



KOTARO NUKAGA is pleased to announce their inaugural exhibition by the London and Mexico City based conceptual artist Stefan Brüggemann, his first appearance in Japan. Titled "HA HA WHAT DOES THIS REPRESENT? WHAT DO YOU REPRESENT?", the show will focus on 'CARTOON PAINTINGS' and 'PUDDLE PAINTINGS' from a series that Brüggemann has been working on in recent years, as well as showcasing his latest series of 'HYPER-POEM PAINTINGS'.

The concept of Brüggemann's works has always been to question contemporary society and artistic processes by adopting a critical, often provocative and ironic attitude towards them. By carefully inserting a certain pop sensibility into conceptual practices, Brüggemann seeks to create his 'minimal pop' aesthetic. This strategy is based on his approach to quote the elements and strategies of the classic art movement of the 20th century.

The idea of 'CARTOON PAINTINGS' derives from an original satirical cartoon from the series *How to Look at Looking* by the American artist Ad Reinhardt made in the late 1950s. The cartoon mocks the common reception of Abstract Expressionism, with a besuited visitor pointing to a painting and asking 'What does this represent?' The painting startles him with the retort 'What do you represent?' Brüggemann pastes multiple inkjet prints of the cartoon onto white canvases before adding small hand applied brushstrokes in black oil paint and ink in patterns that recall digital patination. The works operate as a reflection on our contemporary internet culture of 'ctrl + copy + paste'; a phenomenon inconceivable when the cartoon was first published. The means of reproducing images have developed from laborious manual application and screen printing to instant digital impressions, while our relationship with information has undergone a wholesale transformation from precious resource to overabundant material. Though attitudes and technologies have changed, Brüggemann reminds us that Reinhardt's question about how we understand perception itself, however, remains as potent as ever.

'PUDDLE PAINTINGS' employ elements such as handwritten words and combine them with the raw application of poured aluminum paint. The artist's use of a double negative – the term 'NO' and its partial concealment – extends his interest in repetition *ad infinitum*. The appearance of coagulated silver paint makes direct reference to techniques of abstract expressionism and the notion of gestural action. In particular, they allude to Jackson Pollock's 'drip' technique deemed powerfully expressive. The 'New York School' used abstraction to deliver a specific emotional charge; progressively the canvas became an arena in which to act, and, according to seminal critic Harold Rosenberg, was transformed from a picture to an event. Brüggemann's works echo the critique of painting and attempts to further erode the tropes of personal expression, namely style and signature. The resulting canvases function as 'anti-paintings' since they fulfil but the most rudimentary conditions of painting, yet are entirely lacking in emotion and painterly quality.

With similarities to his other series, 'HYPER-POEM PAINTINGS' is a conceptual project to suspect the contemporary society and artistic process; namely in this series, immediacy of today's hyper-speed society. Brüggemann utilizes vocabulary of our present time to create what he calls poems. The artist states that "the paintings are a poetic existential confrontation with the self in our accelerated times." This is reflected in the way the paintings are made from computer generated text, printed on A4 sheets of paper and glued on canvas in an arbitrary fashion; the whole process happening rapidly against time.

■Exhibition Outline

Artist : Stefan Brüggemann

Title : HA HA WHAT DOES THIS REPRESENT? WHAT DO YOU REPRESENT?

Date : 2018/10/20 (Sat) ~ 2018/12/20 (Thu)

Open Hours : 11:00~18:00 (Tue, Wed, Thu + Sat)

11:00~20:00 (Fri)

※Closed on Sun, Mon and National Holidays

Private View : 10/20(Sat) 17:00~, in presence of the artist. Venue: KOTARO NUKAGA

Opening Party : 10/20(Sat) 20:00~, in presence of the artist. Venue: T.Y. HARBOR RIVER LOUNGE

■Venue

Exhibition : KOTARO NUKAGA

TERRADA Art Complex 3F, 1-33-10 Higashi-Shinagawa, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, 140-0002, Japan

Access : 8 - minutes walk from Tokyo Waterfront Area Rapid Transit Rinkai Line "Tennoz Isle Station" B Exit

10 - minutes walk from Tokyo Monorail Haneda Airport Line "Tennoz Isle Station" South Exit

8 - minutes walk from Keikyu Line "Shinbanba Station" North Exit

3 - minutes walk from Toei bus "Tennozu bashi bus stop"

(Take the Toei bus "品 91 or 品 98" from "Shinagawa Station" Konan Exit)

