

April 8, 2021

**Weaving a new story from the theme 'Circulation of Life'
'Mariko Kobayashi's first solo exhibition in KOTARO NUKAGA**

KOTARO NUKAGA is pleased to announce Mariko Kobayashi's (1987, Osaka) first solo exhibition at our gallery, "*Stories that went Over*" from April 17 to May 22.

*Kyoji Takubo "*Camélia*" will be held concurrently.

Kobayashi illustrates 'Circulation of Life' by combining different methods and materials such as one of her major approaches to dyeing, as well as stitching, and knitting. In *Heat and Water*, exhibited in CADAN Yurakucho last November, she dynamically expressed the mountains as the center of the biological cycle, by using vivid colored cloths of a scale 3m height 5m width, and caught many eyes of the audiences. Furthermore, she made works at Starbucks Coffee Japan Head Office in 2013 and made a commission work *En(fate)* at a guest room in Park Hotel Tokyo, and is now highly applauded for its perfect craft making and unique perspective from multi-directions.



Mariko Kobayashi *Past peeking through the Seams*, 2021



Mariko Kobayashi *Heat and Water*, 2018, CADAN Yurakucho Installation View

Photo By Osamu Sakamoto



Mariko Kobayashi *Past peeking through the Seams*, 2021 (Detail)

Kobayashi starts her creation from small questions raised in her daily life, and her process is as if she is unfolding the birth of her surrounding world. A death of someone or something close to you, for example. The dead body returns to earth and becomes the seedbed of the next life. Then the pollen and seeds fallen from a tribute flower will grow and pass its baton to the next life. In thinking of this obvious truth, it makes Kobayashi question her own being. We can see Kobayashi's approach, like awe or a strong wish, towards life from her working process; she puts death not as an end, but as the beginning of a new life story, and carefully weave them together. Within the endless life cycle that started far behind in the past, and continues forever in the future, each of us is just a small passing point. Yet, we create artificial objects sometimes without even noticing. Having questions and being hesitant in leaving them to the next generation is reflected in her conscientious decision-making in selecting natural materials that return to the soil.

When we think of the time and story that will start beyond today, we realize those worlds were already spreading below our feet. We live our life, feeling as if the time from birth to death is linear. At the end of our linear time, all beings return to earth. Earth is the warm place nurtured by all the dead. Every year a corps of leaves layer above one another making its muck, and the soil will turn over by the roots of green, then the birds will drop some seeds with their excrement, and finally, it will begin to sprout. In that world, things combine gently together, recapitulate, and spread deeply in circles like tree rings, not in a linear form with an end.

By etching the thin skin of the 'Cycle of Life' emerging by its immense time, what shall we create in this world?

Mariko Kobayashi

Our exhibition title "*Stories that went Over*" implies two meanings: the story portraying us today on top of an immense number of ancestors' lives, and the stories of the future lives after we finish our role and go back to earth.

Kobayashi, known for using the whole exhibition space and understanding features of different spaces, will now bring the thin skin of the 'Cycle of Life' into shape, and weave a new story here.

ARTIST

Mariko Kobayashi (1987 Born in Osaka, Based in Saitama) depicts different connections that exist in the world by utilizing textile techniques such as weaving, dyeing, knitting, and stitching. 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

EXHIBITION DETAILS

Mariko Kobayashi "Stories that went Over"

April 17, 2021 - May 22

11:00–18:00 (Tue-Sat) *Closed on Sun, Mon and Public Holidays

VENUE

KOTARO NUKAGA

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

*Gallery hours and other information are subject to change

WORKS



Mariko Kobayashi *The Ancient Mountain*, 2012



Mariko Kobayashi *Madoromi(drowsing)*, 2021

REFERENCE IMAGES



Mariko Kobayashi EN(Fate), 2017 Park Hotel Tokyo 31F Installation View

Photo by Hironori Tomino

PRESS CONTACT

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