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# Yuki Kimura

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Yuki Kimura - COL SPORCAR SI TROVA—Kunstverein Düsseldorf

Die 5. Dimension

14/05-31/07/22

Die japanische Künstlerin Yuki Kimura hat den Ausstellungsraum des Kunstvereins für die Rheinlande und Westfalen Düsseldorf in ein mathematisches Rätsel verwandelt. Ein horizontales, schwarz-weißes Streifenmuster verläuft in einer Endlosschleife entlang sämtlicher Wände. Den Raum selbst durchtrennt eine Achse aus Sockeln mit glänzenden Stahlkugeln, in denen sich wiederum die Umgebung spiegelt. In regelmäßigen Abständen zu diesen mittig platzierten Stelen befinden sich weitere Sockel, auf denen Ready-Made-Arbeiten arrangiert sind. Durch die Kombination von Gegenständen einer Kategorie in unterschiedlichen Größen bestimmen auch hier stringent Muster das Bild. Der farbliche schwarz-weiß Code, den die Wandbemalung vorgibt, wird dabei in allen anderen Objekten und Raumelementen beibehalten. Der Gedanke an Mathematik liegt bei Yuki Kimuras ortsspezifischer Installation (*COL SPORCAR SI TROVA*, 2022) so nahe, weil die Künstlerin eindeutig mit Dimensionen von Raum und Fläche, Geometrie, Skalierung, Regelmäßigkeit und Wiederholung arbeitet. Wie in einer Welt in einer Welt treffen diese Kriterien den Gesamtraum, finden sich aber auch in jeder einzelnen der Ready-Made-Skulpturen wieder.

Optische Illusionen und die Verschiebung der Wahrnehmung, die man als Betrachter\*in im Raum erfährt, sind die Vehikel, anhand derer sich die Formel beginnt zu enthüllen, die Kimura diesem Raum wie ein Schachbrettmuster auferlegt hat. Die Entscheidung, die Wände mit horizontalen Streifen zu versehen (*Stripes*, 2022), hat die Künstlerin unter dem Eindruck der dominierenden Querstrukturen des Ausstellungsaals beeinflusst, die an der Decke entlanglaufen und in denen das Lüftungssystem des Kunstvereins untergebracht ist. Das Streifenmuster ist somit als Reaktion auf die brutalistische Architektur des Gebäudes von 1967 angelegt. Diese kommt nun wieder selbstständig zur Geltung, seitdem sich die Direktorin Kathrin Bentele dazu entschlossen hat, die Lichtschächte an der Decke wieder freizulegen, die bis dato mit Paneelen bedeckt waren.

Die horizontalen Streifen erzeugen einen optischen Täuschungseffekt, der wissenschaftlich dokumentiert ist und den Raum viel kompakter erscheinen lässt, als er eigentlich ist. Dieses einfache, sehr grafisch erscheinende Muster aus schwarzen und weißen Mustern bringt ein eigenes kulturhistorisches Erbe mit, das aber in der Regel übergeangen wird. Es evoziert teuflische Konnotation, ist von der Kleidung von Häftlingen und Clowns bekannt, findet sich aber auch auf Fassaden von Bauten und Kathedralen der norditalienischen und hochviktorianischen Gotik wieder, was als Phänomen allerdings bisher kaum erforscht wurde. Daneben beruft sich Yuki Kimura auf eine weitere, konkrete Referenz. Der Wiener Architekt Adolf Loos entwarf 1927 für die Tänzerin Josephine Baker ein exzentrisches Gebäude mit ebenso einer schwarz-weiß gestreiften Außenfassade, das allerdings nie

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realisiert wurde. Indem Kimura das ursprüngliche Außendesign in das Gebäude des Kunstvereins transportiert, kehrt sie das Verhältnis von Gebäudehülle und Innenraum um. Positiv- und Negativraum, festgehalten in dem Kontrast von Schwarz und Weiß, invertieren.

