

# MISA SHIN GALLERY

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Press Release  
 April 2014

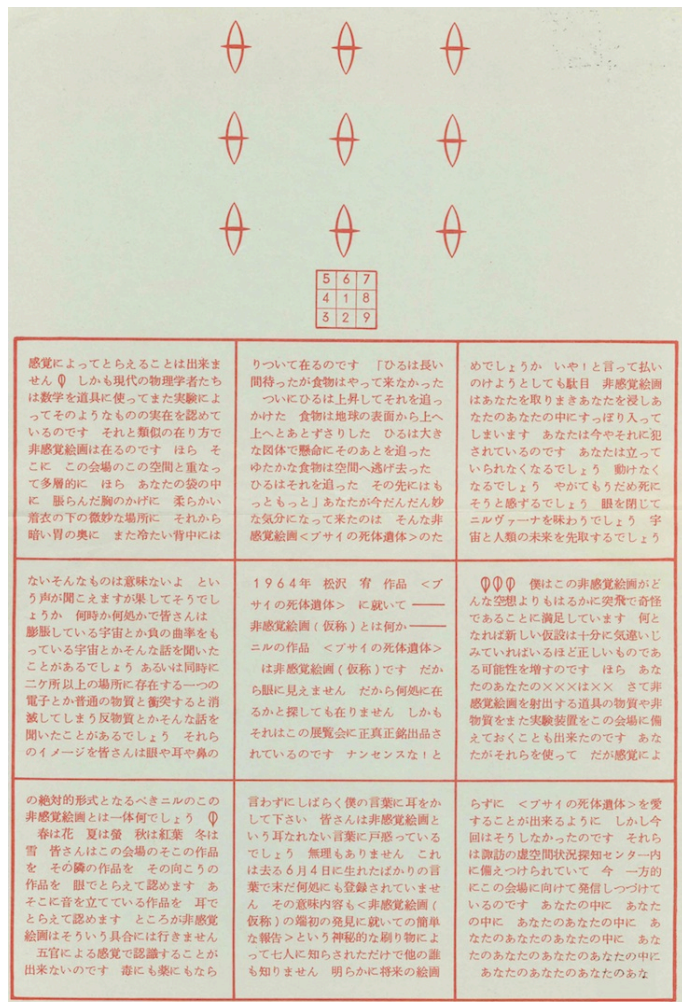
## MATSUZAWA Yutaka *Begin with Vanishment*

Dates: April 24<sup>th</sup> (Thurs) - June 14<sup>th</sup> (Sat), 2014  
 Opening Reception: April 24<sup>th</sup> (Thurs) 18:00 - 20:00  
 Gallery Hours: Tues - Sat (Closed on Sundays, Mondays and Holidays) 12:00 - 19:00

MISA SHIN GALLERY is happy to announce its upcoming solo exhibition, *Begin with Vanishment*, by MATSUZAWA Yutaka. The exhibition will run from April 24<sup>th</sup> (Thurs) through June 14<sup>th</sup> (Sat), 2014.

Born in Shimosuwa, Nagano prefecture in 1922, Matsuzawa is the creator of conceptual art in Japan, and is also globally known as a world pioneer in the same field.

Matsuzawa began his career as early as the 1940s creating poems, paintings and three-dimensional work. At midnight on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1964, he is visited with a revelation to "get rid of objects." After three days of deliberating whether he should create art that rejects relying on objects, on June 4<sup>th</sup>, Matsuzawa decides to follow his epiphany to create art that is based purely on letters and actions. Since then he has consistently created word-based work, emphasizing the rejection of objects, the extinction of humans and anti-civilization.



MATSUZAWA Yutaka, *ψ Dead Body*, *ψ Remains*, 1964

The late 60s was also a time period when there was a global trend towards creating art that incorporated literature and various philosophies. Paintings and sculptures were rejected, and replaced by the appearance of conceptual art. Matsuzawa's work was viewed in line with this

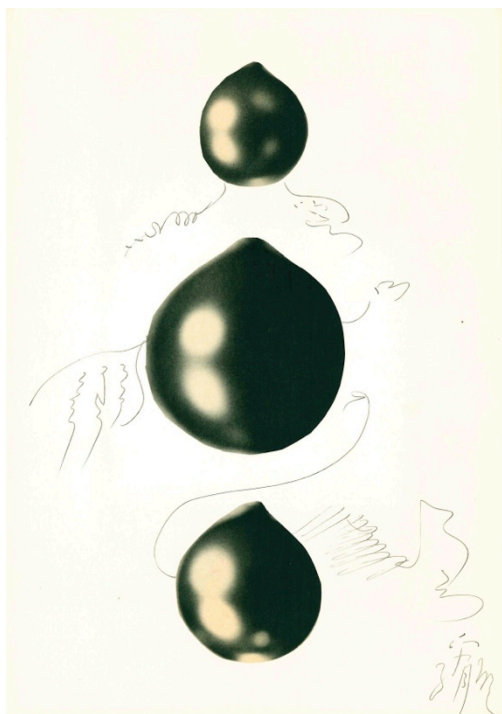
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trend, yet distinguished himself from the mainstream Western approach towards conceptual art, coining his own work as "Kannen Bijutsu (*translation:Notion Art*). By relying only on texts and performances as a means of expression, his extreme minimalistic approach embodies a seductiveness and morbid approach towards *disappearance*. This is expressed and developed in many ways by incorporating concepts such as catastrophe theory, the Philosophies of Mandala of the Two Realms, quantum mechanics, physics and math, and his original vision towards religion and the cosmic universe.



MATSUZAWA Yutaka  
Collage and ink on paper, late 1950s

## MATSUZAWA Yutaka

Born in Shimosuwa-machi, Shimosuwa-county, Nagano prefecture, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1922. BA from Waseda University in Architecture from the Department of Technology, 1946. Following his graduation, Matsuzawa returned to his hometown in Shimosuwa, and published a collection of poems called "Immortality of the Earth." In 1952, he had his first solo exhibition at the Bijutsu Bunka Art Association's 12<sup>th</sup> exhibition. In 1955, Matsuzawa studied abroad in the US on a Fulbright scholarship. His presented his next exhibition titled "Spiritualism series" at the Yomiuri Independent Exhibition, in 1958, and annually was invited to present at the same venue until 1963. At midnight on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1964, he is met by revelation to "get rid of objects", and begins creating work as a conceptual artist. Matsuzawa became internationally recognized, after his work is featured in numerous overseas venues such as the Venice Biennale, 1976, and the San Paulo Biennale, 1977. In the 2000s, he has participated in exhibitions held at various venues including the Saito Memorial Kawaguchi Museum of Contemporary Art, the National museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, and the Toyota Municipal Museum of Art. Matsuzawa ended his prolific journey at age 84 in his hometown of Shimosuwa. Nagano prefecture, on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

At this exhibition, MISA SHIN GALLERY will present highlights from Matsuzawa's career spanning over half a century, including drawings, collages created in the late 50s, and his word-based works created post-1964 from "Yutaka Matsuzawa  $\phi$  Box" 1983 such as " $\phi$  Dead Body,  $\phi$  Remains", "A Picture Caught in a Postcard", "A Swan Song" and "The Nine Meditations Chamber". 50 years has passed since Matsuzawa was met by revelation to "get rid of objects", we would like to begin with vanishment to explore the relationship between Art and Concepts.

It is our wish that you will experience and enjoy MISA SHIN GALLERY's premier presentation of Matsuzawa's work.

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