

# Yamamoto Keiko Rochaix

PRESS RELEASE

## As you see it

Ryohei Kan

22 March - 17 May 2019

Private view and opening reception: 21th March 2019, 6pm - 9pm

Yamamoto Keiko Rochaix is pleased to present the first showing of works of Ryohei Kan in the UK. The artist investigates the issues concerning 'void' and 'reality and conceived reality' through works of video, mixed media installation, photography and other graphic works, portraying various facets of empty space within architectural structures. The video and the installation, central to the exhibition, are designed to be in tune with the structural elements of the gallery, thus providing the best vantage point when viewing in the gallery space.

The video 'Endless Gallery', projected life-size at the gallery's basement main room, invites the audience into the screen to explore the imaginary space from room to room, along with another person, invisible but sensed by the sound of accompanying footsteps. Both visual and acoustic elements of the piece are created exclusively by digital means, from the stains of the floor to the holes on a wall left from hanging previous works and the almost inaudible sound of failing/flickering florescent lights.

The air of nonchalant creation in the photographic works is no less deceiving. The seemingly uneventful snapshots of architectural elements' play with light and shadow are the result of the painstaking composition, staged mostly physically with the models Kan scrupulously produced, while some are digitally created.

The emerging artist has constantly produced works which explore the boundary between physical reality and created reality, a reality formulated according to human concepts or ideals. Kan toys with the boundaries with his meticulous contrivances, virtually conjuring up what we see with what we think we see. The artist nonetheless claims that he is only presenting what you see, and there is nothing more to be explored or examined, hence the enigmatic title for the show, 'As you see it'. Such assertion may seem contradictory, but it reflects his belief that his work is independent of the viewers' perception of it. They seek to liberate the viewer and enable them to experience whatever it is they experience, whether it be actual or imaginary.

Kan's creations possess a striking visual poetry, comparable to multi-sensorial haikus, a form of literature initiated in the land of his compatriots. His photographic works crystallise the static beauty portraying sections of life, sections of thoughts, or sections of daydreams. The video possesses almost

hypnotic quality with its tireless, repetitive nature leading to the promise of eternity, comparable to the effect one receives when listening to a Bach fugue. Immaculate aesthetics reminiscent of the minimalism of 70's with streamlined visuals of restrained monochromatic palette, from black through almost infinite shades of grey to white, contributes to the meditative property of the work.

Ryohei Kan

Born 1983 in Ehime, Japan, in 1983. Will live and work in Tokyo from spring 2019. Diploma Meisterschüler from the Academy of Fine Arts Munich, Germany under Prof. Florian Pumhösl. PhD and MFA, both in oil painting from the Tokyo University of the Arts. Solo exhibitions include 'In the Walls' Shiseido Gallery, Tokyo, 2017, 'Room A.EG\_05', Academy of Fine Arts Munich, Munich, 2014, 'White Cube', Tokyo Wonder Site Hongo, Tokyo, 2013, and 'Black Box', Yokoi Fine Art, Tokyo 2010. Selected group exhibitions include 'Shell Artists Slection', National Art Center, Tokyo, 2018, 'The Pandora's Box: Finding the Wondrous in the Geidai Collection, The University Art Museum, The Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo, 2017, 'First Attacks!', Space Wunderkammer, Tokyo, 2014, 'Tokyo Wonder Wall 2012' The Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, 2012. Selected awards include; runner up, Shiseido Art Egg, 2017, Grand-prix, The 1st Makurazaki International Art Award, 2016, Judge's Award, Shell Art Award 2012, 2012. Public collections include The University Art Museum, Tokyo University of the Arts and Makurazaki Nameikan Cultural Resource Center, Makurazaki, Japan.

The artist and the gallery would like to extend their gratitude for the generous support and assistance of the following institutions, companies and individuals:

Japan Arts Foundation



Nomura Foundation



Shiseido



Color Science Labo (Tokyo), Wataru Shoji, Shosuke Watanabe

We will organise a talk event with the artist toward the end of the exhibition period. Detail to be announced at a later date.

For further information, images or to arrange interviews please contact:

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Address: 19 Goulston St, London, E1 7TP

Dates: 22h March - 17 May 2019

Private View: Thursday 21th March 2019

Opening Hours: Wednesday to Saturday, 11am – 6pm

Travel: Aldgate East, Aldgate, Liverpool Street, Whitechapel

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