle, Dortmund, Germany  
*Reactivity: unpredictable past*, NTT Intercommunication Center [ICC], Tokyo  
*Tokyo Style in Stockholm*, Beckmans School of Design, Stockholm, Sweden  
*Navigator*, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Taiwan  
*n\_ext: New Generation of Media Artists*, NTT Intercommunication Center, Tokyo  
*Mediarena: contemporary art from Japan*, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth, New Zealand  
*Roppongi Crossing: New Visions in Contemporary Japanese Art 2004*, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo  
*SHIDA TEN*, nou LABORATORY, Tokyo



"I randomly love you/ hate you", 2018 installation view  
 Group exhibition "Hello World - for the Post-Human Age"  
 (Art Tower Mito, Ibaraki)

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## GROUP EXHIBITIONS (continued)

2003

*In Media Sockets*, Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM], Yamaguchi

2002

*AIT HOUR MUSEUM*, Former Sakuragawa Elementary School Gymnasium, Tokyo

*art.bit collection*, NTT Intercommunication Center [ICC], Tokyo

*program*, Asahi Art Festival 2002, Tokyo

*Akihabara TV3*, command N, Tokyo

2001

*Istanbul Biennial*, The Imperial Mint, Istanbul, Turkey

*EXPO KOBE 2001*, Kobe Port Island, Hyogo

*BUZZ CLUB: news from Japan*, MoMA PS1, New York, USA

*media message: look thru language*, sendai mediatheque, Miyagi

2000

*mediaselect 2000*, Garden Pier / Port of Nagoya, Aichi

*Ars Electronica Festival 2000*, Ars Electronica Center, Linz, Austria

*Spiral Super Sign Project*, SPIRAL, Tokyo

*TECH.POP.JAPAN*, International Film Festival Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands



Solo exhibition "LO" installation view  
(WAITINGROOM, Tokyo, 2019)  
Photo by Shintaro Yamanaka (Qsyum!)

## AWARDS

2021 The 71st Minister of Education Award for Fine Arts – The New Face Award

The 3rd Obayashi Foundation Research Program "Vision of the City"

2016 The Grant Program for Art-related International Exchange by Yoshino Gypsum Art Foundation

2015 The Program of Overseas Study for Upcoming Artists organized by Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan

2010 Tokyo Type Directors Club - RGB Prize

2006 Prix Ars Electronica Net Vision Golden Nica

2000 Prix Ars Electronica .NET Honorary Mention

1997 Java Grand Prix – Grand Prix

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography

Google Inc.

## ARTIST WEBSITE

<http://exonemo.com>

### ART WEEK TOKYO

We will be participating in a four-day art event that will take us on a bus tour of galleries and museums in Tokyo. WAITINGROOM will be participating on bus route D.

**Date: 11/4 Thu. - 7 Sun. 2021**

Detail: <https://www.artweektokyo.com>



\*Due to the spread of the COVID-19 infection, there is a possibility that the duration of the exhibition and opening hours may be changed. We will announce the latest information on our website and SNS. We thank you for your understanding.

### \*Inquiry about the exhibition and artist

WAITINGROOM (Owner & Director: Tomoko Ashikawa)

Address: 1F-2-14-2 Suido, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 112-0005

Hours: Wed. to Sat. 12-7pm Sun. 12-5pm

\*Closed on Mon. Tue. and National Holidays

Tel : +81-3-6304-1010 email: [info@waitingroom.jp](mailto:info@waitingroom.jp)

Website : <http://waitingroom.jp>