

October 16, 2024

Keio University

Keio University Art Center (KUAC) to Host
SHOW-CASE PROJECT Extra-1
Motohiro Tomii: The Presence of Objects and Matters
(October 21, 2024 to January 24, 2025)

The Keio University Art Center (KUAC) plans exhibitions of contemporary art motivated by the conviction that universities—as formative places of learning for the next generation—should create opportunities for students to be able to encounter diverse perspectives, including the works of artists who are still alive and experiencing current events. As an experiment, KUAC will be hosting an art project that will span over the next three years in collaboration with Motohiro Tomii, a sculptor known for his readymade works that unveil new aspects of and perspectives on everyday objects. This exhibition is an “event” set apart from time or space. In most cases, the draw of an art exhibition is its temporary and fleeting nature. By thinking about this “event” over a continuous three-year period, the organizers will push the boundaries of what can be achieved by an exhibition and attempt to reframe the concept of an “event” from the confines of a small exhibition room.

1. Exhibition Details

Dates: Monday, October 21, 2024, to Friday, January 24, 2025

Closed on weekends, public holidays, and from Saturday, December 28 to Sunday, January 5

Exhibition hours: 11:00–18:00

Venue: Keio University Art Center (KUAC) 1F Art Space of South Annex, Mita Campus

Entrance fee: Free of charge

Hosted by: Keio University Art Center (KUAC)

Website: http://www.art-c.keio.ac.jp/en/news-events/event-archive/with_motohiro_tomii_2024/

*For the latest information, please check the KUAC website linked above.

2. Exhibition Overview

For the upcoming program under “SHOW-CASE PROJECT Extra,” a single artist will introduce his approach to a new type of exhibition, one which will span three years in the same space.

“Showcase” here plays a double meaning, both referring to the literal “showcasing” of art, but also how artists must “show their case.” In other words, it is a “case” for showcasing given responses or attitudes towards topics. In the past, there was one particular artist who suggested a “case” exhibition thought process: Motohiro Tomii. Together, he and KUAC crafted a pilot project that would incorporate various approaches to this play on words.

Are not approaches shaped by the very frameworks of an exhibition? The limited 45m² of a single exhibition room at KUAC, for example, becomes in itself a *case study* of a *show-case*. Or, to expand the lens even further, is not the very concept and framework of an exhibition a function of a “show-case”? This is where the “extra” in the title *SHOW-CASE PROJECT Extra* comes from: the “meta” or “extra” commentary being projected on and through this exhibition.

The three rounds of this exhibit will interrogate both the relationship of the art pieces to the exhibition as well as to the very framework of an exhibition. It takes an “event”—one that would normally be a momentary experience—and turns it into a continuous examination of spatiality

when seen through iterations in time. We hope that this presents an opportunity for everyone, from organizers to artists to visitors, to think about and savor the phenomena and feelings that are elicited by this experiment.

The first round of the exhibition, “Extra-1,” is titled *The Presence of Objects and Matters*, and probes the depths of the fundamentals of sculpture. We welcome everyone to come and see this artist’s undertaking.

SHOW-CASE PROJECT: <http://www.art-c.keio.ac.jp/en/research/research-projects/show-case-project/>

Artist Statement

I wanted to find a method in which I had no preconceptions (though, I definitely had some anyway) and no expectations (a lie). As a result, I finished these pieces at the very last minute, regardless of what was good or bad (another lie). Objects that already exist/items that it seems like anyone could make are yet subject to weight and friction, circumstances and matters that bring about form beyond anyone’s control. Matters and objects intermingle or, rather, “objects” take the lead and “matters” follow as companions. A moment emerges in which melee and maturity settle into a state that can only be described as “this.” These are the types of work I want to bring together and I have called *The Presence of Objects and Matters*. If creating models or sculptures was able to become its own language apart from all others, would not these figures, the energies and atmosphere they project, be absent of all possibilities? If this language was spoken, it would be in concrete terms of mass, not in the ambiguity of energy and atmosphere.

3. Artist Bio

Motohiro Tomii

Born in 1973 in Niigata Prefecture, Tomii graduated from the Musashino Art University with an MA in Fine Art (Sculpture) and is currently a professor at Musashino Art University. His career evolution is marked by an initial period of creating diminutive plaster figures, after which he transitioned to assembling three-dimensional works from an eclectic array of household objects such as superballs, clips, pencils, and hammers.

Employing straightforward techniques like arranging, layering, binding, and folding, Tomii releases these objects from their original meanings and uses, thereby persistently seeking novel modalities of sculpture. In addition to sharing “Today’s Sculpture” daily on X (previously Twitter), the artist also undertakes efforts to critically assess traditional exhibition venues and frameworks. Major exhibitions include ‘Yokohama Triennale 2011: OUR MAGIC HOUR – How Much of the World Can We Know?’ (Yokohama Museum of Art/BankART Studio NYK, 2011), ‘MOT Annual 2011: Nearest Faraway’ (Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, 2011), ‘Artist File 2015 Next Doors: Contemporary Art in Japan and Korea’ (The National Art Center, Tokyo/National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea), and ‘Re construction’ (Nerima Art Museum, 2020). In 2023, the artist appeared in several solo exhibitions, ‘Time to See’ (Niigata City Art Museum) and ‘Motohiro Tomii: Sculptures’ (Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Fine Arts).

