

May 7, 2024
Keio University

Keio Museum Commons (KeMCo) Contemporary Art Exhibition “Soichiro Mihara: Recipe: Art of the Air,” Open from June 3 to August 3

Soichiro Mihara is an artist who reads into the materials and phenomena that surround us to produce his work. Mihara presents open systems as installation works that responding to their environments, using the democratized technological perspectives and methodologies which form the basis of media art. This exhibition will provide a comprehensive of Mihara’s practices in recent years while also exhibiting his “recipes,” which he means the attempts at archiving the core of his creations. In addition, this exhibition will showcase collaborations with the Keio Chutobu Junior High School, such as a composting project and a workshop called “Material Circulation,” which KeMCo and Mihara have been collaborating on since last year. We hope that visitors will enjoy encountering the ideas and processes of an artist who makes the invisible visible.

1. Basic information

Dates: Monday, June 3–Saturday, August 3, 2024.

Closed on weekends and holidays.

*Special opening: Saturday, June 22 and Saturday, August 3

*Closed on: Monday, June 24 and Monday, July 29

Venue: Keio Museum Commons (Mita Campus East Annex)

Opening hours: 11:00–18:00

Admission: free and open to the public (no reservation required)

*For the latest information, please check the KeMCo website. <https://kemco.keio.ac.jp/en/>

2. Exhibition overview

Soichiro Mihara has refined unique artistic techniques to bring sight and sound to the systems and fluctuating processes that surround us as various phenomena. Mihara explores open systems and the concept of "art as installation" using the perspectives and methodologies of democratized technologies like free culture and open source platforms, ideas that form the basis of media art.

By mapping out the themes of his recent works that focus on the phenomena and realities that surround us, he has discovered three basic categories: “vibration,” “breathing,” and “particles,” inspiring the name “art of the air.” In addition to these categories, he practices how to make “recipes” for these pieces. By “recipe,” he means the attempts at archiving the creative methods and fluctuating processes that form the core of his works. While reflecting on about the role of circulating and returning in artistic practice, Mihara has taken an experimental approach to his work, such as recording as many of the details of his artistic mechanisms as possible and allowing recreations of his works based on these recipes.

The exhibition introduces a new installation by Mihara titled *making particle*, along with a selection of his recent works. It provides a comprehensive view of Mihara’s practices and a chance to experience the cyclical world around us, or the “art of the air,” from various angles. By displaying both the recipes and artworks at the same time, this exhibition sheds light onto Mihara’s interests and practices, inviting visitors




to think about how art pieces and their descriptions function, how a person can attempt to share their creativity with others, the will an artist has during their lifetime, and the challenges involved in recreating and re-exhibiting artworks.

