

Transphere #3

Contemporary Art - Living Memory

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Rei Naito

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Maison
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Rei Naito, *Human*, 2012. Abstract, hand-painted glass busts, collection of Hiroshi and Shizuko Mori, Museum of Modern Art, New York. Installation: Courtesy of Gallery Kojima & Co.



the emotion of belief

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Exhibition

17.01.25 —

03.18

101bis, quai Branly
75015 Paris
Metro Bir-Hakeim
RER Champ de Mars

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the emotion of belief

Exhibition

17.01.25.— 03.18

the emotion of belief is the new installation of Rei Naito, an artist who has built an international reputation with her minimalist and conceptual creations. Rarely seen in France, her poignant work will be presented from January to March 2017 at Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris - MCJP (The Japan Cultural Institute in Paris).

It was in Hiroshima, her hometown, where Rei Naito presented in 2013 the first of her works inscribing a reflection on the atomic bomb. Entitled *tama / anima (please breathe life into me)*, she represented a space for the dead and the living. For the third part of *Transphere* – a series of exhibitions devoted to contemporary Japanese creation - the artist reactualizes this installation by providing an uncluttered work conducive to meditation. Irradiated and melted glass bottles, witnesses of the catastrophe of Hiroshima and its consequences are placed on a pedestal. Small sculptures of human form, called *human*, are arranged alongside these bottles. These artefacts do not hide their fragility, underlining their existence, and compose a new place of memory. Expressing the inexpressible, the work of Rei Naito invites us to contemplation.

Rei Naito is one of those artists who, since the earthquake of 11 March 2011 and the Fukushima nuclear accident, have greatly changed their way of creation. From the very beginning, she has herself constantly observed and reflected on the human condition, as evidenced by *une place sur Terre*, an installation she presented at the Venice Biennale in 1997: a sort of tent in which only one visitor could penetrate at a time and contemplate, in great tranquillity, the small fragile objects which were placed there. The Hiroshima catastrophe, buried in her for many years, re-emerged after the shock of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan in 2011, when the problem of irradiation little by little reared its head. Rei Naito has since enriched her reflection by taking into account the future of the world and the human race.

Among the works of Rei Naito that can be admired in Japan, two of her permanent installations are now housed in Naoshima and Teshima, the islands of the Seto Inland Sea.

Matrix is exhibited by the Teshima Art Museum, a stunning concrete building pierced with two cells through which rain, sunshine and local wildlife can enter. Once inside the building, visitors experience a poetic and surprising work: fine droplets of water appear, and then run off before disappearing in an unpredictable choreography.

A presentation of this work by Rei Naito extracted from the film *A Room of Her Own - Rei Naito and Light*, directed by Yuko Nakamura in 2015, will be screened at the entrance to the MCJP exhibition.

Curator: **Aomi Okabe**, Artistic Director of Exhibitions at the MCJP.



Rei Naito, *human*, 2012
+ atomic-bombed glass bottle, collection
of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum
photo: Naoya Hatakeyama,
Courtesy of Gallery Koyanagi

Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris

101 bis, quai Branly
75015 Paris
M° Bir-Hakeim
RER Champ de Mars
t: 01 44 37 95 00/01

Exhibition

From January 25 to March 18
2017
Exhibition room (level 2)
Opening hours: Tuesday to
Saturday
from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Free entrance

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Around the exhibition

Conversation with Rei Naito

Tuesday, January 24 at 6 p.m.*

Petite salle (ground floor)

Duration : approximately 1h30

Rei Naito will present her work in response to Aomi Okabe's questions, from her first installations of the 1990s to her new creation exhibited at the MCJP. She will initiate a discussion with **Bernard Blistène**, the director of the National Museum of Modern Art - Pompidou Centre, and a great admirer of her works.

Moderator : **Aomi Okabe**

Meeting with Laure Adler

Thursday, February 2 at 6 p.m.*

Petite salle (ground floor)

Duration : approximately 1h30

« The only force in this world is purity » (Simone Weil)

Laure Adler is the author of numerous essays and biographies devoted to the women who have marked History: Hannah Arendt, Françoise Giroud and Simone Weil, a philosopher who strongly influenced Rei Naito at the beginning of her career. Simone Weil, who died young, possessed an unshakeable will coupled with a demand for purity that is reminiscent of how Rei Naito pursues her artistic quest. Laure Adler will explain the links and similarities she sees in the works of the French philosopher and the Japanese artist.

The meeting moderated by **Aomi Okabe**

Meeting with Tadashi Kawamata and Clélia Zernik

Tuesday, February 7 at 6 p.m.*

Petite salle (ground floor)

Duration : approximately 1h30

Artist **Tadashi Kawamata** presented this year at the Pompidou Centre-Metz the work *Under the Water*, a striking evocation of the tsunami of 2011 and a tribute to those that disappeared. He will explain to us what differentiates or brings his installations closer to those of Rei Naito.

Clélia Zernik teaches philosophy of art at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris. Her research focuses on Japanese contemporary aesthetics, in particular on the work of photographer Naoya Hatakeyama, who has been photographing Rei Naito's works for several years.

* Limited number of seats. Reservation : www.mcjp.fr



Rei Naito, *tama / anima (please breathe life into me)*, 2013, installation view at Hiroshima Prefectural Art Museum, Hiroshima, photo : Naoya Hatakeyama, Courtesy of Gallery Koyanagi