

**For immediate release:**

**Shusuke Ao**

**In the night of missile rain, boy dreams of flying**

**June 9 - June 30, 2018**

eitoeiko is pleased to announce a solo exhibition 'In the night of missile rain, boy dreams of flying' by Shusuke Ao. The exhibition is the third solo exhibition with eitoeiko in seven years. Ao was known by his installation by thousand of paper folding combat fighters, or an inside-out plane object. Ao focuses on the function of airplane, especially combat-plane from its appearance to the history. For years he showed his giant artwork in museums. Also he has taught traditional Japanese painting at the university that he received his B.A.

*'Disaster has come from the sky.'*

Ao pays attention to the words by Mamoru Oshii, a movie director. Oshii often uses the phrase in his interview and in his book. You can see the image in his film. After the invention of airplane, Ao regards a modern history as a history of warfare over our heads. Ammunition is a menace from sky. It wrests our tranquility from above. Ao variegates both of its entertainment side and brutality into the art form. At the exhibition, Ao shows a number of three-dimensional works such as AGM-84 Harpoon, a missile made by clothing material and Phantom, a sculpture as his self portrait.

*The country that I belong has no armed forces. My country is the one-and-only country which was attacked by nuclear bomb in actual operation. A part of national territory has been occupied more than seventy years. Yet the enemy country becomes the best friendly country now.*

*In Japan, an animation movie got a smash hit. In the movie, various school girls from various countries battle each other with their tanks. This is my country.*

*My father was a fighter pilot of a military-like governmental organization. Because I inherited his predilection for arms, my criterion of value depends on him. My father rode in F4-EJ Phantom II. So the airplane is my favorite, especially No.414 is my best one ever. Phantom II is outdated now, but when it was in vanguard, the brothers were best-sellers and threw rain of bombs in the world. For me, the combat plane is a symbol of recent past. From there, through my childhood, aerial bombing on TV, animations and movies follow on my time line. Phantom by Noriyuki Haraguchi took me to fly into the world of contemporary art.*

*I observe the present with a fighter plane. Peace and war, old and new, man and infantility, I take an universality out of existing context, and mix, change and update it.*

*Arms are completely serious objects. They are ever-present. I have not experienced their brutality. I hear the news of destruction they occurred. However, my heart is caught by the talon.*

*Whether from a fear, or a genetic influence, I don't understand. All I know is that is a complex. It is not only my own personal problem. There are a lot of people like me all over the world. There are slaves of arms those who are fascinated by the dangerous attraction. They lead me with their creations, and I joined with them. In the other words, arms looks cool enough for me. I have to reveal the force by art.*

*Shusuke Ao, April 2018*

### **Shusuke Ao (b.1981, Ibaraki)**

2004 received B.A. from Tama Art University, Tokyo

2015-18 lecturer of Tama Art University, Japanese painting course

Exhibitions

2010 PAX-4, eitoeiko

2011 TRIAL, Museum of Aeronautical Sciences / Gateway Japan, Torrance Art Museum

2012 Art & Air, Aomori Museum of Art / End of war in the decade of the 2010s, eitoeiko

2013 Imago Mundi, Luciano Benetton Collection, Venice

2014 Players, Arts Maebashi, Gunma / Art & Air, Verkehr Museum, Shizuoka

2016 Art & Air, Tomakomai City Museum, Hokkaido

2017 Love Love Show 2, Aomori Museum of Art

### **Information**

Exhibition title: In the night of missile rain, boy dreams of flying

Artist: Shusuke Ao

Schedule: June 9 - June 30 , 2018

Opening Party: June 9, 2018, 6PM-8PM

Closed on Sunday and Monday

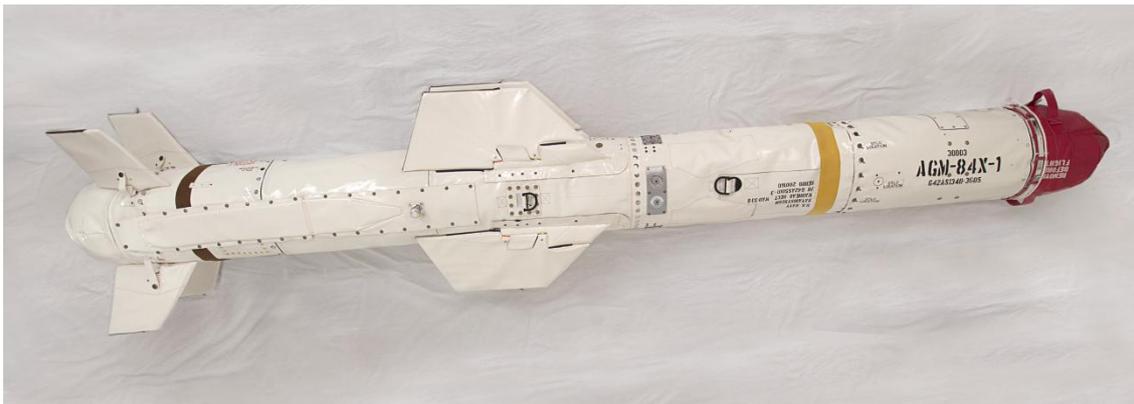
Venue: eitoeiko

Address: 32-2 Yaraicho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0805

Phone: +81 (0)3-6873-3830

Contact to gallery: ei@eitoeiko.com

### **Images of artworks**

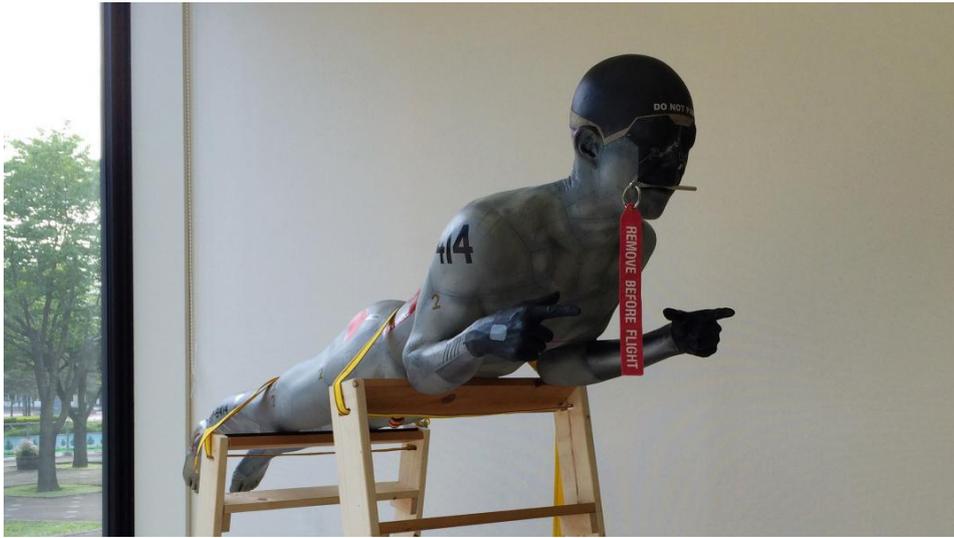


AGM-84 Harpoon

2018

Synthetic leather, metals(buttons, etc.), clothing materials and cotton, with embroidery, etc.

L.408 x Dia.34.3 (Wingspan 91.4) cm



Phantom

2016

Lacquer on FRP, etc.

L.176 x W.63 x H.59 cm



Reference:

Ghost Lightning

2017

Acrylic on nylon cloth with leaf(brass and silver)

L.1567 x W.1067 x H.439 cm