

Nobuaki Itoh "Human's photographs / Dung and Flowers"

Exhibition Artist : Nobuaki Itoh

Duration : 6/25 (Sat.) - 7/24 (Sun.), 2022

*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

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

WAITINGROOM (Tokyo) is pleased to announce a solo exhibition by Nobuaki Itoh, "Human's photographs / Dung and Flowers", from June 25 (Sat) to July 24 (Sun), 2022. Itoh is an artist who has been exhibiting video and installation works that explore fundamental themes that cannot be avoided in life, such as the body, life and death, and the spirit. At this exhibition, his third solo show at the gallery in four years, he will present two new works: *Human's photographs*, a video work in which Itoh himself plays a mentor in an "exercise" to highlight the fact that we are unable to imagine "people who are not in the picture" in today's world saturated with photographs or images; and *Dung and Flowers*, a video piece depicting his own excrement and vividly colored flowers from around the world. Itoh will also exhibit recent works that focus on the irreversible passage of time from birth to death, such as *Candle / Cut Flowers / Sleep / Smoke* (2020), in which the artist keeps turning over his own skin while humming metaphors related to death, and *Time Cannot Go Back* (2020-2022), created during the COVID-19 pandemic.



"Human's photographs", 2022, single channel video with sound

About the artist, Nobuaki Itoh

Born in 1981 in Nara, currently lives and works in Nara and Kyoto. He graduated from Kyoto University of Arts and Design in the major of Fine Art in 2006 and obtained a Ph.D. in Art at Kyoto City University of Arts in 2016. His recent exhibitions include the solo exhibitions "Time Cannot Go Back" (Kyoto Art Center, Kyoto, 2022), "Anyway, it's always the others who die." (THE 5 FLOOR, Tokyo, 2020), "Fiction / The most beautiful moment in my life" (WAITINGROOM, Tokyo, 2018), "The most beautiful moment in my life" (Doshisha Women's College of Liberal Arts Gallery, Kyoto, 2018), the group exhibitions "Cross-border Museum" (Kushino Terrace, Hiroshima, S-HOUSE Museum, Okayama, 2018), "The 3rd Ushimado Asia Triennale" (Shirimi Area, Okayama, 2017), solo exhibition "Ato and Artist" (WAITINGROOM, Tokyo, 2016), group exhibition "S-HOUSE Museum Memorial Exhibitions" (S-HOUSE Museum, Okayama, 2016-2026), a solo exhibition "APMoA Project, ARCH vol.13: Nobuaki ITOH "Ato"" (Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Aichi, 2015), group exhibition "GRAVEDAD CERO" (Matadero Madrid, Madrid, Spain, 2015) and many others.

A solo exhibition "Time Cannot Go Back" is on view at Kyoto Art Center (Kyoto) until July 18, 2022.

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To live is to gently confront death, amid the irreversible passage of time

According to Itoh, as he collected a large number of photographs of people from various regions and of a variety of ages for his new work, *Photographs of People*, which is being shown for the first time at this exhibition, he became more and more aware of the existence of “people who are not in the picture,” as well as “people who could not be photographed” in the photographs he collected. “In the current age, saturated with an overabundance of photographs or images, the value and meaning of being depicted in these images has perhaps been diluted,” says Itoh. Similar to what Itoh says about becoming “so preoccupied with what is ‘in the picture’ that we can no longer even imagine that such people existed,” by looking at a photograph we can understand that the person was certainly there when it was taken, and it is possible to imagine the existence of that person. When there is no photograph and it becomes difficult to imagine that person, however, we might as well say that the person does not exist. In this day and age when we find ourselves inundated with photographs of someone or other from all over the world, we believe that we exist here of our own volition, thinking and acting on our own. To imagine that a person is born and exists may seem easy, but actually entails a much greater degree of difficulty.

