



Composition for Clay (Trial product) 2014 ©Motohiro Tomii, Courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates Photography: Masaru Yanagiba

## Motohiro Tomii

### Composition for Clay

**January 13 (Tues) to February 10 (Tues), 2015**  
**Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku**

**Opening reception: Saturday, January 24 (\*)**

\*Please note that the opening reception will not be on the first day of the exhibition. Mr. Tomii will attend it.

Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku is pleased to present a solo exhibition *Composition for Clay* by Motohiro Tomii, starting from January 13, 2015.

Tomii, inevitably as an artist living in this age, treats ready-made articles as material for his work. He changes the function, condition, and definition of the material itself into something new by his work and presents it as a completely different object right before our eyes. He strips all the meaning from the material, and simultaneously produces an independent work in its true meaning by completing it with only the physical function of the material, without relying on narrative, image, or forms.

Tomii has been seeking a new possibility for sculpture, not sticking to material, moving away from the conventional image of "sculpture" in its long history. His attitude is revealed in his daily "Kyo-no-Chokoku [Today's Sculpture]" series on Twitter as well as in his works used printed materials. When he presented the images which had been featured on Twitter for his solo exhibition last year, he decided that he would show his work's focus in a different manner from what it used to be. Then, he chose clay as the complementary material to use for his work.

Tomii was in the sculpture department at university and majored in clay figures. He confronted the clay every day, which is what attached him to that material. However, gradually, he questioned the act of sculpting and experienced a sense of failure. Tomii says that he kept a distance from clay after that in his work. More than a decade passed. Then he confronted clay as material once again, inevitably and fatefully at the above-mentioned exhibition last year. *Composition for Clay* is a collection of works produced in the middle of Tomii's continuation of the various trials and experiments of his concept of sculpture.



Tomii pursues what “clay for clay” should be by the way of creating a work. And while continuing the work, he questions himself about the reason that he does it.

The exhibition will present Tomii's clay works as well as prints in collaboration with Edition Works for the first time.

#### ■ Artist Statement

Clay is the material for my first sculpture and the one I used and touched the most among all those materials when I was a student. Because of the past experience, the clay and I are related not a little with indulgence but in blind passion. Clay is a soil of stickiness indeed, but is just as that, nothing else. In order to build up a new relationship with the clay, I needed to look hard at only its properties. Then, I set two conditions compatible with each other: to produce a soft yet independent structure, and form a work, not depending on skill differences. For solution, I made a form of clay imitated human body and the instructions to produce the body. The body maintains the condition to be on one's feet with two points which should be unstable, balancing quantities of parts in the body. I purposefully moved the joint of both arms and brought the body to an unstable condition. What happens is that the clay impresses differently because of the distorted form. The joint of the body should be regulated by the instructions. If the body stands out, even keeping the joints unmoved, that means how the artists deal with the material and the clay plainly reflects it. The difference is created continuously with the unchanged material and joints. This is what clay fascinates me. *Composition for Clay* is aiming at pursuit and creation of this attractiveness.

Motohiro Tomii  
January, 2015

#### ■ Opening Reception

Saturday, January 24, 2015, 18:00-20:00

Venue : Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku

#### ■ Related Information

In conjunction with the exhibition, a booklet *the plurality and lightness* Fumihiko Sumitomo, Director of Arts Maebashi, wrote on Motohiro Tomii will be published.

*The plurality and lightness*

Written by Fumihiko Sumitomo ¥2,000 (tax exclusive)

Only limited English edition of 500 copies available.

Designed by Kei Fujii

\*Purchase at the bookstores or online <http://ycassociates.thebase.in/>

**■ Profile**

- 1973 Born in Niigata, Japan  
1999 M.A., Fine Arts (Sculpture), Musashino Art University  
2000 Awarded Grand Prize at the 4th Art Kobo

## [Selected Solo Exhibitions]

- 2014 *SHOW-CASE project No.1 : 'three erasers'* Keio University Art Center, Tokyo, Japan  
*daily composition* Art Center Ongoing, Tokyo, Japan  
*Fabric Town in Nihonbashi* NICA, Tokyo, Japan  
*SHOW-CASE project No.0 : Blind Composition* Keio University Art Center, Tokyo, Japan
- 2013 *Straight Lines and Circumferences* switch point, Tokyo, Japan  
*combine' -still-* Yumiko Chiba Associates, Tokyo, Japan
- 2011 *Placing Colors and Shapes* Radi-um von Röntgenwerke AG, Tokyo, Japan
- 2010 *The requirements to make* The Art Gallery Kanazawa College of Art, Kanazawa, Japan  
*catch as catch can* GENDAI HEIGHTS Gallery DEN, Tokyo, Japan  
*STACK* NADiff a/p/a/r/t, Tokyo, Japan

## [Selected Group Exhibitions]

- 2014 *quadruple track* GENDAI HEIGHTS Gallery Den, Tokyo, Japan  
*The Yanase Villa Art Education Project 'Away Game'* The Yanase Villa, Saitama, Japan  
*Yukai* GENDAI HEIGHTS, Tokyo, Japan  
*Twentieth Anniversary Special MOT Collection Contacts* Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan  
*Drawing03 - preference* Shibuya Garo, Tokyo, Japan  
*Michikusa* Gendai Heights, Tokyo, Japan  
*4th Exhibition AGAIN-ST Sculpture is (not) Ornaments* Tohoku University of Art And Design Gallery, Yamagata, Japan  
*Twentieth Anniversary Special MOT Collection Chronicle 1995-* Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan  
*Takeo Paper Show 2014 Subtle* TOLOT, Tokyo, Japan  
*Shirakawa Yoshio dada, dada, da* Arts Maebashi, Gunma, Japan  
*Niigata Creation: Museum in Motion* Niigata City Art Museum, Niigata, Japan
- 2013-14 *MOT Collection part2 Acts of Sculpture-Use, Capture, Create* Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
- 2013 *"railroad siding 2013"* Former Tokorozawa School Lunch Center Number Two, Saitama  
*Omnilogue: Your Voice is Mine* Nus Museum, Singapore
- 2012 *Water and Land – Niigata Art Festival* Niigata City, Niigata, Japan
- 2011 *Re-Modernologio phase2: Observation and notation* Aomori Contemporary Art Centre, Aomori, Japan  
*CATCH THE LIGHT* Nagoya Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Tokyo, Japan  
*Yokohama Triennale 'Our Magic Hour' How much of the world can we know?* Yokohama Museum of Art, NYK-Waterfront Warehouse (BankART Studio NYK) and the surrounding areas, Kanagawa, Japan  
*MOT Annual 2011 Nearest Faraway* Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
- 2009 *Metamorphosis – Objects Today - Exhibition vol.2 Motohiro Tomii × Nobuhiro Nakanishi 'Transmutable Objects'* Gallery αM, Tokyo, Japan

## [Public Collection]

Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo

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■■ For further information or images, please contact Yumiko Chiba Associates.  
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Opening Hours: 12:00 - 19:00 (Closed on Sundays, Mondays, National Holidays)