

Mariko Kobayashi You Only Need to Bear the Sun

Solo Exhibition at CADAN YURAKUCHO



Mariko Kobayashi, *Heat and Water*, 2018-2020, 300.0 × 500.0 cm



Mariko Kobayashi, *You Only Need to Bear the Sun*, 2020, 17.0×20.0×40.0 cm

Utilizing a method of combining different materials using textile techniques such as weaving, dyeing, knitting, and stitching, Mariko Kobayashi renders different connections that exist in the world. “Circulation of life” is the central theme that runs throughout her artistic practice.

In her work *Heat and Water*, Kobayashi employs a mountain motif to represent the ecosystem. The sun, rain, earth, and water are familiar yet essential “heat and water” elements that circulate the repeating life cycle of plants and animals. Becoming aware of the cycle leads to the realization that we are connected to nature, and the very cycle and circulation also flow within us. We also learn that despite being a part of nature, humans have been exploiting it for our own wealth.

The donkey motif from *You Only Need to Bear the Sun*, which is also the title of this exhibition, reminds viewers of its harsh life as a bearer of heavy loads for the benefit of humans. Why are we making donkeys to carry burdens that we cannot carry ourselves? How far are we going to coerce them into carrying the burdens? The work engages viewers to reflect on how we live and what is truly important that we should value.

While living in a great realm of nature where heat, water, and air circulate, humans are not aware of it, only caught up in their loads in front of them. On the back of the burden-free donkey shines the sun, symbolizing universal connections in nature and the essential core values in life.

Kobayashi expresses the cycle of life and the multi-layered relationship between nature and humans not only through the works’ vivid color and materiality, but also by selecting and treating each material with care. Weaving together different elements by hand resembles the slow and gradual process of restoring the disconnected relationship. Please enjoy the fascinating charm that the works possess and the artist's message through her handwork.

■ Exhibition Outline

Mariko Kobayashi You Only Need to Bear the Sun

- Date: November 3 – 22, 2020
- Open Hours: Tues - Fri 11:00-19:00 Sat, Sun, Holidays 11:00-17:00 ※Closed on Mon* and November 15
- Venue: CADAN YURAKUCHO Yurakucho Bldg. 1F, 1-10-1 Yurakucho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-0006, Japan

*Closed on Tuesday if Monday is a Holiday

Artist Talk

- Date: Friday, November 13, 2020
- Time: 18:30- 19:00
- Venue: CADAN YURAKUCHO Yurakucho Bldg. 1F, 1-10-1 Yurakucho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
- Admission: FREE

※Reservation required, approximately 15 people (Reservation process will be announced on the website)

■ Artists

Mariko Kobayashi



Born in Osaka, Japan, 1987

Utilizing textile techniques such as weaving, dyeing, knitting, and stitching, Kobayashi depicts different connections that exist in the world. Her artistic concept is based on the awareness of being conscious in the present moment, as we continue our life as mortal beings. Kobayashi's work traces the long journey of how the flesh, the physical body that separates humans and animals, returns to the earth and continues a new life after reincarnation. Her exploration attempts to unravel essential form of life, which is rendered in chaos created by overlaying colors and shapes of different materials.

2012 Masters of Fine Arts [Textile design], Tama Art University, Tokyo, Japan
Kobayashi's selected shows include, All of the world, s+arts gallery, Tokyo (2019), Waking up at blue, Sleeping in the red, Art for Thought, Tokyo (2018), Circular forest, FEI ART MUSEUM Yokohama, Kanagawa (2018). Her group shows include, FIBER&FACES 12+1 – Metamorphosis –, /3331 Arts Chiyoda, Tokyo (2019), Roppongi Art Night 2015 (WS), Street Museum 2015, Tokyo (2015), New beat in Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong (2012).

■ Artworks



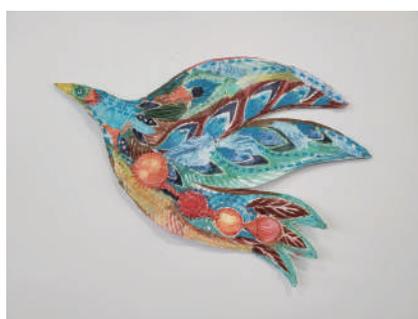
Regeneration
2020
Cotton, linen and wool on canvas
29.7 × 21.0 cm



toki toki
2019
Cotton, linen and wool on canvas
45.5 × 38.0 cm



Circulating Forest
2019
Cotton, linen and wool on canvas
41.0 × 31.8 cm



May the Wind Carry Your Thoughts
2020
Cotton, linen and wool
39.0 × 24.0 cm



May the Wind Carry Your Thoughts
2020
Cotton, linen and wool
26.0 × 40.0 cm



Memories
2020
Clay, soil, diatomite, cotton, acrylic gouache
22.0 × 40.0 × 20.0 cm