Die schwarz-weiße Streifenbemalung gibt mit den Positiv-Negativ Kontrasten so das alles umfassende Thema vor, in das auch die Objekte und Sockel eingefügt sind. Die Künstlerin lotet die Möglichkeiten und Grenzen aus, welche die Gegenstände in ihrer Materie und ihren Abmessungen selbst mitbringen. Indem sie präzise perlmuttglänzende Muschelschalen ineinanderlegt (*Abalones*, 2022), das selbe Glasmodells nach Größe aufreihst (*Perfection*, 2022) oder Desertgläser kunstvoll verschachtelt (*Charms*, 2022), entstehen dekorative Arrangements, die durch die strikte Regelmäßigkeit, die sie befolgen, auf seltsame Weise befriedigend für das Auge sind. Gleichzeitig destabilisieren die ständigen Wiederholungen den Status eines Objektes als etwas Eigenständiges. In den Anordnungen wird ein Gegenstand so zum bloßen Repräsentant eines skalierenden Systems, das weit in den Raum hinausgreift.

Illusionistische Wirkungen finden sich nicht nur in der an Opt-Art erinnernden Wandbemalung wieder, sondern auch in den Sockeln der Ready-Made-Skulpturen. Durch die Imitation von Marmor-Maserungen durch feine Pinselstriche, die von spezialisierten Dekorationsmaler\*innen in einem Brüssler Atelier angefertigt wurden, produzieren die Säulen einen „klassischen“ *Trompe-l’œil* Effekt. Durch die Integration dieser Technik in die Rauminstallation, die in allen Teilen mit dem Dekorativen und Artifiziellen spielt, verweist Yuki Kimura auch auf die fortlaufende Diskussion der Rolle von Dekoration und Handwerk in der Kunst, die auch heute noch umstritten ist. Sie beruft sich dabei auf Ansätze, die entgegen des kunsttheoretischen Mainstreams, der von Dematerialisierung und Konzeptualismus geprägt ist und handwerkliches Können abwertet, den Wert des Dekorativen und des Kunsthandwerks hervorheben. Einer der Vertreter dieser Denkrichtung ist der Universalkünstler Piranesi, der mit seiner Aussage *Col sporcar si trova* (wer im Dreck wühlt, der findet) Namensgeber der Ausstellung ist. In der Hinterfragung der Grenze zwischen „High“ und „Low“, Konzeptuellem und Dekorativem findet innerhalb der Rauminstallation so noch eine weitere Verschiebung statt.

Im Zwischenspiel all dieser sauber sortierten Gegensätze gerät die eigene Position ins Schwanken. Diesen Vorgang macht kein anderes Objekt mehr klar, als die Spiegelkugeln (*Mirror Balls*, 2022), die je nach Standpunkt der Betrachter\*innen, in absteigenden oder aufsteigenden Größen entlang einer Achse in der Mitte des Raumes aufgereiht sind. Diese „magischen“ Kugeln bieten abhängig von ihrer Größe eine verkleinerte oder vergrößerte Ansicht des Raumes, in der sich, wenn auch in stark verzerrter Form, die gesamte Umgebung des/der Betrachter\*in zu reflektieren scheint. Erneut begegnet man so einem rätselhaften Welt-in-der-Welt Effekt, der eine Illusion in zweierlei Hinsicht ist. Nicht nur entsprechen die Dimensionen, welche der Blick in die Kugeln suggeriert, nicht der Realität. Auch die Tatsache, dass die Spiegelkugeln in der Größe variieren, ist für die Wahrnehmung des Auges aus bestimmten Blickwinkeln zunächst nicht erkennbar.

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Yuki Kimuras Rauminstallation erinnert mich an ein ganz bestimmtes modernes Kunstwerk. 1934 erschuf die surrealistische Künstlerin Dora Maar die Fotomontage *Sans Titre (Main-coquillage)*, auf der vor düsterem Himmel eine zarte Frauenhand aus einer Muschel herausgreift. Dieses Bild mit seiner opaken Atmosphäre und Yuki Kimuras Werk im Kunstverein haben für mich in etwa die gleiche Ausstrahlung. Anhand der Verwendung von Ready-Mades, dem Spiel mit Kontrasten, der Umkehrung von High und Low-Art sowie der prominenten Rolle eines schwarz-weißen, natürlichen Streifenmusters auf der Muschelschale, das sich unendlich windet, finden sich erstaunliche Parallelen zwischen Maars *Main-coquillage* und Yuki Kimuras Arbeit. Legt man diese beiden Werke vor dem inneren Auge nebeneinander, entsteht eine neue Ebene, der zu Folge *COL SPORCAR SI TROVA* auch als surrealistische Collage gedeutet werden kann, als Inversion von Regel und Zufall, die als Werk eigentlich nie abgeschlossen ist und sich endlos fortsetzen lässt.