All of the works in this exhibition are expressed using the time-based medium of video. Numerous sequences are juxtaposed in linear time as the videos begin and end, and viewers are invited to spend time with the images that flow before their eyes. As seen in his recent works such as *Candle / Cut Flowers / Sleep / Smoke*, in which Itoh continues to peel off his own skin while uttering metaphors related to the theme of death depicted as a motif in paintings from all over the world, and *Time Cannot Go Back*, which consists of images that the artist shot daily during the COVID-19 pandemic, Nobuaki Itoh’s works use metafiction to shed humorous light on serious concepts that no one can avoid in life. Although excretion and death are unavoidable for anyone in this life, we cannot take them into our own hands to see them clearly. Through this dazzling visual experience that unfolds before our eyes, we may be confronted with such a raw and grotesque fate. To remember death, however, which is gently approaching at this very moment, is synonymous with the realization that we are indeed alive.

We hope you take the opportunity to appreciate the gentle borders of this current moment in Nobuaki Itoh’s practice through his recent works.



“Dung and Flowers”, 2022, single channel video

Concurrent Exhibition: solo exhibition “Time Cannot Go Back”

Duration: 5/14 (Sat.) – 7/18 (Mon. *National holiday), 2022 *Temporarily closed on 6/8 (Wed.)

Venue: Kyoto Art Center North Gallery, South Gallery, Japanese-style Room “Meirin”, and several locations in the facility space.

Yamabushiyama-cho 546-2, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto 604-8156

Details: <https://www.kac.or.jp/eng/events/32042/>

*Artist talks and live performances are also planned. Please see the exhibition website for event details.

Nobuaki ITOH

1981 Born in Nara, Japan
2006 Kyoto City University of Arts, Ph.D. in Art, Kyoto, Japan
2009 Kyoto City University of Arts, M.F.A. in Concept and Media Planning, Kyoto, Japan
2016 Kyoto City University of Arts, Ph.D. in Art, Kyoto, Japan
Currently lives and works in Kyoto.

SOLO EXHIBITION

2022
Time Cannot Go Back, Kyoto Art Center, Kyoto

2020
Anyway, it's always the others who die., THE 5TH FLOOR, Tokyo

2018
Fiction / The most beautiful moment in my life, WAITINGROOM, Tokyo
The most beautiful moment in my life, Doshisha Women's College of Liberal Arts Gallery, Kyoto

2017
Alive / Not Alive 2012-2017, Gallery 16, Kyoto

2016
Āto and Artist, WAITINGROOM, Tokyo

2015
Animal (STUDY), ART SPACE ZERO-ONE, Osaka
Āto (AM Ver.), Antenna Media, Kyoto
APMoA Project, ARCH vol.13: Nobuaki ITOH "Āto", Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Aichi

2014
0099, CASO, Osaka *Solo as Itoh+Bak
Artist and Prophet, HAGISO, Tokyo

2013
Artist, Antenna Media, Kyoto

2011
Prophet, Gallery @KCUA, Kyoto

2010
Dead body of recollection, "CUBIC" Gallery Iteza, Kyoto

2009
1+1=1, "CUBIC" Gallery Iteza, Kyoto
a short story, CASO, Osaka

2008
1+1=1, CASO, Osaka
People who is recognizing the phantom image / Questioner and Actor, Gallery16, Kyoto

2007
BODY SOAP, "CUBIC" Gallery Iteza, Kyoto

2004
delusive skin, "CUBIC" Gallery Iteza, Kyoto



"Candle / Cut Flowers / Sleep / Smoke", 2020,
Single channel video with sound, 20 min.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2021

Over the fence, COURTYARD HIROO, Tokyo
Viewing Room Exhibition, WAITINGROOM, Tokyos

2020

10TH, WAITINGROOM, Tokyo

2018

Cross-border Museum, Kushino Terrace, Hiroshima, S-HOUSE Museum, Okayama
CANCER THE MECHANISM OF RESEMBLING, EUKARYOTE, Tokyo

2017

NEWSPACE, WAITINGROOM, Tokyo
Exchange of the landscapes Project, Aichi University of the Arts, Satellite Gallery & STANDING PINE, Aichi
FUNAHASHI WATASU, Nara Prefectural University, Nara
The 3rd Ushimado Asia Triennale, Shirimi Area, Okayama
Melting Point 2, MEM, Tokyo



