

keiji uematsu

looking on the past from the future



Floating stone - Earthrise, 2020, Drawing on inkjet printing, 21 x 29,7 cm © Keiji Uematsu

/// opening wednesday April 12th from 6pm to 9pm

exhibition from Thursday April 13th to Saturday 29th July 2023

The baudoin lebon gallery presents Keiji Uematsu's exhibition «Looking back on the past from the future» from Thursday April 13th to Saturday 29th July 2023. The exhibition covers the artist's five-decade career and features four photographic series dating from the 1970s, in which he uses his own body by confronting it with objects in carefully orchestrated compositions, captured with a camera. By exploring the flux of time, he blurs the principles of attraction, gravity, weight and weightlessness. The exhibition also includes more recent drawings and sculptures, which reflect the artist's ongoing quest to highlight invisible forces and materialise intangible but universal phenomena.

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Keiji Uematsu (b. 1947, Kobe, Japan) is a conceptual artist associated with the post-war Japanese art movement, Mono-ha. Over a nearly five decades-long career, Uematsu has developed a highly cohesive body of work that has consistently sought to make visible the invisible relationships between objects and the spaces they inhabit. In 1972, he wrote: 'What I want to do is to make visible existence, visible connections and visible relations appear more clearly. And to cause non-visible existence, non-visible connections and non-visible relations to appear. And to cause visible existence, visible connections and visible relations not to appear'. The ideas of 'de-familiarising' space and focusing our attention on the natural forces of gravity, tension, and material attraction, whether through photography, drawing or sculptural installation, underpin his entire practice.

Uematsu graduated from the department of Fine Arts, Kobe University in 1969, at the very time when the new group of artists whose work later came to be associated with the name Mono-ha were rising to prominence. They proposed a radical conceptual practice which moved away from traditional forms of representation toward an engagement with materials, objects and their properties and it was in this creative context that Uematsu developed his artistic language. Yet although Uematsu came of artistic age during this time, his work is distinct from that of the Mono-ha group, influenced as it is by Western theory. In 1975 he moved from his native Japan to Dusseldorf. The following year he was the first Japanese artist ever to show at Moderna Museet, Stockholm, and he quickly developed concurrent exhibiting activities in Europe and Japan. His move came not only in the context of a rapidly developing conceptual art movement in Japan, but also of intense exchange between artists in Europe, North American and Asia. Uematsu's international influence today is far reaching thanks to both his innovative, conceptual approach to art making and his global outlook.

He has since received numerous awards, including the 38th Nakahara Teijiro Prize in 2013. His work has been shown in solo exhibitions worldwide, including baudoin lebon gallery (2016); Frieze Masters in London, UK (2014); Otani Memorial Art Museum in Hyogo, Japan (2006). Major group exhibitions include the National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan (2018); Tate, London, UK (2016); the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas (2007); and Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas (2015); National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan (2015). His work is housed in major international collections, including the Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, Paris, France; Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus und Kunstbau, Munich, Germany; The National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan; Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art, Kyoto, Japan; Moderna Museet Stockholm, Stockholm, Sweden and Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY, amongst others.



Keiji Uematsu's sculpture in front of La Maison du Moussel, guest artist of «Sculptures en l'île» 17th edition, Andrésey.

