

**A museum exhibition by artist Momose Aya,
who uses video and performance techniques to explore questions of gender and sexuality**

Towada Art Center Exhibition
Momose Aya: Interpreter

Saturday, December 10, 2022–Sunday, June 4, 2023



From December 10 (Sat) 2022 to June 4 (Sun) 2023, the Towada Art Center is pleased to present *Interpreter*, a solo exhibition by Momose Aya. Taking as her theme the imbalances that arise in our communications with others, Momose explores questions around the body, sexuality and gender, mainly in video works. At this exhibition she unveils a new sound installation on the theme of female voice actors, titled *Etude for a Voice Actor*. *Etude for a Voice Actor* features just a “voice” with no accompanying animation showing the appearance and gestures of the character that would make it possible to discern their sex. This “voice” divorced from any visuals manifests as a fluid presence transcending sex. In addition to this latest work, *Interpreter* features a number of earlier offerings by the artist that show relationships with others of different ages and sexes, and the invisible presences and suppression behind these relationships. These include *Social Dance*, which depicts misunderstandings arising in communication between a deaf woman and a hearing man; and *Fixed Point Observation [With My Father]* in which Momose’s father gives oral responses to 173 questions written by the artist, only to find those responses starting to diverge from what he originally intended.

Momose’s title for her exhibition refers to the way an interpreter, in the role of intermediary, proceeds by taking a few words, and trying to imagine the feelings of the speaker, strings together words in another language. It also evokes the multiple layers that evolve within communication, for example the way a conversation can end up progressing in accordance with the interpreter’s misreading, and the speaker taking in the words of the interpreter. It also calls to mind how the voice goes beyond one’s own body and to and from another’s, in the manner that the blind female itako shamans of the Tohoku region serve as mediums (interpreters), or conduits for dialog between the spirits of the dead, and those who seek contact with them. *Interpreter* offers the opportunity to turn your ear to some “voices” whose existence has been suppressed and denied.

Contact

Towada Art Center Communications: Otani Sae
Tel. +81(0)176-20-1127 Fax. +81(0)176-20-1138
press@towadaartcenter.com www.towadaartcenter.com

Momose Aya on her new work *Etude for a Voice Actor*

I'd always harbored a certain curiosity about the occupation of voice actor. When we look at a character, we cannot see the person voicing that character. The moment one tries to connect the voices of voice actors to their bodies in the flesh, the characters lose their voices, and their identity as those figures collapses. In Japan the parts of young boys have traditionally been voiced by women. On hearing the voices of these young male characters, these voices of the yet to be differentiated, exactly how do we determine that they are boys? Do voices in themselves, have gender? This installation is a device akin to a slide projector, designed to conjure up in our minds fluid bodies of this sort.

Exhibition Highlights

1. Momose Aya on her new work *Etude for a Voice Actor*

I'd always harbored a certain curiosity about the occupation of voice actor. When we look at a character, we cannot see the person voicing that character. The moment one tries to connect the voices of voice actors to their bodies in the flesh, the characters lose their voices, and their identity as those figures collapses. In Japan the parts of young boys have traditionally been voiced by women. On hearing the voices of these young male characters, these voices of the yet to be differentiated, exactly how do we determine that they are boys? Do voices in themselves, have gender? This installation is a device akin to a slide projector, designed to conjure up in our minds fluid bodies of this sort.

2. Debut of the artist's latest work *Etude for a Voice Actor*, made for the exhibition

Momose debuts here her new work *Etude for a Voice Actor*, made especially for the exhibition. As a sound installation, *Etude for a Voice Actor* also represents a new venture for an artist whose work to date has been focused primarily on video. The dimly lit space, with a single light that fluctuates to coincide with the voice, contains a stand mike, evoking a recording studio where the voices for characters are dubbed. The voice audible from empty space gradually gives visual form to a presence we were not trying to see.

3. Artist talk and video screening

Also planned for the exhibition are a talk by the artist, and a screening of one of her works, *Flos Pavonis*, made in 2021. Showing the situation in Poland following the tightening of abortion laws in 2021, and state of abortion law in Japan, it also calls to mind the strengthening of state control over the bodies of individuals during the pandemic. Momose will give a talk after the screening.

Contact

Towada Art Center Communications: Otani Sae
Tel. +81(0)176-20-1127 Fax. +81(0)176-20-1138
press@towadaartcenter.com www.towadaartcenter.com



About the Artists

MOMOSE Aya



Photo: Kanagawa Shingo

Artist. Born in 1988, Aya Momose earned an MFA in painting from Musashino Art University in 2013. She is currently based in Tokyo. Momose uses video to reconsider video, a self-referential methodology that explores the complexities of communicating with others. In recent years, her works have delved deeper into questions about sexuality and gender, grappling with issues of the body as reflected on screen. Momose's recent solo exhibitions include *I.C.A.N.S.E.E.Y.O.U* (EFAG East Factory Art Gallery, 2014) and *Voice Samples* (Art Gallery 1, Yokohama Museum of Art, 2020).