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# The New York Times

## Artists Space Re-emerges as an Enduring Downtown Alternative

The hardy noncommercial gallery, founded in 1972, has put down roots in a cast-iron building in TriBeCa.



At Artists Space, Duane Linklater's "dislodgevanishskinground," 2019, with 12 tepee poles, steel cable, white paint, charcoal, rope, with tepee cover. via Artists Space; Daniel Pérez

In the mid-1970s, the pioneering art historian and activist Douglas Crimp identified a new tendency in the work of [young artists like Sherrie Levine and Robert Longo](#): They were turning away from the abstract and conceptual work then in vogue, and appropriating images from movies and advertising to distort the aims of mass media. Mr. Crimp, [who died this year at 74](#), brought these artists together in a landmark show called ["Pictures"](#) at a small alternative gallery called [Artists Space](#) — which endures as a turning point in art history, and a classic of downtown New York.

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The most intriguing of these four artists is the eldest. [Yuki Kimura](#), an artist based between Kyoto and Berlin, removed three custom-built wardrobes from her childhood bedroom; she has reinstalled them in various configurations in shows worldwide, and integrated them here into the architecture of Artists Space's new home. One of these empty armoires stands flush against a white gallery wall, while an extended piece of drywall fuses the minimalist furniture into the cast-iron building. Tender and memory-haunted, Ms. Kimura's intervention makes the gallery into a domestic space. She also offers a simple display of 21 stainless-steel circular vessels, modestly positioned on the floor and suggesting an act of hospitality.



Yuki Kimura, "Wardrobe Extensions Version 5," 2019. The artist reinstalled furniture from her childhood bedroom: three wood wardrobes with metal hardware. via Artists Space; Daniel Pérez

Jason Farago  
*Artists Space Re-emerges as an Enduring Downtown Alternative*  
The New York Times, December 12, 2019.  
<https://cutt.ly/G3dTnRm>

MAY



Yuki Kimura, *Table Matematica*, 2016, granite, steel, wood, Jägermeister bottles

#### *Inhuman Transformation of New Year's Eve Decoration, Obsolete Conception or 2*

In the popular imagination, New Year's Eve traffics in the spirit of renewal. Of course, it also explicitly encourages behavior to counteract such good intentions. One asserts a speculative desire for self-improvement—living healthier, learning and growing—only to begin living in the nascent world of that resolution fatigued, nursing a mild (or blistering) hangover, snagged in the depths of winter. This initial stumble may not be so severe, but its immediacy is humbling, and belies the fragility and unreliability of our convictions. In other words, one is resigned to the realization that this will be a year like any other.

Yuki Kimura specializes in the subtle interrogation of such inadequacies as they arise from or exist in materials, especially photographs. In a 2013 conversation with Andrew Maerkle, she described the incipience of her aporetic approach: “My practice began from doubts about the uniqueness of photography and the authority of the decisive moment.”<sup>[1]</sup> An exhibition of Kimura’s new work at CCA Wattis, titled *Inhuman Transformation of New Year's Decoration, Obsolete Conception or 2*, follows this line of inquiry to darkly humorous effect.

J. Gordon Faylor  
*Inhuman Transformation of New Year's Eve Decoration, Obsolete Conception or 2*  
MAY, N°17, April, 2017, p.135-141.  
<https://cutt.ly/m3h7YFV>

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The exhibition itself is relatively austere, consisting of four works—all from 2016—sparsely and elegantly placed throughout the gallery. Given the layout, a viewer first encounters *Table Stella*, a set of six C-prints of a wall-mounted sharps disposal container and an examination glove dispenser, separated into three pairs of tables of Dibond, wood and steel; atop the prints are multiple ashtrays of varying shapes and sizes, all made from natural materials (mostly what appear to be metamorphic rocks). Beyond the tables sit three other works: *Division and Revision #2*, a pair of nearly identical C-prints depicting liquor and wine bottles placed on a three-tiered table; *Table Matematica*, a granite table covered with *Jägermeister* bottles of various sizes; and *Mirrors*, a pair of tall, identical mirrors casually placed against the wall.