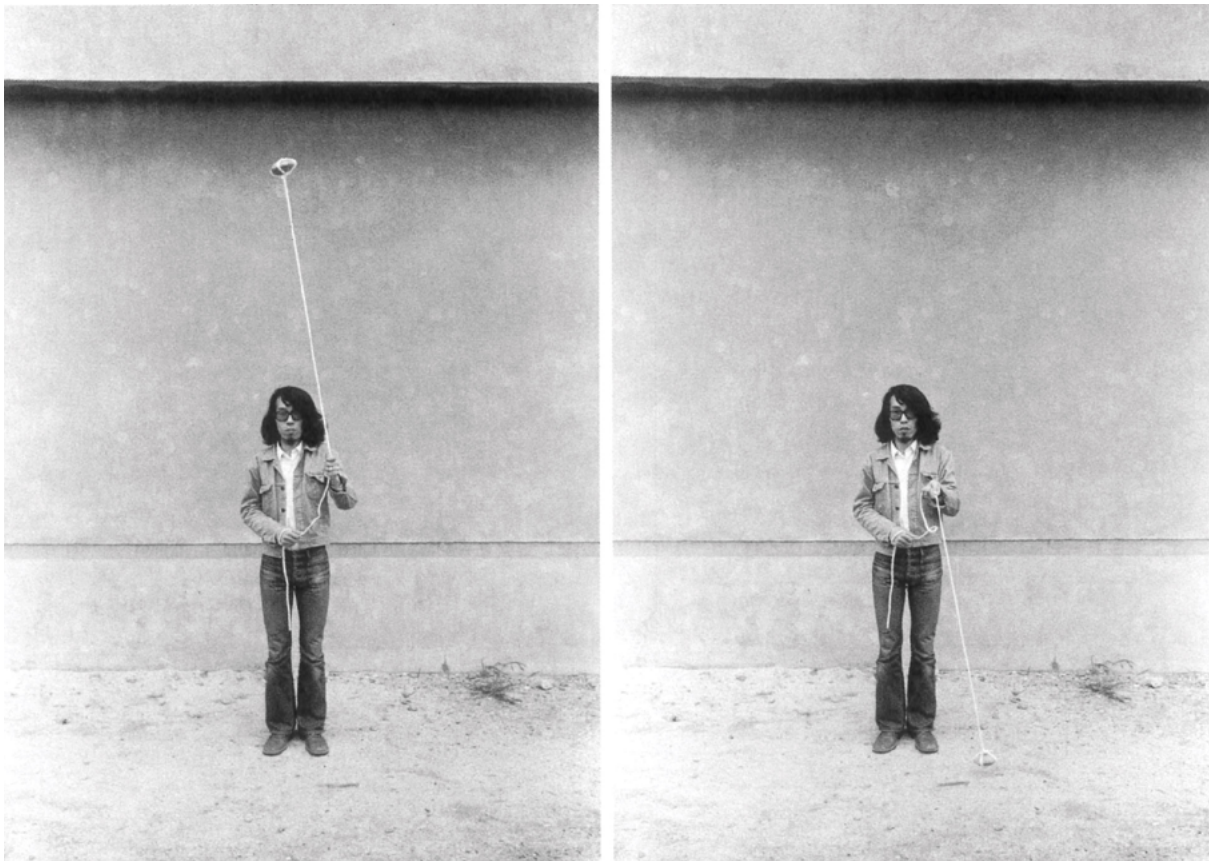
looking back on the past from the future

I want to discover something by making the structure, existence and relationships of the world more visible. I have been working with the idea of making the invisible things be visible. This is sometimes an interest in invisible and universal forces such as gravity and attraction between things, or a simple interest in fundamental objects and cosmic forces. It is also an inquiry into the existence of human beings surrounded by nature, the earth and the universe.

I used to say 'looking to the past and seeing the future', but this time I used the term 'looking back on the past from the future'. The word that is currently on my mind is 'the border between the known and the unknown'. I believe that works of art are born from the border between the knowledge and the unknown. The work that is born contains an orientation towards the unknown future. The work exhibited here is the past when viewed from the future, and the present is also the past when viewed from the future. The future becomes the present, which becomes the past, and the future continues forever. The future becomes the present, the past becomes the past, and the future continues forever. And the work continues to be made, and it is breathing all time.

The deeper the expression of the past, the deeper and denser the thoughts about the future, the stronger the expression of the present. I believe that the attitude from the past to the future shapes the present. I always hope to create a place where people who see my work can share the artist's spirituality that exists beyond time, and a small cosmic space where they can become one with the work and feel it with their bodies.

