

MISA SHIN GALLERY

1-2-7 Shirokane, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-0072 JAPAN
tel:+81-(0)3-6450-2334 fax:+81-(0)3-6450-2335
www.misashin.com info@misashin.com

Press Release
March 2016

OZAWA Tsuyoshi

Everyone likes someone, as you like someone

Date : Friday, April 15 - Saturday, June 4 2016

Opening Reception : Friday, April 15 18:00 - 20:00

Hours : Tuesday - Saturday (Closed on Mon, Sun, public holidays) 12:00 - 19:00

MISA SHIN GALLERY presents the Tsuyoshi Ozawa solo exhibition, 'Everyone likes someone, as you like someone' from Friday, April 15 until Saturday, June 4.

Tsuyoshi Ozawa's creation *Everyone likes someone, as you like someone* is an enormous heap of over a hundred futons. Children encountering the installation are allowed to freely scramble up, slide down, and roll around on the heap of bedding, which generally goes by the name 'The Futon Mountain.' At the top of this mountain is a letterbox, where each child is encouraged to post a postcard with a picture he or she has drawn of a loved one, knowing that their card will eventually be delivered to someone he or she has never met.



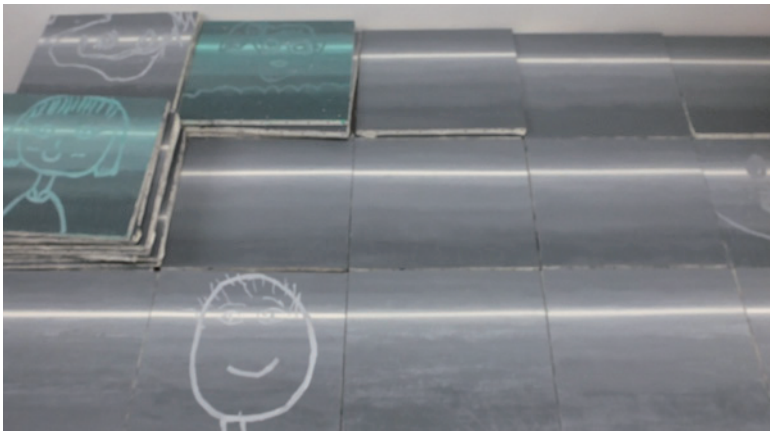
Installation view : OZAWA Tsuyoshi
Everyone likes someone, as you like someone
Minamisōma, Fukushima, 2016

Since 2005, the Futon Mountain has been exhibited in a number of cities, including Brisbane, Tokyo, Bangkok and Hiroshima. After the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, concern for high radiation levels restricted children of Fukushima from playing outside, but crowdfunding from all over Japan enabled the artist to install the mountain at the Fukushima Prefectural Museum of Art in 2012, providing local children with a valuable opportunity to play in safety. The restriction on time spent playing outside has recently been lifted in Fukushima Prefecture, but many still feel uneasy about the idea, and Ozawa has continued to deploy this work for the benefit of children in Fukushima's cities. The Futon Mountain was taken to Alios Performing Arts Center in Iwaki in May 2015, and to the Yume Hat in Minamisōma in February 2016.

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This exhibition at MISA SHIN GALLERY is made up of around thirty reproductions made by Ozawa of portraits drawn by children in Minamisōma, Fukushima, of people they love. The children's pictures have been reproduced by Ozawa in simple lines on canvases each using a different background color, graded in tone. Each of these canvases has a white line running through its top



section, coinciding exactly with the eyes of the figures in the paintings. When these are displayed side by side in a row, the lines connect up, forming a single beam of bright light running through the canvases. The eyes of the people loved by the children of Minamisōma seem both to be gazing out into the distance, and also casting their light upon us.

OZAWA Tsuyoshi *Untitled - Everyone likes someone, as you like someone*
By the children of Minamisōma who participated in the Yume Hat Minamisōma
Oil paint on canvas, 2016

Tsuyoshi Ozawa's solo exhibition, 'Everyone likes someone, as you like someone' is a celebration, through his reproductions, of the pictures drawn by the children of Minamisōma.

OZAWA Tsuyoshi

Born in Tokyo in 1965. Earned master's degree from the Department of Fine Arts of the Graduate School of Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music (majoring in mural painting) in 1991. Ozawa's notable works include: his "Jizoing" series, in which he photographs statues of homemade Jizo statues situated in different environments; his Nasubi Gallery series of portable micro-galleries made from milk boxes; his "Museum of Soy Sauce Art," in which he reproduces historical Japanese art masterpieces using soy sauce; and his "Vegetable Weapon" series of photographic portraits of young women holding "weapons" made of vegetables. Selected major solo exhibitions include: "Answer with Yes and No!" at the Mori Art Museum (Tokyo, 2004), "The Invisible Runner Strides On" at the Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art (Hiroshima, 2009), and "Tsuyoshi Ozawa : Everyone likes someone, as you like someone" at the Fukushima Prefectural Museum of Art and the Toyota Municipal Museum of Art (Fukushima, Aichi, 2012). From April 29, Ozawa's an artistic collaboration "The Xijing Men", exploring themes related to breaking communication barriers, with Chinese artist Chen Shaoxiong and Korean artist Gimhongsok, will hold an exhibition 'Xijing Is Not Xijing, Therefore Xijing Is Xijing.' at 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa.

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