This doubling accounts for the many potential parallels and connections one might draw between the works, whether from the titular repetition of the table or the planar inertia evoked by *Division and Revision #2* and *Table Stella*. Then there are those exemplary, simple tools of replication: the mirrors, which show the viewer where they literally stand amidst these vestiges of festivity. When in proximity of either *Division or Revision #2* or *Table Matematica*, one can easily scry oneself in the mirrors; on the other hand, proximity to *Table Stella* affords no such opportunity. Waste disposal, indeed.

*Table Matematica* is the most malignant instance of repetition in the exhibit. The seemingly precise arrangements of the bottles are highly suggestive both of topography in the variegation of their heights and, more obviously, commodi-fication—bottles of different sizes for parties of different sizes. They may even suggest population density both in the microscopic (the group that hypothetically used the bottles, a population in and of itself) and macroscopic (how do these sizes relate to the distribution of *Jägermeister*?). Given the hauntingly celebratory aura surrounding the exhibit at large, one might construe the haphazard agglutinations as emergent groupings one finds oneself in or drifting between at a party or gathering.

Which leads to one of the most beguiling conundrums Kimura presents by the title with which she has grouped these works: why *inhuman* and not *nonhuman*? Anthropomorphs are entirely absent here, save from those “depicted” in *Mirrors*; such terminology would moreover resonate with the “obsolescence” in the latter half of the title. There are no discarded cigarettes lining the ashtrays or fingerprints smeared on the bottles. The bottles in *Division or Revision #2* likewise appear independent of society, despite their obvious relation to it.

Is the “inhuman transformation” subsequently the dissolution of the human form altogether, albeit one that leaves traces of its activities, its traditions? Or is it rather a sly prank on the spectators themselves—those inhumanly transformed, caught in their proximity to (and complicity with) inebriants? Or, given the used-up bottles on *Table Matematica*, are we to be reminded, more simply, that we are our waste? In both the circulatory and stationary aspects of garbage, our habits, proclivities, and desires are inhumanly mirrored, inverted. The work as such also brings to mind Yuji Agematsu, whose collecting and cataloging of detritus from the streets of New York hints at the city dwellers behind it all.

“Inhuman” has traditionally been synonymous with the cruel, the monstrous, the freakish. However, Kimura’s work feels more akin to Reza Negarestani’s recent redefining of it as a “vector for revision” that “preserves certain invariances” of being human while “[registering] itself as a demand for construction.”<sup>[2]</sup> Kimura’s twinning of images and objects apparently references the kagami mochi, a traditional Japanese New Year’s decoration comprised of a smaller rice cake set atop a larger one, and a daidai orange with a leaf attached. *Kagami mochi* may be decorated and are usually eaten during the second weekend of the New Year. As a decoration, they symbolize the passing of time and generations, and serve to encourage reflection on one’s life. The ceremony during which they’re consumed is even called *kagami biraki*, or “mirror opening.” In this respect, Kimura’s materials are not mere placeholders for an overarching investigation of vacancy, but rather information to be analyzed and processed towards a more contemplative life that includes the recognition of one’s family and friends—a development of the human by way of inhumanism. There might be a second obsolescence; if so, then we are treated to a commodity like any other. But if this analysis is to “elaborate,” it seems that aesthetic concerns are beside the point—what matters is what the decorations themselves do, how time speaks through them and us. As Kimura says, the intent throughout her body of work is partly “to experiment with both the functionality of the physical aspect and the insubstantiality of the image.”<sup>[3]</sup> The functionality of a mirror or table or bottle is self-evident—what we perceive in them, however, is subject to our own insufficiencies, the tension of perception against time. For Negarestani, inhumanism “appears as a force that stands against both the apathy of resignation and the active antihumanism.” Put another way, the party is over, but it’s still subject to transformation. Even obsolescences aren’t without their decorations, and while our resolutions are sometimes frail or overambitious, they can still come true.

<sup>[1]</sup> Andrew Maerkle, “In Focus: Yuki Kimura,” *Frieze.com*, April 13, 2013 (accessed February 15, 2017). <https://frieze.com/article/focus-yuki-kimura> ↪

<sup>[2]</sup> Reza Negarestani, “The Labor of the Inhuman, Part I: Human,” *e-flux Journal 52* (accessed February 15, 2017). <http://www.e-flux.com/journal/52/59920/the-labor-of-the-inhuman-part-i-human/> ↪

<sup>[3]</sup> . Andrew Maerkle, *In Focus: Yuki Kimura*, *Frieze.com* April 13, 2013 (accessed February 15, 2017). <https://frieze.com/article/focus-yuki-kimura> ↪