Keiji Uematsu
March, 2023



Keiji Uematsu, *Stone / Rope / Man III*, 1974, chaque photo : 73 x 51,5 cm, 2 photos, edition : 3 + 1 AP, 1974

selected solo exhibition

- 2022
An Invitation to a Nonsensical Journey - Dreams of Seeing, Kirishima Open Air Museum, Kagoshima, JP
- 2021
Way of Touching the Invisible-Intuition, Ashiya City Museum of Art and History, Ashiya, JP
- 2019
Invisible Force, Simon Lee Gallery, NY, US
Look back on the future-Hypothesis, Gallery Nomart, Osaka, JP
Invisible Force and Floating, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku, Tokyo, JP
- 2018
Invisible Force, Galerie Loehrl, Monchengladbach, DE
- 2017
Beyond Sculpture: Drawing as Object, Object as Drawings, BB Plaza Museum of Art, Kobe, JP
Invisible Gravity, Gallery Nomart, Osaka, JP
- 2016
Invisible Force, Simon Lee Gallery, London, UK
Invisible Force, Künstlerverein Malkasten, Düsseldorf, DE
Seeing / measuring / ..., baudoin lebon, Paris, FR
- 2015
Invisible Force, Arario Gallery, Séoul & Cheonan, KR
- 2014
Invisible axis - distance and angle, Gallery Nomart, Osaka, JP
Frieze Masters, London, UK
- 2012
Gravity. Anti gravity Axis gravity and anti-gravity axis, Gallery Nomart, Osaka, JP
Parallèles dans l'espace-temps avec Vladimir Skoda, baudoin lebon, Paris, FR
- 2009
Keiji Uematsu, Gallery Nomart, Osaka, JP
- 2006
The Garden of Time, Otani Memorial Art Museum, Nishinomiya, Hyogo, JP
- 2003
Eyes under physical consideration, photographs, video and films, 1972-2003 Municipal Museum Museum of Art, Fukuoka, JP
Inclination of the Earth's Axis, Aomori Contemporary Art Center, JP
- 2001
Floating Form-Axis, City Gallery Ikeda, Osaka, JP
Keiji Uematsu, baudoin lebon, Paris, FR
Vertical & Horizontal Space-Axis, Shinanobashi Gallery, Osaka, JP

selected group show

- 2023
Collection Special Feature 2: Mel Bochner 2 Japanese Artists, The National Museum of Art, Osaka, JP
- 2022
Five Topics on Museum Collection, Otani Memorial Art Museum, Nishinomiya city, Hyogo, JP
Hello Super Collection, Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka, JP
- 2021
Teijirou Nakahara Prize 50th Anniversary Special Exhibition, Asahigawa city Museum of Sculpture, Hokkaidou, JP
Dans l'oeil de Daniel Pommereulle, Galerie Christophe Gaillard, Paris, FR
The drawing from 'A to 'Z from Arakawa to Zao Wou-Ki, baudoin lebon, Paris, FR
Human Story told through Picture-Special exhibition - Sculptor drawings, BB Plaza Museum of Art, Hyogo, JP
- 2020
Game of Sight: the Delightful Connection between Art and Eyes, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art, Kyoto, JP
Deutsche Kunst im 20 Jahrhundert, The Tokushima Modern Art Museum, Tokushima, JP
The Kyoyo City KYOCERA Museum of Art Inaugural Exhibition 250 Years of Kyoto Art Masterpieces, Kyoyo City KYOCERA Museum of Art, Kyoto, JP
Collection: the Aesthetics of Contemporary Japan, The National Museum of Art Osaka, Osaka, JP
- 2019
G=9.8 N.kg 1 Dave Hardy, Keiji Uematsu, Letha Wilson, Galerie Christophe Gaillard, Paris, FR
La Mesure du Monde, Musée Régional d'Art Contemporain Occitanie, FR
30th Miracle Vol 1, Vol 2, Vol 5, Gallery Nomart, Osaka, JP
Inside Out: Jiro Takamatsu and Keiji Uematsu in Conversation, Royal Society of Sculptors, London, UK
Awakenings: Art in Society in Asia 1960s-1990s, National Gallery, Singapore Asago Art Village, Hyogo, JP
Boundaries, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art, JP
Awakenings: Art in Society in Asia 1960s 1990s, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, KR
- 2018
Pretty Good Privacy, China Academy of Art Museum, Zhejiang, CH
Birds of a Feather Flock Together, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art, Japan JP
Awakenings: Art in Society in Asia 1960s 1990s, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, JP
COMPLEX - edition & multiple, Gallery Nomart, Osaka, JP
TOWARDS INFINITY: 1965 1980, Simon Lee Gallery, New York, US
- 2014
In/Between w/ Nobuko Watanabe, baudoin lebon, Paris, FR
Keiji Uematsu with Nobuko Watanabe, «Sculptures en l'Île» 7th edition, Andrésy, FR

