

A solo exhibition by Mino Arata, known for his transdisciplinary work and background in theater and photography

Towada Art Center Satellite Venue space Exhibition

Mino Arata: Till Things Are Quiet

September 16 –December 17, 2023



Photo: Mino Arata, Design: Ishizuka Shun

Towada Art Center will hold a solo exhibition of the artist Mino Arata at its satellite venue space from September 16 to December 17, 2023.

With a background in theater and photography, the transdisciplinary artist Mino Arata writes scripts based on the histories and memories that lie dormant in a place or landscape, which he then stages in the form of performances and installations.

Long interested in the issue of United States military bases in Japan, Mino has previously created work about Okinawa, where around 70 percent of US military bases in the country are located. This exhibition features his new script, *Till Things Are Quiet*, which he wrote based on research conducted in Misawa, Aomori, home to a US air force base. In his earlier *To/From Kuba*, Mino explored the problems related to an artist living in Tokyo's right to address Okinawa in their work. Last year, he spent six months in New York doing research for a work dealing from a more macro perspective with how we live with a sense of impending war. Inhabiting as we do in an increasingly uncertain world, Mino's new work calls on us to confront what is sleeping under the surface of our minds.

The exhibition comprises a series of installations at several sites, including Towada Art Center's satellite venue space and other locations around the city. It employs an experimental approach by which the script is spread across the various venues. Visitors move from venue to venue, reading the different parts of the script and gradually experiencing the whole work.

Contact

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Highlights

A script “performed” as a video installation across four locations in Towada

The venues include space, Towada Art Center’s satellite venue, as well as a community space, hotel, and outdoor site. Mino stages the script using a diverse range of elements, including LED signboards on which the script is displayed, monitors, the actors’ voices, landscape photography, and neon tube lights. Together, these form the performance of a script, while also functioning as individual parts that can be read in any order. Moving between venues and the different parts of the script, viewers experience a unique promenade performance-installation in which they take an active role.

A psychodrama about a military base

and airplane. The bed can sleep despite the noise outside, but the sofa finds itself unable to sleep until things become quiet outside. And then the airplane arrives from somewhere, accompanied by the sounds of jet engines. Neither dream nor reality, the conversation that unfolds among these characters gradually blurs the division that appears to exist between the viewer, living today in a seemingly peaceful Japan, and a military base relentless in its preparations for war.

Artist Statement

At the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i in Honolulu, there is an exhibit of several stone pillar-shaped monuments once built by the Japanese migrant community. On them are inscribed words or phrases that seem to denote Japanese values: *chūgi* (loyalty), *gaman* (quiet endurance), *ganbari* (persistence), *shikata ga nai* (acceptance with resignation), and so on. These words vividly convey the hardships of the migrants who had to leave Japan and live in a foreign land. At the same time, these words also express the reality of living in Japan today. Due to our own “acceptance with resignation,” we live lives that are prescribed at all kinds of levels.

Those circumstances of our lives form the background to this work. It is the story of an airplane and the furniture in a hotel room, where that acceptance with resignation is restaged over and over again. It is my wish that the story they tell is returned to the world of reality by you. It’s long past checkout time at the hotel.

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About the Artist

MINO Arata



Photo: Hosokura Mayumi

Interdisciplinary artist

Born in 1987 in Fukuoka Prefecture, Mino Arata's research and practice focuses on linking the landscapes and memories left behind in marginalized places and objects, finding and foregrounding the intermediacy that connect the here with the there. He works across disciplines, primarily creating fictional narratives

based on his own photographs and films, which he presents through various mediums as well as his own body and those of others. In 2011, Mino graduated with a degree in theater and film arts from the Waseda University School of Humanities and Social Sciences. He earned a PhD in art in 2017 from the Tokyo University of the Arts Department of Intermedia Art. From 2022 to 2023, he was based in New York as an Asian Cultural Council fellow. He is currently based in Tokyo and Kanagawa. His recent major exhibitions and performances include *SEAsaw: SAILING THE COSMIC SEA*, *Kiso River* (mh PROJECT nokogirini, Aichi, 2023), *YAU TEN* (YAU STUDIO, Tokyo, 2022), *To/From Kuba* (ANB Tokyo, 2021), and *Exercise of Falling Well* (Kyoto Art Center, 2019).

Public Program

Artist's talk

Date: September 16, 2023 / Time: 14:00 – 15:00

Location: Towada Art Center – Café

Admission: Free / Speaker: Mino Arata

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

About the Exhibition

Title	Mino Arata: Till Things Are Quiet
Dates	September 16– December 17, 2023
Admission	Free
Organized by	Towada Art Center
Supported by	The Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan in fiscal 2023
In Cooperation with	14-54, SUPER HOTEL Towada Natural Hot Spring
Endorsed by	Asahi Broadcasting Aomori Co., Ltd., Aomori Broadcasting Corporation, Aomori Television Broadcasting Co., Ltd., Aomori Fm Broadcasting, The Daily-Tohoku Shimbun Inc., The To-o Nippo Press, and Towada City Board of Education
Curator	Toyama Aruma

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Venues

space

Address: 18-20 Nishi Sanbancho, Towada / Hours: 10:00 – 17:00, Tue – Sun

Closed Mondays (Except for National Holidays, in which case the venue will close the next day)

Towada Art Center Art Square

Address: 3 Nishi Sanbancho, Towada / Hours: 10:00 – 17:00, Tue – Sun

Closed Mondays (Except for National Holidays, in which case the venue will close the next day)

SUPER HOTEL Towada Natural Hot Spring

Address: 17-43 Inaoicho, Towada / Hours: 15:00 – 23:00, Mon – Sun

14-54 (Community Space)

Address: 14-54 Inaoicho, Towada / Hours: 12:00 – 16:30, Tue – Sun

space

The Towada Art Center operates space as its newest gallery, located in downtown Towada just a 7-minute walk from the art center. space is a bold renovation of an empty building into a gallery space by the Japanese art collective 目 [mé] as part of the Arts Towada 10th Anniversary Exhibition: *Inter+Play* exhibition, which concluded in May 2022. It is part of an ongoing initiative to showcase experimental works by emerging artists. Last year, the gallery hosted the work of artists Oiwa Euske and Aoyagi Natsumi, and the first exhibition of 2023 was a solo exhibition by documentary actor tsu-tsu.

18-20 Nishi-Sanbancho, Towada, Aomori



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 Kusama Yayoi, Nara Yoshitomo, 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

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Promotional Artwork

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Towada Art Center Communications: Otani Sae

[1]



Photo: Mino Arata, Design: Ishizuka Shun

[2]



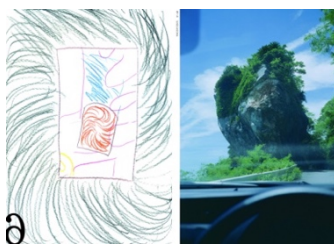
ON/OFF and the shore
2022, Photo: TOKYO PHOTOGRAPHIC
RESEARCH
*Reference work

[3]



To/From Kuba Performance Project
Direction: Yang Ikumi, Performance:
Ishikawa Asahi,
Akamatsu Ayu, MARU OHREI, 2022
*Reference work

[4]



Photobook *To/From Kuba*
Cover Design & Layout: Yamamoto
Hiroki+h (Inunosenakaza), 2021
*Reference work

[5]



Photo: Hosokura Mayumi

[6]



目 [mé], *space*, 2020
Photo: Oyamada Kuniya

[7]



Towada Art Center

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