# MAY



Yuki Kimura, *Table Stella*, 2016, C-prints mounted on Dibond, wood, chrome plated legs, ashtrays, detail

## *Inhuman Transformation of New Year's Eve Decoration, Obsolete Conception or 2*

Dans l'imaginaire populaire, la Saint-Sylvestre est associée au renouveau. Bien sûr, cette fête encourage aussi un comportement fait pour contrer les bonnes intentions. On affirme un désir spéculatif d'amélioration – une meilleure hygiène de vie, apprendre et progresser – qui aboutit à un départ dans le nouveau monde de cette résolution fatiguée, à soigner une gueule de bois plus ou moins forte, englué dans les profondeurs de l'hiver. Ce trébuchement initial peut être moins sévère mais son immédiateté est une leçon d'humilité, qui dément la fragilité et le manque de fiabilité de nos convictions. En d'autres termes, on se résigne à réaliser que cette année nouvelle sera une année comme les autres.

Yuki Kimura est la spécialiste de cette interrogation subtile sur ces faiblesses contenues dans le matériau (ou qui en surgissent), spécialement celui des photographies. Dans une conversation avec Andrew Maerkle en 2013, elle décrivait les débuts de cette approche aporétique : « Ma pratique a commencé par des doutes sur la spécificité de la photo et l'autorité du moment décisif<sup>[1]</sup>. » L'exposition des derniers travaux de Yuki Kimura au CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Art, intitulée *Inhuman Transformation of New Year's Decoration, Obsolete Conception or 2*, suit cette ligne de réflexion jusqu'à un effet d'humour noir.

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L'exposition en elle-même est relativement austère, constituée de quatre pièces – toutes de 2016 – disséminées élégamment dans la galerie. Dans cette répartition des œuvres, le spectateur se trouve d'abord face à *Table Stella*, un ensemble de six tirages couleur d'un « réceptacle pour aiguilles » mural et d'un distributeur de gants d'examen, séparé par trois paires de tables en Dibond, bois et acier, et les tirages couleur sont recouverts de multiples cendriers de tailles et de formes diverses, tous faits de matières naturelles (pour la plupart de ce qui semble être de la roche métamorphique). Derrière les tables on trouve trois autres pièces : *Division and Revision # 2*, deux tirages de couleur presque identiques qui montrent des bouteilles de vin et d'alcool placées sur une table à trois niveaux ; *Table Matematica*, une table de granit couverte de bouteilles de liqueur Jägermeister de différentes tailles et enfin *Mirrors*, deux grands miroirs identiques placés négligemment contre le mur.

Ce (re)doublement rend compte des nombreux parallèles et connexions potentiels que l'on pourrait faire entre les œuvres, que ce soit à partir de la répétition titulaire de la *Table* ou de l'inertie plane évoquée par *Division and Revision #2* et *Table Stella*. Donc il y a ces simples outils, exemplaires, de réPLICATION : les miroirs, qui montrent les spectateurs où ils sont véritablement, parmi ces vestiges de fête. Lorsqu'on est proche de *Division or Revision #2* ou de *Table Matematica*, on peut facilement se scruter dans les miroirs ; en revanche, la proximité de *Table Stella* ne peut offrir cette opportunité. En réalité, un traitement des déchets.

*Table Matematica* est l'exemple de répétition le plus astucieux de toute l'exposition. Les arrangements en apparence précis des bouteilles sont grandement suggestifs, à la fois de la topographie, dans la diversité de leurs hauteurs et, plus ostensiblement, de la marchandisation – des bouteilles de différentes tailles pour des soirées d'importance différentes. Elles peuvent même suggérer la densité de la population à la fois dans le microscopique (le groupe qui a hypothétiquement utilisé les bouteilles, une population en soi) et macroscopique (comment ces différentes tailles sont mise en relation avec la distribution des liqueurs Jägermeister ?) Etant donné l'aura étonnamment festive qui entoure l'exposition dans son ensemble, on peut interpréter les agglutinations désordonnées comme des groupes émergents dans lesquels on se trouve, en se faufilant dans une fête ou un rassemblement.

