

MISA SHIN GALLERY

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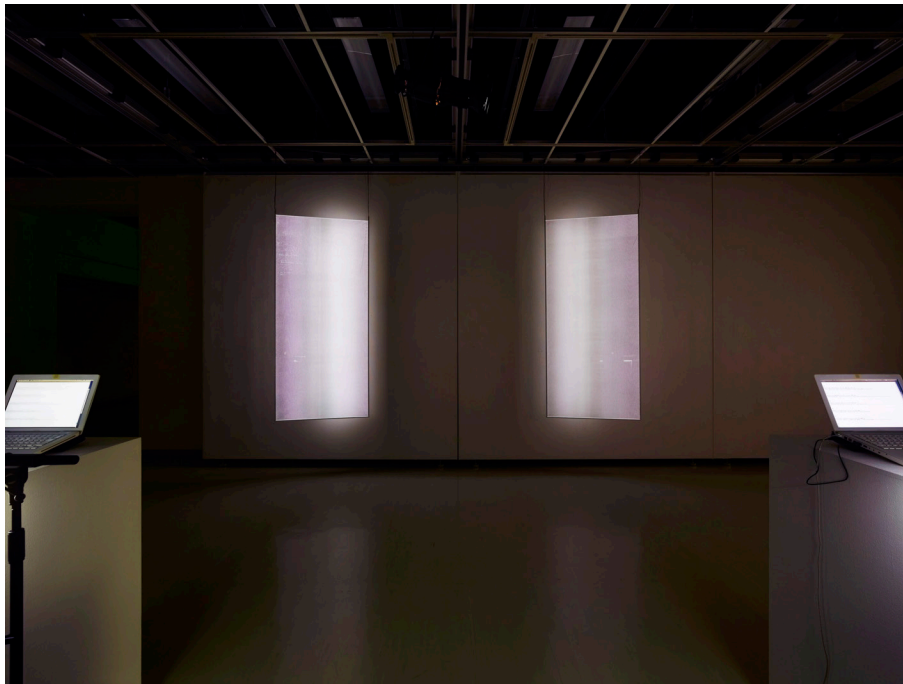
Press release
June 2019

Shimizu Jio *window*

Date: Friday June 28 - Saturday August 10, 2019

Opening Reception: Friday June 28, 18:00-20:00

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



Shimizu Jio, *window*, 2016, Mixed media Installation, 220 x 400cm.
Installation view at "diaphanes" Hiroshima City University Art Museum. Photo: Kensuke Hashimoto

MISA SHIN GALLERY is pleased to announce upcoming solo exhibition "*window*" by Shimizu Jio from Friday, June 28 to Saturday, August 10, 2019.

As an artist, Shimizu's work is rooted in the idea of positivism, in which he explores the relationships between art and natural science, and birth of motion and elements, by utilizing existing elements in the physical world, such as sound, light and vibration, the phenomena that such elements produce, and our perception of those phenomena.

The exhibition focuses on Shimizu's *window*, which makes use of Twitter, and also presents *decay music*, which detects radioactivity and converts it into musical tones using a twelve-tone equal tempered scale.

Monitoring the world's Twitter feeds in real time, *window* visualizes big data by indicating the movement of thought throughout the world in the form of two light-emitting panels that flicker in real time whenever the keywords "light" or "darkness" and their equivalents in seven languages appear in tweets anywhere in the world.

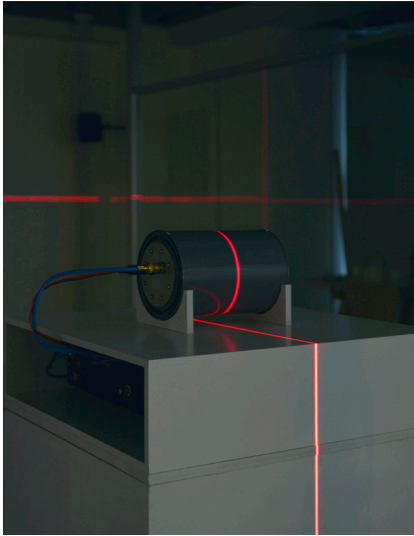
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The two light-emitting panels, in conjunction with the space between them, form a triptych that adheres to the size and format of Hieronymus Bosch's triptych *The Garden of Earthly Delights*, a distinctively demarcated from other Flemish Primitives of the same period. Even today, people debate the interpretation of *The Garden of Earthly Delights*, which despite being an altarpiece, portrays in detail the temptations of pleasure and the folly of humanity. The arrangement of the panels links *window's* keywords "light" and "darkness" to Bosch's themes of heaven and hell, suggesting that human behavior and foolishness are monitored, and eventually lead to a central void.



Shimizu Jio + Hiroyuki Iida, *Decay music*, 2017,
Mixed media installation, Dimensions variable.
Installation view at "Threshold", Art Gallery Miyauchi,
Hiroshima.

decay music (2017) is a collaboration with Iida Hiroyuki, who Shimizu worked together in the collective and also as a label, WrK. It produces a musical performance automatically using a scintillator set up indoors that detects gamma ray radiation in the exhibition space, converting the energy levels of individual gamma rays to tones on an equal tempered scale. Specifically, it plays a high note when high energy is detected and a low note when low energy is detected, producing different performances according to the location—Tokyo, Hiroshima, Fukushima, Chernobyl, etc. Consequently, the location and the environment where *decay music* is installed become both the composer and the performer.

This experiment in associating an existence far transcending human perception and senses with the time-based art of an equal tempered scale makes us

aware that the span of our existence is but an instant compared to the enormous timespans involved in phenomena such as radiation and the earth's crustal movements, which were already in motion long before the emergence of life and have had a tremendous impact on human evolution and civilization.

Shimizu Jio

Born in Tokyo 1966. Lives and works in Hiroshima and Saitama. Received his MFA at the Tokyo University of the Arts. From 1994 to 1996, participated in WrK label. Shimizu moved to Copenhagen in 2008 as an Emerging Artists Overseas Training from the Agency for Cultural Affairs, until 2010. Associate Professor, Faculty of Arts, Hiroshima City University. Major exhibitions include "Roppongi Crossing" Mori Art Museum (Tokyo, 2004), the Busan Biennale 2008 at the Busan Museum of Art (Busan, 2008), "Simple Interactions. Sound Art from Japan" Museum of Contemporary Art Roskilde (Copenhagen, 2011), "On the edge 2012" Tungenes Fyr (Norway, 2012), "Elements" MISA SHIN GALLERY (Tokyo, 2012) and "Open Space 2014" NTT InterCommunication Center [ICC] (Tokyo, 2014-2015), "Re-actions" MITSUBISHI ESTATE ARTIUM (Fukuoka, 2017), "Japan Media Art Festival 2018" The National Art Center (Tokyo 2018), "Tsushima Art Fantasia" (Nagasaki 2018). Currently, Shimizu is participating in "Setouchi Triennale 2019" (Kagawa 2019).

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