

October 23, 2020

Keio University

Keio Museum Commons [KeMCo] Commissions Artwork by Enrico Isamu Oyama for its New Creative Studio

Keio Museum Commons (KeMCo) is a new university museum set to open in the Spring of 2021. New artwork by Enrico Isamu Oyama, entitled “FFIGURATI #314,” and commissioned by KeMCo, will be installed at KeMCo’s cutting edge on-site creative studio: “KeMCo StudI/O.” The piece is to be shared publicly at a KeMCo preview event from Monday, October 26 to Friday, October 30. An online talk event by the artist will also be held on Wednesday, October 28.

1. Overview

Keio Museum Commons¹ serves as a hub connecting the collections of cultural assets across various disciplines which have been accumulated over the 160-year-plus history of Keio University, as well as education and research activities behind the scenes. KeMCo endeavors to connect the various collections and activity spheres at Keio by means of providing a stage for exhibitions, and through educational and research programs which reconcile real (analog) and digital assets.

KeMCo StudI/O² is a unique studio facility to support KeMCo’s activities, equipped with the latest digital imaging and measurement apparatus as well as devices for digital fabrication. At the studio, you can interact with and learn about the relationship between digital creations and the actual artworks, while getting a close up look at the practical aspects of putting on exhibitions and keeping collections at the museum. It will also facilitate opportunities to develop mixed media creative works.

Enrico Isamu Oyama³, himself a graduate of Keio University, is an artist who gives expression to his works in mixed media, based on his unique “Quick Turn Structure” motif, which took its initial cues from street art. With the overlap between Mr. Oyama’s interests and KeMCo’s concept of bridging the digital and the analog, he accepted our request to create a new artwork which would symbolize the KeMCo StudI/O, and even KeMCo itself.

Production on the piece started on site from September 25, marking the completion of construction work on the new facility. Enrico Isamu Oyama’s artwork, “FFIGURATI #314,”⁴ will be shared publicly at a KeMCo preview event starting October 26.

2. Related events

(1) Enrico Isamu Oyama talk event

Enrico Isamu Oyama & Yohko Watanabe (KeMCo Vice Director/KUAC professor)

Date: October 28 (Wed.), 2020 18:30–20:30

The event will take the form of a Zoom webinar. Advance registration is required.

Registration page (Japanese language only)

https://keio-univ.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FF6A1xjbTCCpaggtFYeDw

(2) Public showing of artwork at the KeMCo preview event

Date: October 26 (Mon.) – October 30 (Friday), 2020

Online presentation

Please refer to the Keio Museum Commons (KeMCo) website (<https://kemco.keio.ac.jp/en/>) for more event details.

[Glossary]

¹ Keio Museum Commons (KeMCo)

Keio University has accumulated collections of cultural assets across diverse domains over its 160-year-plus history. These works are collected and deployed across various locations at the university in line with its specialist domains. Keio Museum Commons (KeMCo) will serve as a “hub” to preserve this autonomy while connecting Keio’s collections and the education and research activities beholden to them. We aim to make the art and culture of Keio University accessible to society at large by creating an environment which reconciles the digital and the analog via exhibitions, events, talks, surveys, and research, as well as digital archives. Our Grand Opening is planned for the Spring of 2021. At our activities base at the East Annex of Keio University, facilities include an exhibition room, storage, and creative studio (KeMCo Studi/O). To mark the completion of construction on the East Annex, we will hold an online-focused preview event over the week from October 26.

² KeMCo Studi/O

KeMCo Studi/O is a creative studio equipped with multiple fabrication functions: including digital imaging and measurement devices compatible with 3D scanning, 3D printers, and more. At the studio you can interact with and learn about the relationship between digital and analog while getting a close up look at the actual practice of putting on exhibitions and keeping collections at the museum. It will also facilitate opportunities to develop mixed media creative works.

What is the nature of the relationship between digital and real (analog) objects in today's world, where an unprecedented amount of digital data is distributed and the experience of objects in digital space precedes first-hand exposure? This facility was instituted based on an awareness of these issues, such that we need to consider and learn about, while experiencing firsthand, what is lost when a real object is converted to the digital realm.

³ Enrico Isamu Oyama

Born in Tokyo in 1983. Graduated from the Faculty of Environment and Information Studies, Keio University in 2007, and the Graduate School of Art, Tokyo University of the Arts (Geidai), with a specialization in Inter-media Art in 2009.

He gives expression to his works in mixed media from his departure point of “Quick

Turn Structure” motifs, a re-appropriation of aerosol writing that is attracting attention in the sphere of modern art.

Fascinated by aerosol writing from when he was in senior high school, he began to draw three-dimensional black and white patterns using repeated, flowing lines, influenced by this culture centered on New York in the 70s and 80s. Subsequently he created his “Quick Turn Structure” motif, and continues to express himself on the borderline between modern art and this street culture.

His major exhibitions include Kairosphere (Pola Museum of Art, Hakone), 2019; Viral (Nakamura Keith Haring Collection, Kobuchizawa), 2019; Inside Out (Tower 49 Gallery, New York), 2019; and Ubiquitous: Enrico Isamu Oyama (Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, Kansas), 2017. His published works include: The Semantics of Aerosols: Post-pandemic Thought and Art (Seidosha, 2020); The True Face of Street Art – New York Aerosol Writing Culture (Seidosha, 2020); Art of the Street – From Twombly to Banksy (Kodansha, Senshomechie, 2020); Against Literacy: On Graffiti Culture (LIXIL Publishing, 2015); and, SIGNALS! Imagination of Aerosol Writing Resonating (Author, editor, Bijutsu Techo, issue Jun., 2017; Bijutsu Shuppan-Sha Co., Ltd.) He is also active on multiple other fronts including collaborations with Comme des Garçons and Shu Uemura Cosmetics.

■ Enrico Isamu Oyama exhibition “Noctilucent Cloud”

Date: December 14 (Mon.), 2020 – January 23 (Sat.), 2021

Venue: Kanagawa Kenmin Hall Gallery

More details: <https://yakouun.net/>

Website : <https://www.enricoisamuoyama.net/>

Twitter : https://twitter.com/enrico_i_oyama

Instagram : <https://www.instagram.com/enricoisamuoyama/>

4 “FFIGURATI #314”

The term FFIGURATI is an original coinage combining the word graffiti and the Italian expression figura ti (literally translated as “figure it out yourself”).

In contrast to the “Quick Turn Structure” motifs which Enrico Isamu Oyama consistently uses in his artworks, “FFIGURATI” are individual pieces with unique mediums and techniques, numbered in the order of their creation. In #314 installed in the KeMCo studio, Enrico Isamu Oyama takes on the challenge of working in a new medium.

*Please direct any requests or inquiries for coverage to the contact information provided below in advance.

[Inquiries regarding this press release]

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