



October 3, 2025

Keio University

Keio University Art Center Exhibition

SHOW-CASE PROJECT Extra-2: Motohiro Tomii,
Conditions of Contact (October 14 to December 19, 2025)

The Keio University Art Center (KUAC) holds exhibitions of contemporary art motivated by the conviction that universities should create opportunities for students to be able to encounter diverse perspectives and be formative places of learning for the next generation. This includes displaying the works of contemporary artists who are living through current events.

Last year, KUAC launched an experimental collaborative art project with Motohiro Tomii designed to stretch over three years. Tomii is a sculptor known for works that incorporate everyday readymade objects and showcase them with unique perspectives. *Conditions of Contact* is the second exhibition of this project building on the themes from the first installment that had contrasted Tomii's characteristic works using common objects and plaster figures. Come see how the artist reframes the concept of "events" from the confines of a small exhibition room.

1. Basic information

Dates: Tuesday, October 14 to Friday, December 19, 2025
Closed: Weekends and public holidays, Monday, October 27, and Monday, November 17
Special openings: Saturday, October 25 and Saturday, November 15

Exhibition hours: 11:00–18:00

Venue: Keio University Art Center 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/news-events/event-archive/with_motohiro_tomii_2025-2/

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

2. Exhibition Overview

The Keio University Art Center (KUAC) plans exhibitions of contemporary art motivated by the conviction that universities should create opportunities for students to be able to encounter diverse perspectives and be formative places of learning for the next generation. This includes displaying the works of contemporary artists who are living through current events. Last year, KUAC launched an experimental collaborative art project with Motohiro Tomii designed to stretch over three years. Tomii is a sculptor known for works that incorporate everyday readymade objects but

that showcase them with unique perspectives. *Conditions of Contact* is the second exhibition of this project building on the themes from the first installment that had contrasted Tomii's characteristic works using common objects and plaster figures. Come see how the artist reframes the concept of "events" from the confines of a small exhibition room.

This exhibition is an "event" set apart from time or space. In most cases, the appeal of an 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.

Last year, the first exhibition of the three-year Show-Case Project Extra project, titled *The Presence of Objects and Matters*, juxtaposed Tomii's signature works made from everyday readymade objects with his plaster figures. What could *Conditions of Contact* have in store for visitors? 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," which would normally imply a singular and temporary 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. We welcome everyone to come and see this artist's undertaking.

Show-Case Project: <http://www.art-c.keio.ac.jp/research/research-projects/show-case-project/>

Artist Statement

When a thing and another thing connect, they become yet another thing. I believe that this whole process is a form in itself and embodies objects and matters, but what interests me is the basis for these "connections." *What* connects, what is *connected*, *where* does it connect, *how* does it connect, is the connection *wanted*, is it *needed*... Simply thinking these questions elicits boundless relationships, and the form begins to overflow. Which is to say that these are the conditions of my own self, as they are of objects and matters. Are there conditions of contact? Contact points move me. They choose objects and matters, altering relationships and the way things are. Everything in the world falls into them.

If we try to consider them while producing our art, we risk gravitating towards (or bringing close) our own conditions. But let's allow ourselves to fall into as many contact points as possible. Perhaps we may call this "sculpting."

Motohiro Tomii

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>

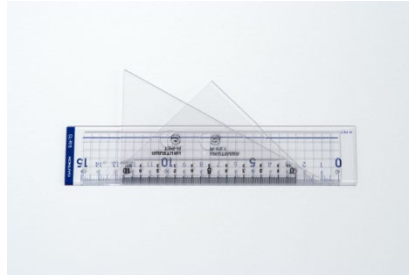
4. Press images

- a. Motohiro Tomii, *measure* (2009), tape measure, (reference work)
Photo by Masaru Yanagiba, ©Motohiro Tomii, Courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates
- b. Motohiro Tomii, *four rulers* (2010), rulers (reference work)
Photo by Masaru Yanagiba, ©Motohiro Tomii, Courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates
- c. Left: Motohiro Tomii, *CR1507* (2015) cardboard, adhesive, and grommets (reference work)
Right: Motohiro Tomii, *CR1506* (2015) cardboard, adhesive, and grommets (reference work) Photo by Masaru Yanagiba, ©Motohiro Tomii, Courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates
- d. Show-Case Project Extra-1: Motohiro Tomii, *The Presence of Objects and Matters* Photo by Masaru Yanagiba, ©Motohiro Tomii, Courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates
- e. Show-Case Project Extra-1: Motohiro Tomii, *The Presence of Objects and Matters* Photo by Masaru Yanagiba, ©Motohiro Tomii, Courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates
- f. Show-Case Project Extra-1: Motohiro Tomii, *The Presence of Objects and Matters* Photo by Masaru Yanagiba, ©Motohiro Tomii, Courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates

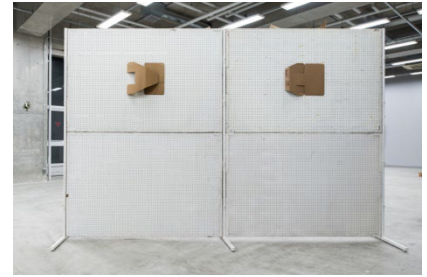
*Please give credit when using images.



