

August 30, 2016

BODY/PLAY/POLITICSVenue: **Yokohama Museum of Art**Dates: **October 1 (Sat) - December 14 (Wed), 2016**


**BODY/
PLAY /
POLITICS**

1. UuDam Tran Nguyen, *Serpents' Tails*, 2015
© UuDam Tran Nguyen. Courtesy of the artist.

2. Yee I-Lann, *Santa!*, 2016. ©Yee I-Lann

3. Yinka Shenibare MBE,
Addis del Fassata, 2011. Courtesy the artist and
James Cohan Gallery, New York

2016.10.1. Sat. ---
12.14. Wed.
Closed on Thursdays (except Nov.3) and Nov.4, Fri.

The Yokohama Museum of Art is proud to present *BODY/PLAY/POLITICS* from Saturday, October 1 to Wednesday, December 14, 2016.

BODY/PLAY/POLITICS presents contemporary works of art that delve from a variety of angles into images that have been generated throughout history by “the body,” which encompasses the individual human body, our collective actions, and spiritual presences. There is a tendency in our society to label specific bodies as healthy or unhealthy, beautiful or ugly, and to envision certain modes of behavior as representative of the entire group, which we classify such as “typically Japanese.” In other cases, minor deviations from norms or expectations can elicit strange feelings in observers and cause entirely different meanings to be perceived.

In a world cohabited by people with all sorts of skin colors, ethnicities, religions, gender norms and lifestyles, where the colors, forms, or behaviors of individual bodies are not inherently vested with specific meanings, over the course of millennia many value judgments and hierarchies have arisen in societies and are all too often linked to tragedies of history.

The six artists featured in this exhibition are from Europe/ Africa, Southeast Asia, and Japan. Their works express, in poetic and sometimes humor-inflected ways, aspects of history that manifest themselves through the body, looking toward the future and bringing the shapes of new ideas and meanings into view.

Artists

■ Yinka Shonibare MBE

Born 1962 in London, UK. Lives and works in London.

Shonibare was born in London and moved to Lagos, Nigeria at the age of three. He returned to London to study Fine Art, first at Byam Shaw School of Art (now Central Saint Martins College) and then at Goldsmiths, where he received his MFA.

Shonibare's work explores issues of race, class and colonialism through the media of painting, sculpture, photography and film. His trademark material is the brightly coloured 'African' batik fabric he buys in London. This type of fabric was inspired by Indonesian design, mass-produced by the Dutch and finally sold to the colonies in West Africa. It has become a sign of African identity and independence.

In this exhibition, in addition to the sculptural works, Shonibare presents a film piece in which a female singer laments. She is wearing a 19th century French-style dress made of Dutch wax printed cotton textile. She plays the role of Violetta who is a heroine of the opera *La Traviata* by Verdi, and sings the aria "Addio del passato."



©James Mollison 2014

■ Yee I-Lann

Born 1971 in Sabah, Malaysia. Lives and works in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Yee I-Lann creates photographic, video, and installation works that explore issues of culture, power and the role of historical memory in contemporary social experiences. In this show, she exhibits a video installation inspired by the notorious Pontianak, a prominent female ghost figure in South East Asian folklore. Typically depicted as a woman monster in white robes with long disheveled black hair, she is also known as Kuntilanak in Indonesia, Nang Tani in Thailand and Cambodia, and the foetus and child-eating Aswang in the Philippines. In different legends, she is the spirit of a woman who died during childbirth; or because she was raped; or she exists to address the wrong that men commit against the female sex. She serves to strike fear in the hearts of men and as such often cuts an abject figure, and is a favourite subject of horror movies. Yee I-Lann proposes

Pontianak can be reclaimed as a figure of female agency and revives her as a symbol of the voiceless female experience through contemporary young women. *Imagining Pontianak: I've Got Sunshine On A Cloudy Day* seeks to elicit opinions on womanhood and childbirth-related pressures and broader social conditions in South East Asia from these women's perspectives.



©Joe Kidd

■ Apichatpong Weerasethakul

Born 1970 in Bangkok, Thailand. Living and working in Chiang Mai.