(Take the Toei bus "品 93" from "Meguro Station")

Opening Party : T.Y. HARBOR RIVER LOUNGE

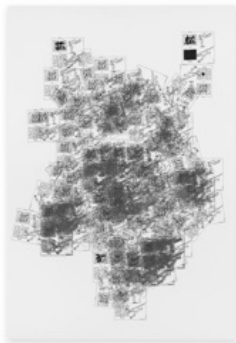
2-1-3 Higashi-Shinagawa, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, 140-0002, Japan

Access : 5 - minutes walk from Tokyo Waterfront Area Rapid Transit Rinkai Line "Tennoz Isle Station" B Exit

5 - minutes walk from Tokyo Monorail Haneda Airport Line "Tennoz Isle Station" South Exit

8 - minutes walk from TERRADA Art Complex " KOTARO NUKAGA "

■FEATURED KEY WORKS

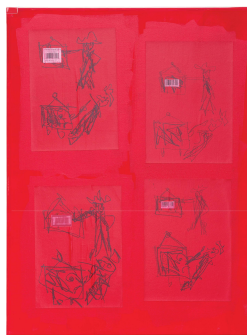


UNTITLED (CARTOON PAINTING)

Oil paint and archival inkjet print on canvas

2017

200 x 136 cm



CARTOON PAINTING (BARCODE)

Graphite, paper, glue and acrylic on canvas

2018

80 x 60 cm



HYPER-POEM PAINTING (BARCODESOUL)

Graphite, paper, glue and acrylic on canvas

2018

80 x 60 cm

■ Artist Profile

Stefan Brüggemann

Born : Mexico City, Mexico, 1975

Resides : Lives and works in Mexico City and London

- SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2018 : Parra & Romero, 'High Speed Contrast', Ibiza, Spain

2017 : Hauser & Wirth, 'Take Put and Abandon', Zurich, Switzerland

2016 : Fundació Gaspar, 'Trash', Barcelona, Spain

Centro Gallego de Arte Contemporánea, 'To Be Political It Has To Look Nice', Galicia, Spain

Hauser & Wirth, 'Stefan Brüggemann', New York, USA

2015 : Parra & Romero, 'Timeless', Ibiza, Spain

Centro Roberto Garza Sada, 'Puddle Paintings', Nuevo León, Mexico

GAM, 'Headlines & Last Line in the Movies (Protest Pavilion)', Mexico City, Mexico

2014 : Galeria Múrias Centeno, 'You Keep Out Of This (Puddle Paintings and Text Pieces)', Lisbon, Portugal

Independent Projects, Parra & Romero, 'Headlines & Last Line in the Movies (fluorescent)', New York, USA

Contemporary Art Gallery, 'Headlines & Last Line in the Movies (protest)', Vancouver, Canada

Parra & Romero, 'This Is Not An Exit', Madrid, Spain

The Wall South Kensington, Queens Gate and Harrington Road, '1997 – 2014 Text pieces', London, United Kingdom

- GROUP EXHIBITIONS (Selected)

2018 : Collection Lambert, 'LAMBERT COLLECTION'S MASTER PIECES', Avignon, France

City Circuit for Contemporary Arts, 'Play', Kortrijk, Belgium

2017 : The Museum of Modern Art, Gunma, 'The Art Show: Millennium Art in Taguchi Art Collection', Gunma, Japan

Galeria Municipal do Porto, 'Them Or Us! ', Porto, Portugal

Hauser & Wirth, 'Portable Art: A Project by Celia Forner', New York, USA

2016 : Parra & Romero, 'Outdoor Sculpture Project', Ibiza, Spain

Parra & Romero, 'Accrochage', Madrid, Spain

Halle14, 'Capitalist Melancholia', Leipzig, Germany

2015 : Fundación Jumex Arte Contemporáneo, 'In Girum Imus Nocte et Consumimur Igni', Mexico City, Mexico

Sheffield Museum, 'Going Public: International Art Collectors in Sheffield', Sheffield, United Kingdom

Espacio Monitor, 'Múltiple: Polígrafa Obra Gráfica', Caracas, Venezuela

2014 : Parra & Romero, 'Épicentre: Conversations and Discussions Between Artists', Ibiza, Spain

Clint Roenisch Gallery, 'First The Pleasure, Then The Thesis', Toronto, Canada

■ Press Contact Details

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KOTARO NUKAGA is under construction. Please contact NUKAGA GALLERY : +81(0)3-5524-5544 by telephone.