Ce qui nous conduit à l'une des énigmes les plus excitantes que Kimura nous soumet avec le titre sous lequel elle a regroupé ces œuvres : pourquoi *inhumain* plutôt que *nonhumain* ? Les anthropomorphes sont ici totalement absents, excepté ceux « décrits » dans *Mirrors* ; cette terminologie résonnerait de plus avec l' « obsolescence » de la deuxième moitié du titre. Il n'y a pas de mégots cigarettes dans les cendriers ni de traces de doigts qui maculent les bouteilles. Les bouteilles de *Division or Revision #2* apparaissent de même indépendantes de la société, malgré leur relation évidente avec elle.

Est-ce que la « transformation inhumaine » est subséquemment la dissolution totale de la forme humaine, même si de celle qui laisse des traces de ses activités, de ses traditions ? Ou est-ce plutôt une bonne blague faite aux spectateurs eux-mêmes – ceux qui sont transformés inhumainement, attrapés dans leur proximité de (et leur complicité avec) ceux qui se sont enivrés ? Ou bien les

cadavres de bouteilles sur *Table Matematica*, devraient-elles nous rappeler que, plus simplement, nous sommes nos déchets ? Nos habitudes, notre productivité, nos désirs sont inhumainement reflétés, inversés, dans la circulation comme dans l'aspect figé des déchets. A ce titre, l'œuvre rappelle aussi Yuji Agematsu, dont la collection et le catalogage des détritus ramassés dans les rues de New York font allusion aux habitants qui sont derrière.

« Inhumain » a traditionnellement été associé au cruel, au monstrueux, au bizarre. Cependant, l'œuvre de Kimura semble plus apparentée à la récente redéfinition qu'en donne Reza Negarestani : un « vecteur de révision » du fait d'être humain qui « préserve certains invariants » tout en « s'inscrivant comme une demande de construction<sup>[2]</sup> ». Le jumelage des images et des objets de Kimura semble faire référence au *kagami mochi*, une décoration japonaise traditionnelle pour le nouvel an, composée d'un petit gâteau de riz posé sur un autre plus gros, et une orange amère (*daidai*) avec une feuille attachée. Les *kagami mochi* peuvent être décorés et sont généralement mangés le second week-end de la nouvelle année. En tant que décorations ils symbolisent le passage du temps et des générations, et servent à encourager les gens à réfléchir sur leur vie. La cérémonie pendant laquelle ils sont mangés est même appelée *Kagami biraki* ou « ouverture du miroir ». A cet égard, les matériaux de Kimura ne sont pas de simples dispositifs pour une investigation globale de vacance, mais au contraire une information qui doit être analysée et conduire vers une vie plus contemplative, qui inclue la reconnaissance de sa famille et de ses amis – une évolution de l'humain au moyen de l'inhumanisme. Il pourrait y avoir une seconde obsolescence ; s'il en est ainsi, alors, nous sommes face à une marchandise comme n'importe quelle autre.

Mais si cette analyse est d' « élaborer », il semble que les préoccupations esthétiques soient hors de propos ; ce qui importe est ce que font les décorations elles-mêmes, la manière dont le temps parle à travers elles et nous. Comme le dit Kimura, l'intention qui traverse toute son œuvre est en partie « d'expérimenter à la fois la fonctionnalité de l'aspect physique et l'irréalité de l'image<sup>[3]</sup> ». La fonctionnalité d'un miroir, d'une table ou d'une bouteille va de soi ; toutefois, ce que nous percevons dans ces objets est sujet à nos propres insuffisances, à la tension de la perception contre le temps. Pour Negarestani, l'inhumanisme « apparaît comme une force qui résiste à la fois à l'apathie de la résignation et à l'anti humanisme actif ». En d'autres termes, la fête est finie, mais elle est toujours sujette à transformation. Même les obsolescences ne sont pas sans leurs décorations, et si nos résolutions sont parfois fragiles ou trop ambitieuses, elles peuvent toujours se réaliser.