Her recent group exhibitions include *FEMINISMS* (21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, 2021), *New 'Artists Today' Exhibition 2021 – Contours of Life* (Yokohama Civic Art Gallery), *Roppongi Crossing 2016: My Body, Your Voice* (Mori Art Museum), *Artist File 2015 Next Doors: Contemporary Art in Japan and Korea* (The National Art Center, Tokyo), and more.

Active both in Japan and abroad in recent years, Momose has participated in an artist residency program in New York sponsored by the Asian Cultural Council (ACC) and collaborated with Im Heung-soon on "Exchange Diary," a project selected for the Korea Cinemascope section of 20th Jeonju International Film Festival. Her works are also included in significant public collections housed at the Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, the Yokohama Museum of Art, and the Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka.

Public Program

Artist's talk

Date: December 10, 2022 / Time: 14:00 – 15:00

Location: Towada Public Library – Multi-purpose training room

Admission: Free *Ticket for the exhibition is required.

Speaker: Momose Aya

Gallery talk by curator

Date: January 21, 2023 / Time: 13:00 – 14:00

Location: Towada Art Center – Special Exhibition Room

Admission: Free *Ticket for the exhibition is required.

Screening of the video work *Flos Pavonis*

Date: March 4, 2023 / Time: 17:00 – 18:00

Location: Towada Community Center

Admission: Free *Ticket for the exhibition is required.

Speaker: Momose Aya

*Additional events will be held throughout the exhibition period. Details will be announced at a later date.

*Schedule is subject to change. We update our website regularly, so please check there for the latest information.

Contact

Towada Art Center Communications: Otani Sae

Tel. +81(0)176-20-1127 Fax. +81(0)176-20-1138

press@towadaartcenter.com www.towadaartcenter.com

About the Exhibition

Title	Momose Aya: Interpreter
Dates	Saturday, December 10, 2022–Sunday, June 4, 2023
Hours	9:00 – 17:00 (Last admission at 16:30)
Closed	Mondays (Except for National Holidays, in which case the art center will close the following day). *Please check our website for the latest information.
Location	Towada Art Center
Admission	1,800 yen 200 yen discount for groups of 20 or more Under 18: free
Organized by	Towada Art Center
Sponsored by	Kigoshi Jun (Art & Railways)
Supported by	Pacific House Textile Co., Ltd.
Endorsed by	Asahi Broadcasting Aomori Co., Ltd., Aomori Broadcasting Corporation, Aomori Television Broadcasting Co., Ltd., The Daily-Tohoku Shimbun Inc., The To-o Nippo Press, and Towada City Board of Education
Curator	Mitome Sayaka

Towada Art Center

The Towada Art Center opened in 2008 as the first contemporary art center in Japan's Tohoku region. The art center's permanent exhibition is comprised of 38 works by world-class artists, including Yayoi Kusama, Yoshitomo Nara, Shiota Chiharu, and Ron Mueck. The collection expands beyond the art center to the Art Square, a park-like area where children and adults alike can stroll, relax, and interact with the outdoor artwork.

10-9 Nishi-Nibancho, Towada, Aomori 034-0082



Contact

Towada Art Center Communications: Otani Sae
Tel. +81(0)176-20-1127 Fax. +81(0)176-20-1138
press@towadaartcenter.com www.towadaartcenter.com

Promotional Artwork

Please circle the number of the desired image and send this request form by email or fax.

Fax: +81(0)176-20-1138 / Email: press@towadaartcenter.com

10-9 Nishi-Nibancho, Towada-shi, Aomori Tel: +81 (0) 176-20-1127

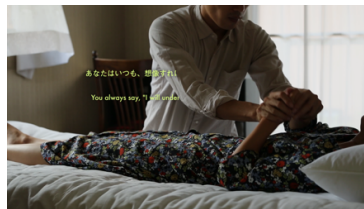
Towada Art Center Communications: Otani Sae

[1]



Interpreter, 2022
Inkjet print on paper.
Size variable.

[2]



Social Dance, 2019
Single-channel video, 10'33"

[3]



Fixed Point Observation
(With My Father), 2013–2014
Single-channel video, 10'26"

[4]



The Examination, 2014
Single-channel video, 7'2"

[5]



Flos Pavonis, 2021
Single-channel video, 30'

[6]



Photo: Kanagawa Shingo

[7]



Towada Art Center

Media Name

Newspaper | Magazine | Museum | TV | WEB | Other
()

Company Name

Contact Person

Address

Telephone

Email Address

Rules for Image Reproduction

1. Please include all credits.
2. Please do not crop the images.
3. Please do not cover any part of the images with text.
4. Please contact the Towada Art Center with a draft for confirmation before publishing.

Contact

Towada Art Center Communications: Otani Sae
Tel. +81(0)176-20-1127 Fax. +81(0)176-20-1138
press@towadaartcenter.com www.towadaartcenter.com