Website: <http://tomiimotohiro.com>

4. Press images and works to be exhibited

- a. Motohiro Tomii, *relationship of dustpan #1* (2020) dustpans, bolts, nuts, (part of upcoming exhibition)
Photo by Masaru Yanagiba, ©Motohiro Tomii, Courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates
- b. Motohiro Tomii, *waste paper and space (trial piece) #1* (2020), paper (part of upcoming exhibition)
Photo by Masaru Yanagiba, ©Motohiro Tomii, Courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates
- c. Motohiro Tomii, *balloon and freestanding #17* (2024), plaster, sisal, (part of upcoming exhibition)

Photo by Motohiro Tomii, ©Motohiro Tomii, Courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates

- d. Motohiro Tomii, *relationship of line #1-7* (2022-2023), dustpans, bolts, and nuts (reference work)
Solo exhibition | Motohiro Tomii: Sculptures @ Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Fine Arts | 2023
Photo by Masaru Yanagiba, ©Motohiro Tomii, Courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates
- e. Motohiro Tomii, *bulky and connection #6* (2023), binders, bolts, and nuts (reference work)
Photo by Masaru Yanagiba, ©Motohiro Tomii, Courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates

*Please give credit when using images.



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d.

e.

4. Related Events

-Artist talk

Date and times: 14:00–15:30, Saturday, November 30, 2024

Speakers:

Motohiro Tomii

Takayuki Hayashi (Professor at the Tokyo University of the Arts)

Takayuki Hayashi

Art criticism. Recent contributions include “‘Readymade’: Industrial Products, Found Objects, General Goods or ‘les sculptures toutes faites,’ ” Tomii, Fujii, and Yamamoto (eds.), *Unknowable Sculptures: “Viewing” Edition*, Musashino Art University Press, 2024 (text in Japanese).

-Workshop

Date and time: 14:00, Saturday, December 7, 2024

Speaker: Motohiro Tomii

※ Schedule is subject to change without notice.

※ More details will be released on the website as they become available.

http://www.art-c.keio.ac.jp/en/news-events/event-archive/with_motohiro_tonii_2024/

6. Venue Access

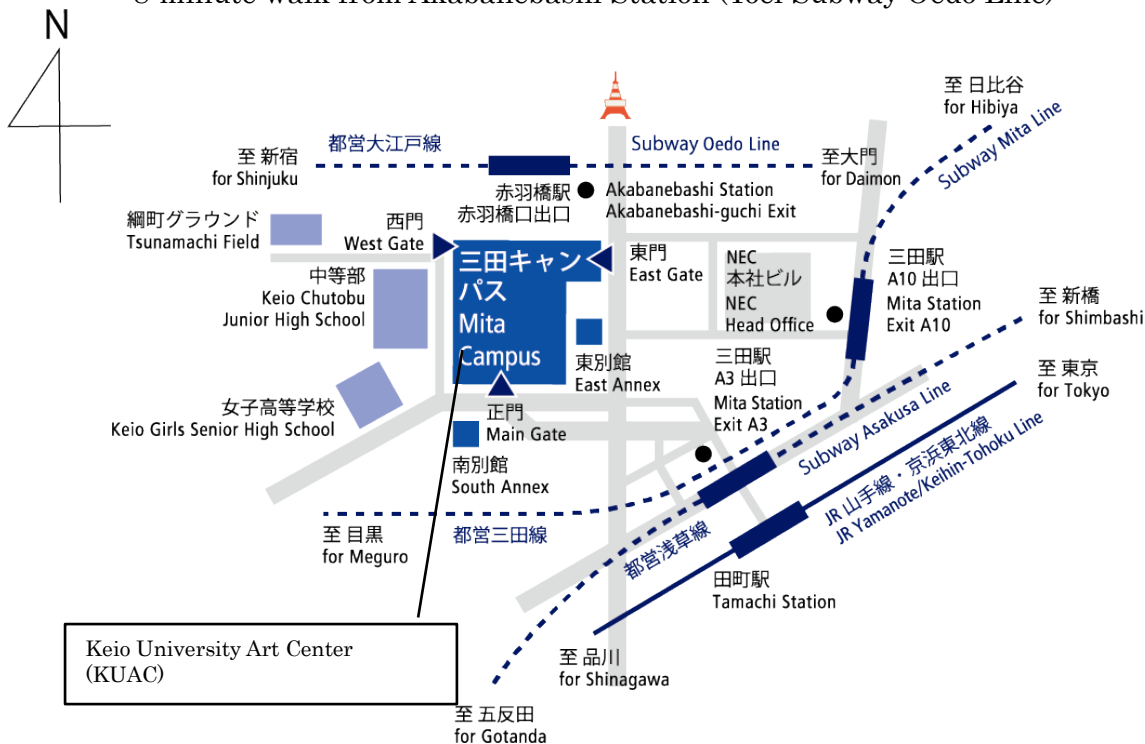
Venue: Keio University Art Center (KUAC) 1F Art Space of South Annex, Mita Campus

Address: 2-15-45 Mita, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 108-8345

Access: 8-minute walk from Tamachi Station (JR Yamanote Line/JR Keihin-Tohoku Line)

7-minute walk from Mita Station (Toei Subway Asakusa Line/Mita Line)

8-minute walk from Akabanebashi Station (Toei Subway Oedo Line)



*Please direct any requests or inquiries to the contacts listed below in advance of any press coverage.

*We have sent this news release to the MEXT Press Club and the cultural news departments of other media outlets.

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