

Urban Gaze

Ryoko Kimura, MES, Ryohta Shimamoto, and Yoshidayamar

February 7 - February 18, 2024

at El Cisne, Chapultepec, CdMX

eitoeiko is pleased to present "Urban Gaze," an exhibition of Japanese artists in Mexico City. The exhibition will be held at El Cisne in Chapultepec, and in collaboration with APRDELESP, four Japanese artists/curators will explore the dark side of the city. Urban Gaze will start with a public production on February 7 and run through February 18. The development of mines and cities has been an integral part of Mexico's modernization since the 19th century. Urban Gaze simultaneously explores post-Internet art urbanism, which began with the "underground" and "home" as "darkness," and the culture nurtured by the "ruins/historic sites" and "mining" that preceded it.

The genre of "Black Metal" is a music born in the cities. Among the trends that have been subdivided from black metal are "Depressive Suicide Black Metal," a brooding, one-man band that creates its own sound, and a form of black metal called "Post Black Metal". It has a tone similar to shoegaze and is called "Black Gaze" because it is so clean and fresh. Black metal itself could be called extreme art urbanism in that it originated from the darkness of the city, and in this way, there are various turns within a single musical genre, which is like the yin and yang of the city. Therefore, in Urban Gaze, we would like to connect this keyword "gaze" with the keyword "city," and consider connecting each work or action with the keyword "Urban Gaze".

Artists:

Ryoko Kimura

Ryoko Kimura (born in Kyoto, 1971) received her MA in mural painting at Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music, 1997, has created "handsome paintings," inverting the motifs of Japanese culture to depict beautiful women, and has exhibited her scrolls, folding screens, and barrier paintings in Japan. While researching Aztec civilization and current Mexican culture, Kimura plans to create a mural

painting that overlaps with Japanese topics. Football was introduced to Mexico in 1901 by Alfred C. Kroll, a British mining engineer. On the other hand, there are historical documents showing that a foot-based ball game called ulama was played during the Aztec civilization, and recently, for the first time in 500 years, it is being recreated. In light of this situation, this exhibition is currently being conceived of as a mural inspired by the pose of the twin shot, a special move in the football manga "Captain Tsubasa" by Yoichi Takahashi, which has had a global impact on Japan.



From the act of using Japanese stylistic beauty to paint a mural of a soccer game underground in Mexico City, it can be read as multiple layers of rhetoric. Also to be exhibited is a work using rock paint as a "mineral," an axial work that overlaps with the image of "sacrifice" of the Aztec civilization. This work will also be related to the urban underground culture.

MES

MES are an independent artist duo organized and produced by Takeru Arai, who has a background in sculpture and spatial art, and Kanae Tanikawa, who has roots in literature, theater, and performance. They formed MES in 2015 at Tokyo University of the Arts and are based in Tokyo. They observe urban and social changes from the peripheral realm between contemporary art and club culture which are intimate and inseparable, and confront social issues that run from the Meiji era (19th Century) to the present. Most of their works are project-based installations and performances that explore time-based and site-specific approaches. They use light effects and thermal changes, combining technology as well as temporary and variable materials such as lasers, thermography, luminescence, candles, temporary construction materials, and furthermore text, sound, and physical actions.



MES's work centers on deconstructing by tracing the contours of divisive social norms and practices, such as capitalism, nationalism, and gender, that dominate the lives of a certain group of people. Since 2016, they have been active as VJ performers and in stage production, using laser animation. They also engage in community practices: they independently hosted "REVOLIC - revolution holic-", a party that gathers revolutionaries and expressions from various fields in a real space with an awareness of intersectional issues.

Ryohta Shimamoto

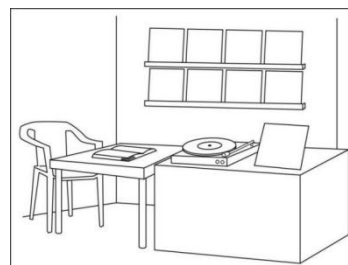
Ryohta Shimamoto (born in Tokyo, 1986) has received his BA in Tama art university, 2009. Shimamoto has known as a ceramic artist as well as a contemporary artist. One of his artwork, "Black Rain" will be presented as a work reminiscent of blasting during mining. Black Rain is an installation conceived by the artist, who specializes in ceramics, as an object that embodies the energy of an internal explosion in an accidental form. The artist relates his work to the rain that fell on the burnt fields after the war, as described in the film "Black Rain," and refers to the nuclear accident in



Fukushima. Shimatoto plans to create a sturdy cover and concentrate the explosion in a certain direction to share the experience with the viewer as a performance.

Yoshidayamar

Co-curator Yoshidayamar exhibits a vinyl recording of a song actually created and recorded by himself, as an attempt to overlap black metal with the dark side of the city and the history of mining. As for a plan, a record shop, one of the terminal forms of the music industry, will be installed at the venue as a cultural transmission device to resonate with the artworks. In the shop, references related to the exhibition will be consolidated, providing a mechanism for visitors to obtain clues to learn more about the exhibition.



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VENUE

El Cisne
Augustin Mergar 38, Chapultepec

SCHEDULE

February 7 - 9 : 3PM-6PM sneak peek of installation in progress
February 10 - 11 : exhibition hours 3PM-8PM
February 12 - 16 : exhibition hours 1PM - 6PM
February 17 - 18 : exhibition hours 1PM - 8PM

COLLABORATORS

APRDELESP, Alejandro Garcia Contraras, Alexis Matta, Ileana Moreno, and others!!

EVENTS

please check!! updated event information: [instagram@eitoeiko](https://www.instagram.com/eitoeiko)
Gallery Talk: February 18, 2PM-3PM w/ Pf. Miki Yokoigawa(UAEH)

Contact for exhibition:

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This exhibition is:

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