Brought up in Khon Kaen, northeastern Thailand, Weerasethakul has dealt with the political complexities of the region poetically and symbolically in his films and videos. In 2010, his film *Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives* (2010) won Palme d'Or in Cannes Film Festival. His latest, *Cemetery of Splendour* (2015), has been screening all over Japan this year.

This exhibition features the Japanese premiere of his 2016 video installation *Fireworks (Fans)*, the latest installment in his *Fireworks* series, which was begun in 2014. It is his first installation in the city of Yokohama since the Yokohama Triennale in 2011.



photograph by Chai Siris

■UuDam Tran Nguyen

Born in 1971 in Kon Tum, Vietnam. Lives and works in Ho Chi Minh.

UuDam studied art in Vietnam and the United States. Throughout his years in both countries, he has created movement-oriented works including video-based performances, sculptures, and interactive projects such as a drawing machine remotely controlled over the Internet. In this exhibition, he presents a 3 channel video installation, *Serpents' Tails*. In that motorcycles, which rule the roads of Vietnam, circulate freely around the old city of Ho Chi Minh like blood cells circulating throughout a body. They pass endless



buildings crowded together, ranging from remnants of the French colonial era to modern architecture built during Ho Chi Minh City's rapid development making it the Socialist Republic of Vietnam's main commercial city after unification. The city itself comes to resemble a giant creature harboring a complex history and tenacious life force.

■Ishikawa Ryuichi

Born in 1984 in Ginowan, Okinawa. Lives and works in Ginowan, Okinawa, Japan.

Only 10 years after picking up his first camera, Ishikawa has already made a powerful impact on the world of photography, including winning both the Kimura Ihei Award and the Photographic Society of Japan Newcomer's Award in 2015, with his breathlessly tension-filled images of the scenery and people of Okinawa where he lives. In this exhibition, he presents for the first time photographic portraits and landscapes taken both in Okinawa and in other places, as well as a new series that continuously follows a certain two people over several years.

Ishikawa's photographs show us a new side of the Japan we thought we knew, and the raw, diverse realities of Okinawa far removed from its conventional image. The artist directs his distinctly affectionate gaze at people who strive, however awkwardly at times, to live life to the fullest, compellingly showing us the value of human lives which cannot be measured by any uniform scale.

**■Tamura Yuichiro**

Born in 1977 in Toyama, Japan. Lives and works in Atami, Japan.

Working in a wide range of media including video, photography, installation and performance, Tamura delves into the memory and history of localities and transforms these into new narratives that transcend time and space, presenting works that investigate the contemporary significance of past events. This exhibition features his new video installation focusing on the history of modern bodybuilding. Originating in Prussia in the 19th century, modern bodybuilding soon spread from Europe to America and thence to Japan via Yokohama under post-World War II Allied occupation, creating a new image of the body for the modern era. This work delivers a new, unknown story of postwar Yokohama via a new dramatic piece narrated by a fictional storyteller reminiscent of Mishima Yukio, and also incorporates a collaboration with Tada Junnosuke, a participant in this exhibition's partner project



Yokohama Dance Collection 2017.



Yinka Shonibare MBE,
Addio del Passato, 2011
Courtesy the artist and James Cohan Gallery,
New York



Yee I-Lann,
Santai, 2016
©Yee I-Lann



Apichatpong Weerasethakul,
Fireworks (Fans), 2016
Courtesy of Apichatpong Weerasethakul



UuDam Tran Nguyen,
From *Serpents' Tails*, 2015
© UuDam Tran Nguyen. Courtesy of the artist.



Ishikawa Ryuichi,
Urasoe, The Hand of Guppy, 2012
©Ryuichi Ishikawa



Tamura Yuichiro,
From *Milky Bay*, 2016

Event *Language: English/ Japanese**1. Artist Talk**

Artists UuDam Tran Nguyen, Apichatpong Weerasethakul
 Date and Time October 1 (Sat.), 2016 13:45-16:30 (Doors open 13:15)
 Venue Circular Forum at Yokohama Museum of Art
 Capacity 100
 Admission Free