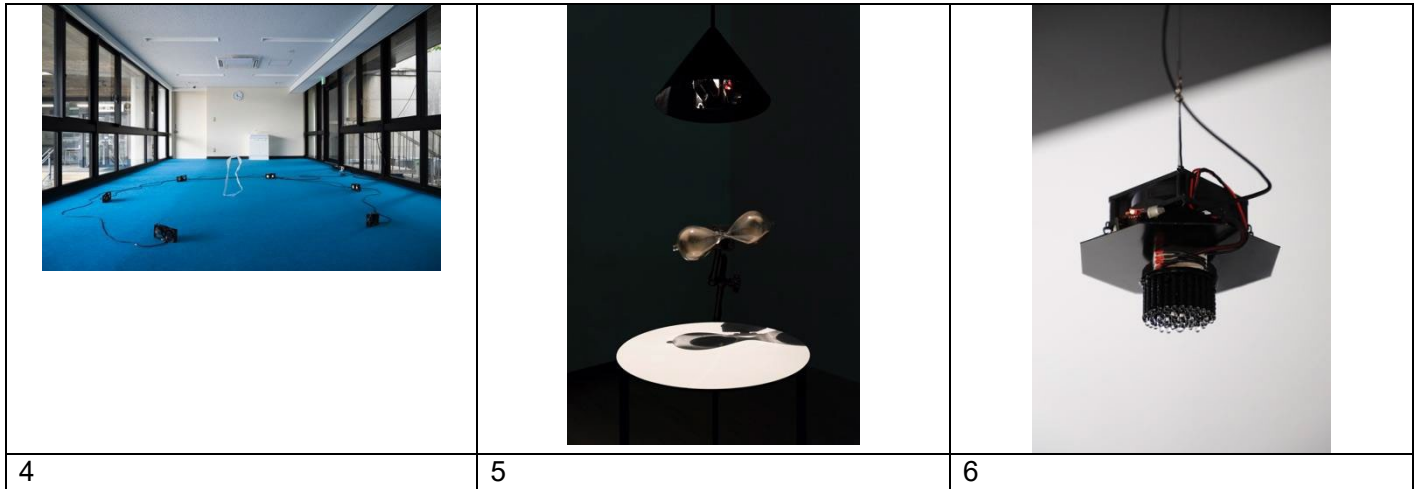
Soichiro Mihara, Artist

Mihara presents systems that openly engages with the world and interprets them into the “art” of materials and phenomena such as acoustics, bubbles, radiation, rainbows, microbes, moss, air streams, soil and electrons. Since 2011, he has been engaged in projects in and outside Japan to examine the relationship between technology and society. In recent years, he has been approaching his past activities as “Art of the Air,” an archival experiment based on the categories of vibration, particles, and breathing, in the form of a recipe. Mihara’s major solo exhibitions include “the world filled with blanks” (Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien, 2013; Kyoto Art Center, 2016), and “making soil” (currently underway, compost.mhrs.jp, 2021–present). For group exhibitions, his work has been featured in “Energies in the Rural” (Aomori Contemporary Art Centre, 2023), the Yebisu International Festival for Art & Alternative Visions (Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, 2020), the Sapporo International Art Festival (Sapporo Art Park Takeo Arishima Residence, 2014), and “Sound Art: Sound as a Medium of Art” (ZKM Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe, Germany, 2012). He has also put together the curated exhibition, “From blanks to Sensitivity” (Zuiiunan, 2018) and is the co-author of *Shokuraku Nyūmon* (Asahi Press, 2016). He has won awards including at Ars Electronica, Transmediale, and the Japan Media Arts Festival, and was on the jury of the Prix Ars Electronica in 2019. Since 2022, he has co-organized the event “Ride the Waves on March 11th.” In recent years, he has also been involved in conservation and restoration of sound art and media art for which methodologies have not yet been established. <http://mhrs.jp>

3. Main exhibits

1. *bell*, 2013 | solo exhibition “the world filled with blanks, kunstquartier kreuzberg bethanien,” photo by artist
2. *imaginary rhetoric*, 2016 | TSUSHIMA ART FANTASIA 2016, photo by Tadasu Yamamoto
3. *cosmos*, 2014–ongoing | Germination Play, photo by artist
4. *study of the air*, 2017 | NIPPON Festival 2021, photo by Masanobu Nishino
5. *8'17"*, 2020 | Exhibition “Yebisu International Festival for Art and Alternative Visions 2020: The Imagination of Time,” photo by Nobuhiro Saiki, courtesy of Tokyo Photographic Art Museum
6. *res nullius*, 2020 | Nissan Art Award 2020, photo by Keizo Kioku

		
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4. Related events

1. Artist talk: 18:15–, Monday, July 8, 2024

*Other related events will be held during the exhibition period. For more information, please visit the KeMCo website. <https://kemco.keio.ac.jp/en/>

2. Exhibition catalogues

*KeMCo will publish a comprehensive exhibition record book, documenting the various works and events featured in the exhibition."

5. Venue access

Venue: Keio Museum Commons

Address: 2-15-45 Mita, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 108-8345
East Annex, Keio University Mita Campus

Access: Tamachi Station (JR Yamanote Line/JR Keihin-Tohoku Line) 8 minutes on foot
Mita Station (Toei Subway Asakusa Line/Mita Line) 7-minute walk
Akabanebashi Station (Toei Subway Oedo Line) 8 minutes on foot



Keio Museum Commons
Exterior of Mita Campus East
Annex

6. Event organizers and administrative team

Organized by Keio Museum Commons

Cooperated by Nisoul Co.,Ltd, Tamura Shoten

Kyoto Art Center Artists-in-Studios program

*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 education and cultural news departments of other media outlets.

Inquiries regarding this press release:

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