2016

S-HOUSE Museum Opening Exhibition, S-HOUSE Museum, Okayama

2015

GRAVEDAD CERO, Matadero Madrid, Madrid, Spain
Art Week in front of school 2015, Asanuma Memorial, Nara
Still moving @KCUA, Gallery @KCUA, Kyoto

2014

Ushimado Asia Triennale, Setouchi City Museum of Art, Okayama
Hairy Soy Source, Soap and Ten Statements for an Artist, MIACA, Hong Kong
egØ - Reexamining the Self -, punto, Kyoto

“Time Cannot Go Back (2020-2022)”, 2020-2022,
Single channel video with sound

2013

Cho-Kyoto 2013, Today's Machiya in Kyoto, Kyoto
Nuit Blanche Kyoto 2013, Gallery @KCUA, Kyoto
Ogaki Biennale, Institute of Advanced Media Arts and Science [IAMAS], Gifu
Transfiguration of Aesthetic Sense, Osaka City Central Public Hall, Osaka

2012

Transmit Program #3 Metis -fighting art-, Gallery @KCUA, Kyoto

2011

DONATIONS!! - For the stricken area of Great East Japan Earthquake -, GURA, Kyoto

2010

WAKUWAKU Kyoto, Rissei Elementary School, Kyoto
Small Museum 2010, Gallery Yuragi, Kyoto
RESONANSE, Suntory Museum, Osaka

2009

NONAME-KYOTO, Rissei Elementary School, Kyoto
NONAME-YOKOHAMA, Yokohama ZAIM, Kanagawa

2008

Group Exhibition of Art Universities ~ART UNIV.2008~, Rissei elementary school
Graduation Exhibition, Kyoto City University of Arts, Kyoto

2007

The 10th Taro Okamoto Award for Contemporary Art, Taro Okamoto Museum of Art, Kanagawa
Shijo Street Gallery, Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank, Kyoto

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS (continued)

2006

STAIRS, CASO, Osaka,
Graduation Exhibition, Gallery RAKU, Kyoto

2005

FRAME PLUS Hisao MATSUURA, CASO, Osaka

2004

Kyoto Art Annual, Kyoto University of Arts and Design, Kyoto



PERFORMANCE

2019

Last Party, ARTZONE, Kyoto



2018

Ningen Restaurant, Kabukicho Book Center, Tokyo

VIDEO SCREENINGS

2017

Melting Point, Aichi University of the Arts, Satellite Gallery & STANDING PINE, Aichi

“Time Cannot Go Back (2020-2022)”, 2020-2022,
Single channel video with sound

2016

Screening “Melting Point” + TEGAMI Project from Hamburg, The Third Gallery Aya, Osaka

Melting Point, FRISE, Hamburg, Germany

Tokyo Lift-Off Film Festival 2016 Official Selection, UPLINK, Tokyo

2015

13e Festival international Signes de Nuit: FOCUS JAPAN, Maison du Japon, Paris, France

Image Forum Festival 2015, Theater Image Forum, Tokyo, Kyoto, Aichi, Fukuoka, Yokohama, *Invited Work

2009

New Design of the Narration, Image Forum Cinematheque, Tokyo

2006

KATARIHA – experimentation of storytelling -, Image Forum Cinematheque, Tokyo

2005

Young Perspective 2005, Image Forum, Tokyo

2004

BIWAKO Biennale, Tokiwa-kan Project, Tokiwa-kan, Shiga

Video Sarcasm, Kansai German Culture Center, Kyoto

AWARD

2012 The 12th Gunma Biennale for Young Artists, Nominate

2009 Kyoto City University of Arts Graduation Exhibition, Encouragement Prize

2007 The 10th Taro Okamoto Award for Contemporary Art, Taro Okamoto Museum of Art, Nominate

1999 Shortlisted for Bungakukai Shinjinsho, Finalist

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

2015 Tokyo Wonder Site Exchange Residency Program, Madrid, Spain

CATALOGUES AND BROCHURES

APMoA Project, ARCH vol.13 Nobuaki ITOH "Āto", Brochure, Feb. 2015, Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art
Gifu Ohgaki Biennale 2013, Catalogue, Jan. 2015, Institute of Advanced Media Arts and Science [IAMAS]

document ego, Apr. 2014, ego exhibition documentation catalogue association

Kyogei Transmit Program #3 Metis - Fighting Art -, May 15 2012, Kyoto City University of Arts ART GALLERY @KCUA
RESONANSE, Apr. 2010, Suntory Museum (Tempozan)