2. Asia Art Week Forum Ripples - Art in Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia in the 20th Century

Date and Time October 2 (Sun.), 2016
 [Session 1] 13:00-16:00 (Doors open 12:30)
 [Session 2] 17:30-20:30 (Doors open 17:00)
 Venue [Session 1] Circular Forum at Yokohama Museum of Art
 [Session 2] Site-D Beneath the Railways (1-2, Koganecho, Naka-ku, Yokohama)
 Capacity 100 for each venue
 Admission Free
 Time Table [Session 1]
 13:00-14:00 Keynote Speech
1868-1945: Change of the Body View in Japan During the Modern Period [from the End of Edo period until WW2]
 Kawata Akihisa [Art Historian, Professor, Chiba Institute of Technology]
 14:00-16:00 Breakout Session 1
Feminism Movement in Malaysia and Indonesia after 1950s
—from Artists' Point of View
 Panelists: Yee I-Lann [Artist]
 Kokatsu Reiko
 [Art Historian and Critique of Modern and Contemporary Art]
 Moderator: Kimura Eriko [Curator, Yokohama Museum of Art]
 [Session 2]
 17:30-19:30 Breakout Session 2
Ono Saseo and the Art in Indonesia in 1940s
 Panelists: Antariksa [Historian, co-founder of KUNCI Cultural Studies Center]
 Ono Kosei
 [Chairman, Japan Society for Studies in Cartoons and Comics]
 Moderator: Yamano Shingo [Director, Koganecho Bazaar]
 19:30-20:30 Discussion by panelists
 Organized by The City of Yokohama, Yokohama Museum of Art
 Project management: Koganecho Area Management Center

3. Live Performance

YASEIHA: Third accident of the great curry (I cannot hear you without wifi)

Performer YASEIHA [Ishikawa Ryuichi + Yoshihama Syo+ Miyagi Futoshi + Watanabe Go
+ Reuben Keehan + Kimura Eriko]
Date and Time October 28 (Fri.), 2016 19:00-20:30
Venue Grand Gallery at Yokohama Museum of Art
Admission Free
Co-organized by Yokohama Otomatsuri 2016

Partner Project

Yokohama Dance Collection 2017 “BODY/PLAY/POLITICS”

Dates January 26, Thursday -February 19, Sunday, 2017
Venue Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse No.1
Yokohama Nigiwai-za Small Hall
Artists Damien Jalet, Nawa Kohei, Tada Junnosuke,
Eisa Jocson, etc.

For inquiries Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse No.1
Tel: +81 (0) 45-211-1515
<http://www.yokohama-dance-collection-r.jp/en/>



Damien Jalet | Nawa Kohei
VESSEL

Admission

Adults	¥1,500 (1,300/ 1,400)
University and high school students	¥1,000 (800/ 900)
Junior high school students	¥ 600 (400/ 500)
Children under 12	Free
Seniors (65 and Older)	¥1,400 *ID required. Only available at ticket counter in the museum.

*)= Advance/Group of 20 or more.

*Advance tickets are available at the Museum Shop from September 1 through September 30, 2016.

*Free admission on November 3, 2016.

*For a group of 20 or more, reservation is required in advance.

*Free admission for high school students and younger with valid IDs on Saturdays.

*Visitors with disability and one person accompanying them are admitted free of charge.

(Please present certificate at the entrance.)

*The ticket also gives admission to the Exhibition of the Museum Collection for the same day.

General Information

Title: *BODY/PLAY/POLITICS*
Dates: October 1 (Sat.)-December 14 (Wed.), 2016
Open hours: 10:00-18:00 (Last admission at 17:30)
* Open until 20:30 on October 28 (Fri.), 2016 (Last admission at 20:00)
Closed: Thursdays (except November 3), November 4 (Fri.)
Venue: Yokohama Museum of Art
3-4-1, Minatomirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama 220-0012
TEL:+81(0)45 221 0300 FAX:+81(0)45 221 0317
URL: <http://yokohama.art.museum/eng>

Curator: Kimura Eriko
Co-Curators: Matsunaga Shintaro, Katada Yuko, Hibino Miyon

Organized by: Yokohama Museum of Art [Yokohama Arts Foundation]
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Yokohama FM Broadcasting Co., Ltd., Metropolitan Expressway Co., Ltd.
Project Partner: Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse No.1 [Yokohama Arts Foundation]

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