selected award

- 2013
The 38th Nakahara Teijiro Prize
- 2010
The Kobe city Cultural Prize
- 1999
The 6th Asago 2001 Outdoor Sculpture in Tataragi '99, Grand Prize
- 1998
The 22nd Iue Culture Prize
- 1997
The 28th Nakahara Teijiro Excellent Prize
The 17th Exhibition of Contemporary Japanese Sculpture, Ube-Industry Ltd. Prize, Museum of Modern Art, Hyogo
- 1996
The 23rd Open Air Sculpture of Nagano City Prize
- 1995
The 16th Exhibition of Contemporary Japanese Sculpture Ube-Industry Ltd. Prize
- 1993
The 15th Exhibition of Contemporary Japanese Sculpture Ube-Industry Ltd. Prize, Museum of Modern Art, Kanagawa Prize
- 1990
The 12th Contemporary Sculpture Exhibition, Grand Prize
- 1974
The Kobe City Cultural Encouragement Prize
- 1973
The 8th Japan Art Festival Excellent Prize

selected museum & public collections

- Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris
Musée Réattu, Arles
Kunsthalle Bremen, Bremen
Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg
Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus und Kunstbau München, Munich
Städtisches Museum Wiesbaden, Wiesbaden
Wilhelm-Hack-Museum, Ludwigshafen
Busan Metropolitan Art Museum, Corée
Aomori Contemporary Art Centre, Aomori
The Hakone Open-Air Museum, Kanagawa
Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art
Otani Memorial Art Museum, Nishinomiya City
The National Museum of Art, Osaka
The Museum of Modern Art, Kamakura & Hayama
Kirishima Open-Air Museum, Kurino, Kagoshima
The Hakone Open-Air Museum, Kanagawa Moderna
Asahikawa Museum of Sculpture, Asahikawa
The Tokushima Modern Art Museum, Tokushima
Museum of Modern Art Shiga, Shiga
Museet Stockholm, Stockholm
The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY

selected bibliography

- 2016
Photography at MoMA 1960 - Now, MoMA, New York, USA
- 2011
Peyrassol - Parc de sculptures, Peyrassol, France
- 2005
The History Book on Moderna Museet 1958-2008, Moderna Museet Steid, Sweden and Germany
- 2004
20 JAHRE DORTMUNDER KUNSTUEREIN, Dortmund Kunstverein, Germany
- 1998
La Collection de la Fondation Cartier pour l'art Contemporain, Actes Sud, France
- 1991
Contemporary Japanese Sculpture, Abbeville press, USA
Fotografie in Düsseldorf, Patmos Verlag GmbH, Germany
- 1984
Du mont Foto 5-Die Japanische Fotografie, Du Mont Buchverlag, Germany
Art '83~'84, Editions du chêne, Paris

visuals available



Keiji Uematsu
Floating stone - Earthrise, 2020
Drawing on inkjet print, 21 x 29,7 cm, Unique piece
© Keiji Uematsu courtesy baudoin lebon



Keiji Uematsu
Touch of spiral branch, 2014
Brass, 115 x 116 x 6.8 cm, Unique piece
© Keiji Uematsu courtesy baudoin lebon



Keiji Uematsu
Seeing II - Flower, 1975
series of 3 photographs, silver print
Each image: 40 x 50 cm, frame: 41 x 51 cm
Edition N° 2/4
© Keiji Uematsu courtesy baudoin lebon



Keiji Uematsu
Measuring - Landscape I, 1976
series of 5 photographs, silver print
Each image: 40 x 50,5 cm, frame: 42.5 x 53 cm
Edition N° 3/4
© Keiji Uematsu courtesy baudoin lebon



Keiji Uematsu
Interval - Three Stones, 1976
series of 3 photographs, silver print
Each image: 39.2 x 49.2 cm, frame: 40 x 50 cm
Edition N° 4/4
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