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Atsunobu Kohira *Carbon Variation N°1*

September 1 (Friday) –September 26 (Tuesday) 2017

Venue : Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku

Park Grace Shinjuku Bld., 206, 4-32-6 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0023

Hours: 12:00-19:00 *Closed on Sundays, Mondays, and national holidays

Opening Reception : September 2 (Saturday) 18:30 – 20:00

Talk Event : September 2 (Saturday) 17:00 – 18:30

*Speakers: Atsunobu Kohira and Azusa Hashimoto (Curator at The National Museum of Art, Osaka)

Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku is pleased to present *Carbon Variation N°1*, a solo show of Atsunobu Kohira from Friday, September 1.

Kohira has been on the path of cultivating his thoughts on and working with the material of coal for years. His encounter with it was in a landscape that he saw using a scanning microscopy. Through the lens, the texture of the coal in super close-up presented a beautiful gray-scale world, which was a magnificent view resembling that of an unknown planet. Kohira named his journey which started then as 'pilgrimage of coal'; it had no fixed destinations or predetermined routes.

When we think of its creation process that required the huge pteridophytes from a several hundred million years ago to be buried underground to be heated by terrestrial heat and given a massive pressure, coal might be said to have been produced sculpturally. The sculpture made with added temperature, slow kneading, and subsequent cooling down. It is the evidence for the existence of life that exuberated on earth far before the birth of human beings and mass/volume that silently encapsulates the long period of time which passed before its generation.

Having relatively small regional differences in the amount of the reserves, and being abundant globally, coal is a familiar energy source for humans. Its combustion generates electricity that is ubiquitous in our daily life. Kohira's work in this exhibition evokes such kind of energy converted from coal, although it might be better to call it 'spirit,' the source of life, instead of 'energy.' It is the spirit which exists in jet black sculptures that earth has created. The energy is the expression of such spirit. The ink specially made from coal is used for the wall drawing that fills the space. The energy taken from the electrical outlet on the wall where the drawing starts generates the light that dimly illuminates the room. (The room's darkness has been related to a cave interior.) The energy is then used to create intermittent noises coming out of a speaker. Instead of the word 'visualization,' 'spatialization' or 'voluminization' better suit to describe such procedures by the artist. Sound has been one of the important motifs in Kohira's art, but he considers this nonmaterial existence to also have mass/volume on the grounds that it fills a space. We say "to increase volume" when we mean to



make a sound louder. Kohira's work has a sculptural quality in that it actually gives an impression of the expansion of the size of a sound, although he is aware of the fact that sound is in reality an oscillatory phenomenon. When a drawing that fills a space is presented three-dimensionally under the light, the spirit of the material of coal, whose another name is black diamond, becomes a volume surpassing the massive amount of time that the coal took to be formulated.

Navigated by his interest and led by accidental encounters, Kohira's 'pilgrimage of coal' continues. This exhibition is a chapter in its journey, and if I should be particular about my wording, I may as well call it 'a volume' in it.

Azusa Hashimoto (Curator at The National Museum of Art, Osaka)

■ Artist Statement

A ceaselessly overflowing energy creates light and sounds.

Where does the energy come from ?

Where does it go to?

The ink and string made from coal.

My hands are dyed with the fossils of plants, and a shadow of energy remains.

It was six years ago that I started thinking about energy. Recently, I am making works on the subject of coal. When I delve into the theme of energy, I see the domain of an unknown darkness continuing endlessly. However, I feel that this darkness may lead up to a light that I have yet to see, in which ancient spirits exist.

I am perpetually seeking to encounter such ancient spirits. I follow the string of energy from the spirits to continue my pilgrimage of coal.

Atsunobu Kohira

■ Opening Reception

Saturday, September 2, 2017, 18:30-20:00

Venue : Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku

■ Talk Event

Saturday, September 2, 2017, 17:00 -18:30

Venue: Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku

Speakers: Atsunobu Kohira and Azusa Hashimoto

*Admission free. Booking required. Seating capacity: 20

*For booking, send an email with your name, address, and telephone number to event@ycassociates.co.jp

*If you do not receive a reply from the gallery, please contact us during gallery's opening hours.

Azusa Hashimoto (Curator, The National Museum of Art, Osaka)

Born in Shiga Prefecture in 1978. Curator at The National Museum of Art, Osaka since 2008, where she curated *Wind Hole: Another Conceptualism from Asia* (2011) *The Deconstruction of the "I."* *An Experiment by Kashihara Etsutomu* (2012), *THE PLAY since 1967: beyond unknown currents* (2016) and others. Also curated *Time of Others* (2015) jointly with curators from other museums. Translated Jonathan Crary's *Suspensions of Perception* jointly with others (Heibonsha 2015.)

**■ Related Information**

Atsunobu Kohira's work will be included in *Intériorités* in Béthune, France.

Dates : Saturday, September 9, 2017 - Sunday, February 18, 2018.