[1] . Andrew Merkle, « In Focus : Yuki Kimura », *Frieze.com*, 13 avril 2016 (consulté le 15 février 2017. <https://frieze.com/article/focus-yuki-kimura>) ↪

[2] Reza Negarestani, « The Labor of the Inhuman, Part 1: Human », *e-flux Journal 52* (consulté le 15 février 2017). <http://www.e-flux.com/journal/52/59920/the-labor-of-the-inhuman-part-i-human/> ↪

[3] Andrew Maerkle, « In Focus : Yuki Kimura », *Frieze.com*, 13 avril 2013 (consulté le 15 février 2017). <https://frieze.com/article/focus-yuki-kimura> ↪

# Art in America

SAN FRANCISCO

**YUKI KIMURA**  
CCA Wattis Institute for  
Contemporary Arts

Questions about how humans conceive of time underpinned Japanese artist Yuki Kimura's CCA Wattis exhibition, her first solo show in the United States. The longwinded title, "Inhuman Transformation of New Year's Decoration, Obsolete Conception or 2," belied the sparse installation, which consisted of four artworks given ample breathing room in the large venue, a converted garage. The front space was occupied by *Table Stella* (2016): six tables arranged in three pairs, from large to small, whose tops each bear a constellation of vintage

View of Yuki Kimura's *Table Matematica*, 2016, granite, steel, wood, and Jägermeister bottles, 41½ by 94½ by 31½ inches, at the CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts.



ashtrays and the same photographic image of a hospital room. The remaining three works were shown in the back of the venue. *Table Matematica* (2016) is a table whose glossy black surface supports a dizzying arrangement of Jägermeister bottles of different sizes. *Mirrors* (2016) is a pair of full-length mirrors that leaned against one wall, reflecting the gallery and echoing, in shape and dimension, the final work, which hung on the opposite wall: *Division and Revision #2* (2016), consist-

# ARTFORUM

## “Yuki Kimura: Inhuman Transformation of New Year’s Decoration, Obsolete Conception or 2”

CCA WATTIS INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART  
1111 8th Street  
December 1, 2016–February 25, 2017

Curated by Jeanne Gerrity and Leila Grothe

This commissioned installation manifests Japanese artist Yuki Kimura’s subtle activation of subjective and multilayered encounters with the photographic. With *Table Stella*, 2016, Kimura presents two very similar found photographs printed on the surfaces of three pairs of tabletop-like Dibond supports laden with ashtrays. In a world of e-cigarettes and immaterial image-data files, her use of outmoded objects directs our attention away from the items’ original functions to suggest new, more playful operations determined by their very materiality. A pair of large, almost identical wall-mounted photographs with accompanying twin mirrors implicates us further in dualities of meaning and the coexistence of past and present.

Charlotte Cotton  
*Previews, Spring 2017 Exhibitions, 45 shows worldwide*  
Artforum, Volume 55, N°5, January, 2017, p.99.

