

MISA SHIN GALLERY

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Press Release
July 2014

川俣正 KAWAMATA Tadashi

Project Document TOKYO IN PROGRESS 2010-2013

Dates: July 26th (Sat) - September 27th (Sat), 2014

Opening Reception: July 26th (Sat) 18:00 – 20:00

Gallery Hours: Tues - Sat (Closed on Sundays, Mondays and Holidays) 12:00 - 19:00

(Summer holidays: August 10th -18th)

MISA SHIN GALLERY is happy to announce its upcoming solo exhibition, *Project Document TOKYO IN PROGRESS 2010-2013*, by Kawamata Tadashi. The exhibition will run from July 26th (Sat) through September 27th (Sat), 2014.

Kawamata is an artist who, for over 30 years, has continually attempted to break the conventional boundaries of artistic expression by exploring the themes of "Art and Society."

Kawamata's signature style can be seen in his installation pieces in which wooden planks and beams are placed in various ways, infiltrating building structures, whether the structures be historical buildings, city infrastructures, roads, or even towers. His projects are meant to question the relationship between a city and its inhabitants, bringing into light the role of a city, beyond the boundaries of art and architecture. The themes that Kawamata tackles in his work span from architecture and city planning, to historiography and sociology, to daily communication and human memories, and even to spiritualism. His installation pieces call for the involvement and participation of local people in what he refers to as "work in progress". The entire process of a "work in progress" - beginning at preparation, installation and ending at dismantling - is considered part of the artwork. This has encouraged the local people involved to further participate in Kawamata's new works.



Tokyo in Progress-Toyosu Dome 2012
Photo: Hasunuma Masahiro

"Tokyo in progress - the view from Sumida River", held between the years 2010 and 2013, focused on the major shift in cityscape and scenery that Tokyo underwent with the construction of a broadcast and

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observation tower with a height of 634m, the Tokyo Skytree in 2012. The project's goal was to propose the creation of new observatories that allow for the viewer to reimagine Tokyo as a shifting, ever-changing city. Another objective was to discover new potentials of the city, and develop these through workshops, panel discussions and collaborative projects. Three observatories were created during this project in collaboration with local residents - the Shioiri Tower (Arakawa ward), Tsukuda Terrace (Chuo ward) and Toyosu Dome (Koto ward) - which lead to an emergence of a new type of public space, essentially redefining itself whilst sending out various messages.

"When a person encounters an art piece outside of the usual gallery-type setting, such as a public space, the art work itself undergoes a test as to what it invokes within the observer."

In the exhibition, we will present models, reliefs, drawings, and plans from the above project. We are also very excited to present new pieces created specifically for the gallery exhibition. Additionally, Kawamata is publishing a compilation of archives from 4 years of the project entitled "Tokyo In Progress - Document Book (Bijutsu Shuppan-Sha)", which will be available in the end of July. It is our wish that you experience and enjoy MISA SHIN GALLERY's first solo exhibition, *Project Document TOKYO IN PROGRESS 2010-2013* by Kawamata Tadashi.



*TOKYO IN PROGRESS Shioiri Tower
Plan 1
2010*



TOKYO IN PROGRESS Plan for Tsukuda No.1 2011

KAWAMARA Tadashi

Born in 1953, Kawamata achieved international recognition with his participation in the Venice Biennale in 1982, and has since held exhibitions at Documenta and La Biennale de Lyon, to name a few. Kawamata currently is a professor at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. His works today range from architecture and city planning, to historiography and sociology, to daily communications, to medicine.

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