Venue : LABANQUE BÉTHUNE (44 Place Georges Clémenceau, 62400 Béthune)

Curator : Léa Bismuth

<https://www.facebook.com/labanquebethune/>

■ Atsunobu Kohira – Artist Profile

1979 Born in Hiroshima Prefecture

Lives and works in Paris, France

2008-10 Le Fresnoy, Studio National des Arts contemporains Tourcoing, France
2000-06 Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris, Paris, France
1997-2000 Aterlier Chardon Savard, Paris, France
1997 Collège du Léman, Genève, Switzerland

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2017 *Coalscape Ink of Coal* in KG+ 2017 (Satellite Events of KYOTOGRAPHIE 2017) Ruins, Kyoto, Japan
2016 *Ode à l'immanence*, FORUM, Kyoto, Japan
2016 *Outretemps*, Galerie Maubert, Paris, France
2015 *Vanitas*, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan
2015 *ARTU les expositions aux 7 universités*, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
2014 *Pérennité Passagère*, Espace d'art contemporain Les Roches, Le Chambon sur Lignon, France
2014 *Musique de Chambre*, la Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris, France
2013 *Ouverture de Bombyx Mori*, la Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris, France
2012 *Instrument pour Saint-Louis*, Musée du cristal Saint-Louis, Saint-Louis-les-Bitche, France
2012 *City Sound*, Art Gallery of MITSUKOSHI HIROSHIMA, Hiroshima, Japan
2011 *Composition rythmique*, EXPRMNTL Galerie, Toulouse, France
2006 *Sound trap*, Espace Lhomond, Paris, France

Selected Group Exhibitions

2016 *Partition du silence*, Galerie Anne-Sarah Bénichou, Paris, France
2016 *Carbon Lab*, YIA Art Fair, Paris, France
2015 *Symboles*, Galerie Sisso, Paris, France
2015 *Hirakeshi-Toki*, CAPSULE, Tokyo, Japan
2015 *Voyager dans les sens (Kana Sunayama & Takeshi Sugiura)* Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris, Paris, France
2014 *La légende des origines* (curated by Léa Bismuth), Galerie Maubert, Paris, France
2014 *Variation, Show Off Art Fair*, L' Espace des Blancs Manteaux, Paris, France
2014 *Hypothèse de l'Impact géant*, Le Carreau, Cergy, France
2014 *Condensation* (curated by Gaël Charbau) Hermès Seoul, Seoul, Korea
2014 *Condensation* (curated by Gaël Charbau) Ginza Maison Hermes Le Forum, Tokyo, Japan
2013 *Traversée d' Archipels*, (curated by Leïla Simon) L'École Supérieure d'Art et Design Le Havre-Rouen, Le Havre, France
2013 *Ce que le sonore fait au visual*, La Bastide du Château de Servières, Marseille, France
2013 *Nuit Blanche Kyoto*, Kyoto City University of Arts Art gallery @KCUA, Kyoto, Japan
2013 *Tacet*, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Dole, Dole, France



- 2013 *Condensation* (curated by Gaël Charbau) Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France
2013 *L'Échappée Belle*, Grand Palais, Paris, France
2013 *EXIT-Natures artificielles*, Gare Saint-Sauveur, Lille, France
2013 *EXIT-Natures artificielles*, La Maison des arts de Crèteil, Crèteil, France
2013 *EXIT-Natures artificielles*, Manège, Maubeuge, France
2012 *Kyrielle Cocci* (live performance) Festival Vision'R, Databaz, Angoulême, France
2012 *Kyrielle Cocci* (live performance) La soirée IRL performance, Centre Mercoeur, Paris, France
2012 *Immatériel de projet* (curated by Chun-chi Wang) Galerie Bex, Paris, France
2011 *Made in Choi*, Atelier Choi, Paris, France
2011 *Drôle de Temps* (curated by Leïla Simon) Galerie Jeune Création, Paris, France
2011 *Regard sur Le Fresnoy*, The City Hall of Roncq, Roncq, France
2010 *Imaginez maintenant*, L'hôpital Dieu Saint Jacques, Toulouse, France
2010 *Panorama12*, Le Fresnoy, Le Studio National des Arts Contemporains, Tourcoing, France
2009 *Ososphère*, La Laiterie, Strasbourg, France
2009 *Panorama11*, Le Fresnoy, Le Studio National des Arts Contemporains, Tourcoing, France
2008 *Mission marais*, Galerie Schirman & de Beaucè, Paris, France
2008 *Group show*, Corsica, France
2007 *Wonderland*, Galerie Schirman & de Beaucè, Paris, France
2007 *Jeune Création*, La Bellevilloise, Paris, France
2006 *20 eventi* (curated by Giuseppe Penone) Sabina, Italy
2006 *Salon d'art contemporain*, la mairie de Montrouge, Montrouge, France
2005 *Group show* (curated by Giuseppe Penone) Arnhem, The Netherlands
2005 *Première vue* (curated by Michel Nuridsany) Passage de Retz, Paris, France

Residency

- 2011-12 Résidence de la fondation d'entreprise d'Hermès
2010 Résidence FRAC Franche-Comté, Besançon, France
2010 Cité Internationale des Arts de Paris, Paris, France
2008 Cité Internationale des Arts de Paris, Paris, France

Public Collection

FRAC Franche-Comté, Besançon, France

For further information or images, please contact Yumiko Chiba Associates.

E-mail: info@ycassociates.co.jp Tel. +81-3-6276-6731 <http://www.ycassociates.co.jp>

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