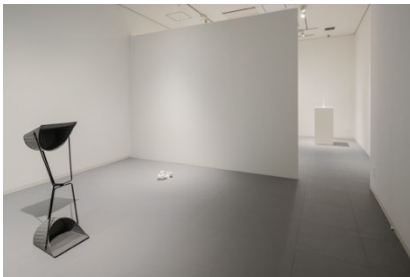
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b.



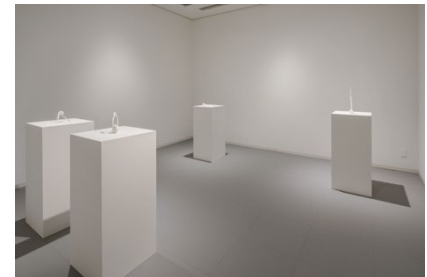
c.



d.



e.



f.

5. Related Events

Workshop

Date and time: From 14:00 on Saturday, October 25, 2025

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/news-events/event-archive/with_motohiro_tomii_2025-2/

Artist Talk

Date and time: 14:00–15:30, Saturday, November 15, 2025

Speakers: Motohiro Tomii

Takayuki Hayashi (professor, Department of of Aesthetics and Art History, Tokyo University of the Arts)

Gen Umezu (critic and curator)

Takayuki Hayashi

Art criticism., Recent contributions include “‘Readymade’: Industrial Products, Found Objects, General Goods or ‘les sculptures toutes faites’”, Tomii, Fujii, and Yamamoto (eds.), *Textbook for Sculptures 2*, “*Sculptures full of unknowns*”, Vol. 2. *View Sculptures*, Musashino Art University Press, 2024. (text in Japanese)

Gen Umezu

Critic and curator. Recent projects include: *To Be Being Seen: Exploring Artistic Expression in Moving Image Works from the 1960s to Today in Japan* at Art Osaka in the Osaka City

Central Public Hall (2025) and *Tomoyuki Higuchi DUB/stance* at The White (2024). As curator for the Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, he organized the 1999 exhibition *DONALD JUDD selected works 1960-1991* among other projects. The museum featured Motohiro Tomii's work in their 2009 exhibition *New Vision Saitama III*.

6. Venue Access

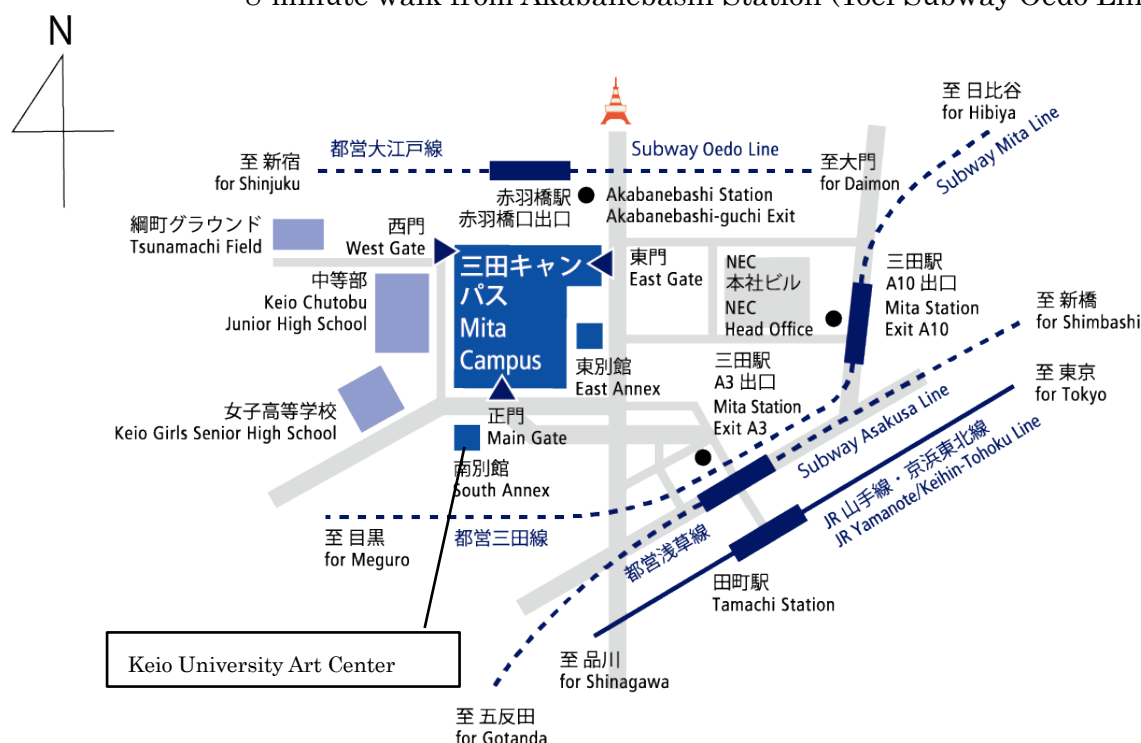
Venue: Keio University Art Center 1F Art Space of South Annex, Mita Campus

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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