

First-ever solo presentation in Tohoku by the internationally-acclaimed artist

Yu Araki Solo Exhibition

December 9, 2023–March 31, 2024



Unmasked (Bootleg), 2023, installation view at Tokyo Photographic Museum of Art
Photo: Yu Araki

From December 9 2023 to March 31 2024, the Towada Art Center will present an exhibition of work by artist Yu Araki.

Having spent his youth moving between Japan and the United States, with this vacillating identity as a springboard Araki employs his excellent visual language skills and knack for interweaving imagery to create movie, documentary and animated works dealing with subjects such as mistranslations and misunderstandings between different cultures, both globally and domestically; the relationship between original and reproduction, and interaction between the different types of gaze arising from looking and being looked at.

For this first-ever solo presentation at an art museum, Araki spent two-and-a-half years undertaking research in Aomori Prefecture. The result is a vision of Aomori today through his eyes: of a place shaped by human endeavor in the form of traditional crafts and customs, by recent historical happenings, and by major natural events that have transformed its topography. The exhibition will focus primarily on new works based on the artist's experiences in the prefecture.

[*Further details to be included in a press release in October 2023.](#)

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

Yu Araki



Photo: Kuroda Natsuki

Artist / filmmaker. Born in 1985, Araki graduated with a major in sculpture from the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis in 2007, and received his master's in Film and New Media Studies from Tokyo University of the Arts in 2010. Araki is fascinated by the transmission of culture and encounters between different cultures, and

the possibilities he perceives in the mistranslations and misunderstandings that occur in the process. His recent video installations have been characterized by a particular focus on identifying discrepancies in the gap between historical events and fantasy, and exploring through the lens of reenactment, restage, and remake. Notable recent exhibitions and film festivals include *Yebisu International Festival for Art and Alternative Visions 2023 Commission Project* (Tokyo Photographic Art Museum), *Home-Video Project: Tails Out* (Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka, 2022), 31st Marseille International Film Festival (France, 2021), *Connections: 150 years of Modern Art in Japan and France* (Pola Museum of Art, Kanagawa, 2020), *Le Souvenir du Japon* (Shiseido Gallery, Tokyo, 2019), *The Island of the Colorblind* (Art Sonje Center, Korea, 2019), and 47th International Film Festival Rotterdam (Netherlands, 2018).

Reference work



Bivalvia: Act II, 2022, installation view at MUJIN-TO Production
photo: Morita Kenji



HONEYMOON, 2020, installation view at Pola Museum of Art
photo: Kato Ken



The Last Ball, 2019, installation view at Shiseido Gallery
photo: Kato Ken

Courtesy of the artist and MUJIN-TO Production

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About the Exhibition

Title	Yu Araki Solo Exhibition
Dates	December 9, 2023–March 31, 2024
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 Under 18: free
Organized by	Towada Art Center
Curator	Nakagawa Chieko

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, Shiotani 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

TEL: 0176-20-1127 FAX: 0176-20-1138 www.towadaartcenter.com



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

Towada Art Center Communications: Otani Sae



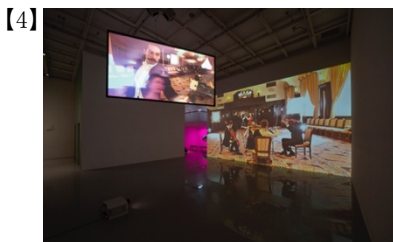
[1] *Unmasked (Bootleg)*, 2023, installation view at Tokyo Photographic Museum of Art
Photo: Yu Araki



[2] *Bivalvia: Act II*, 2022, installation view at MUJIN-TO Production
photo: Morita Kenji



[3] *HONEYMOON*, 2020, installation view at Pola Museum of Art
photo: Kato Ken



[4] *The Last Ball*, 2019, installation view at Shiseido Gallery
photo: Kato Ken



[5]
Photo: Kuroda Natsuki



[6]
Towada Art Center

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Contact

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