ARTICLES

Daisuke Miyatsu, "CAN - Contemporary Art Now, Daisuke Miyatsu selection New Media Art FILE15: Nobuaki ITOH", Art Collectors, No.116, Nov. 2018, p.112, Seikatsu no Tomo Sha

"Exhibition and Artist 3", GALLERY, Sep.2018, p.34, Gallery Station

Yoko Nose, "5 Years of APMoA Project, ARCH", AAC vol.93, Sep.2017, p.5, Aichi Arts Center

Chiaki Noji, "Nobuaki ITOH Interview. Reality and fiction fluttering in the Āto", Web Bijutsu Techo, Nov.17 2016, <https://bijutsutecho.com/magazine/interview/18255>

"MEETING THE ARTIST/Nobuaki ITOH", Bijutsu Techo No.1046, Dec.2016, ART NAVI p.9, Bijutsu Shuppan Sha

Takafumi Kobuki, "Art Week in front of School" Review, Lmaga.jp, Nov. 11 2015, <https://www.lmaga.jp/news/2015/11/645/>

Kazuo Amano, "APMoA Project, ARCH Vol.13", Review, REAR No.35, Sep. 2015

Takafumi Kobuki, "Āto" (at Antenna Media), Review, artscape, Jun. 1 2015, http://artscape.jp/report/review/10111280_1735.html

Yasuyuki Nakai, "Āto" (at Aichi Prefectural Museum), Review, artscape, Apr. 15 2015, http://artscape.jp/report/curator/10109252_1634.html

Takafumi Kobuki, "Best 3 of the year selected by the writers", Kyoto Newspaper, Dec. 28th, 2013

Momokofu Yoshida, "Nobuaki ITOH, Artist" (at Antenna Media), Review, HAPS Exhibition Review, Nov. 5 2013, http://haps-kyoto.com/haps-press/exhibition_review/review_14/

Takafumi Kobuki, "Nobuaki ITOH, Artist" (at Antenna Media), Review, artscape, Jul. 1 2013, http://artscape.jp/report/review/10088825_1735.html

Yasuyuki Nakai, "Nobuaki ITOH, Artist" (at Antenna Media), Review, artscape, Jun. 15 2013, http://artscape.jp/report/curator/10088446_1634.html

Takafumi Kobuki, "To ask human system and relation -Nobuaki ITOH", Review, Kyoto Newspaper, May 25th, 2013

Megumi Takashima, "Mètis - Fighting Art -", Review, HAPS Exhibition Review, Feb. 4 2013, http://haps-kyoto.com/haps-press/exhibition_review/review_003/

Takafumi Kobuki, "RESONANCE Vol.4 Nobuaki ITOH (Participating Artist) Interview", Interview, Art no Kobujime, Apr. 24 2010, <http://blog.livedoor.jp/artkobujime/archives/1361419.html>

Megumi Takashima, "Another RESONANCE - When a place for dialogue and sympathy opens", Review, PEELER, Apr. 2010, http://www.peeler.jp/review/1006osaka_2/index.html

"To ask a sense of physical sensation by exhibit a soup made from urine - a graduate student exhibit in Chukyo", Kyoto Newspaper, Apr. 25 2007

PUBLIC COLLECTION

S-HOUSE Museum

ARTIST WEBSITE

<http://nobuakiitoh.com>



*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

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Website : <http://waitingroom.jp>

"Time Cannot Go Back (2020-2022)", 2020-2022,
Single channel video with sound