# ARTFORUM

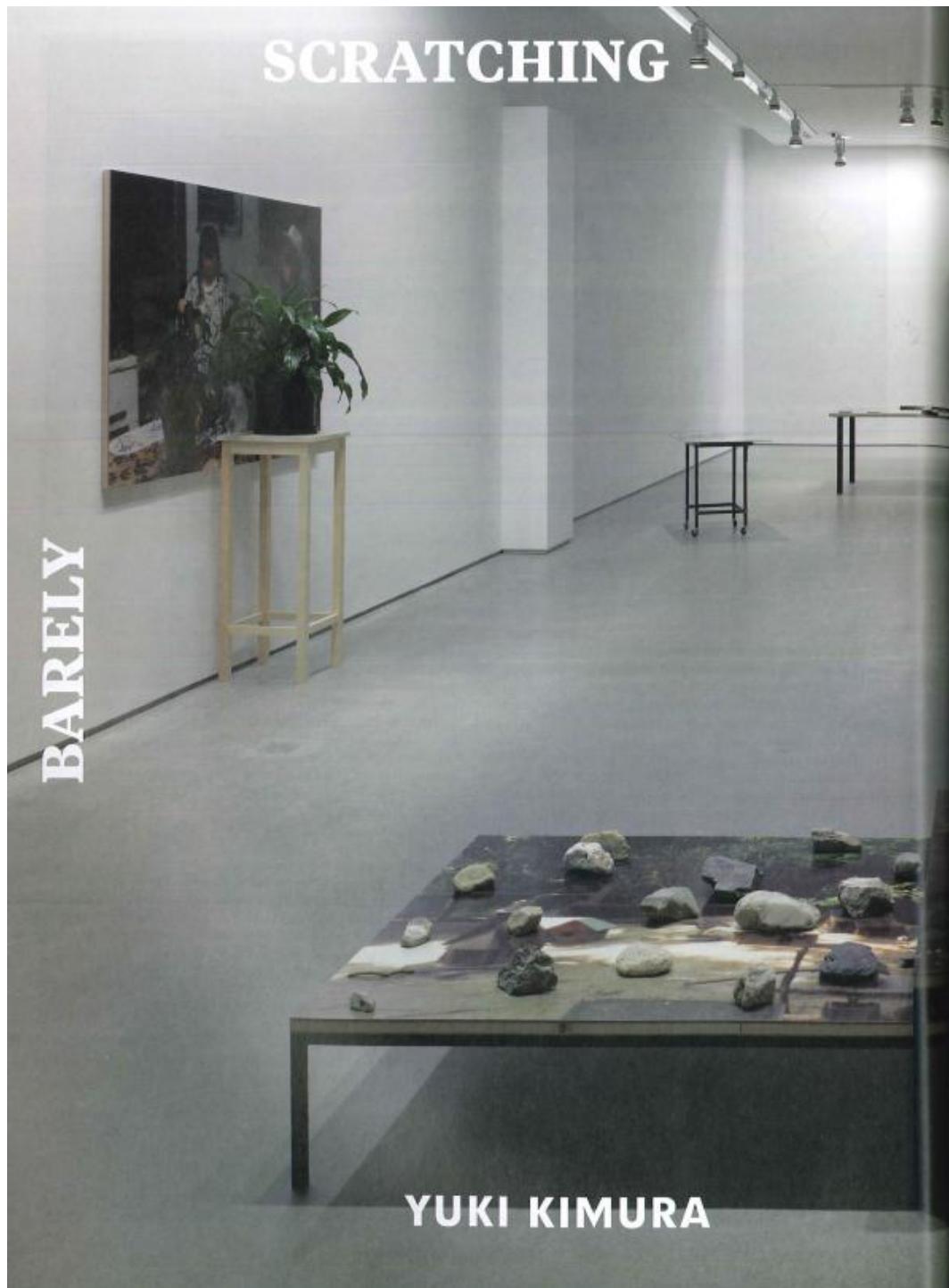


## YUKI KIMURA

This past summer, I received a shocking piece of news from my mother. Umenoi, a first-class restaurant specializing in eel in Gion district, Kyoto, had closed. It had just celebrated its hundred-year anniversary. Since Kyoto is not known for its eel, Umenoi was mostly a place for locals. It was always busy. My family had dinners and parties there many times. The reason given for closing was a decrease in the availability of wild eel. Drastic changes are taking place in Japan's natural environment, and it's such little things as the shuttering of a favorite restaurant that can be the most haunting—things not mentioned in the news.

Photo: Toshiki Maeda.

*artasiapacific*



Amelia Groom  
*Barely scratching the surface*  
artasiapacific, N°81, November—December, 2012, p.110-119.

GALERIE  
CHANTAL CROUSEL



Amelia Groom  
*Barely scratching the surface*  
artasiapacific, N°81, November—December, 2012, p.110-119.

(Previous spread)  
Installation view of the "Untitled"  
exhibition at Izu Photo Museum, 2010.  
Photo by Yasushi Ichikawa. Courtesy  
Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo, and Izu Photo  
Museum, Nagaizumi.

(Opposite)  
**IMAGE AND THE SHADOW 01**, 2005,  
Lambda print mounted on plexiglass,  
plexiglass, diameter of each: 40 cm.

All images in this article, unless  
otherwise noted, are courtesy  
Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo.

**Terrible things happened to painters' canvases in the second**  
half of the last century. They were sliced (Lucio Fontana), bitten  
(Jasper Johns), punched (Ushio Shinohara), shot at with guns (Niki  
de Saint Phalle), stretched over beds of nails (Enrico Castellani),  
pissed on (Andy Warhol), burst through (Saburo Murakami), affixed  
with furniture (Robert Rauschenberg), sprayed with acid (Gustav  
Metzger), burned (Henk Peeters), tied up in knots (Manolo Millares),  
hammered with nails (Yoko Ono) and removed entirely (Sol LeWitt).  
All the violence the canvases endured effectively ripped them  
out of the illusory realm of atemporal pictorial space and thrust  
them into immediate physicality. Never again could a painting be  
Alberti's fabled perspectival "window" onto a separate world; it was  
a concrete presence and, like anything materially manifested, it had  
to face up to gravity, damage and entropy.

This was all more or less finalized decades ago, but it wasn't until  
recent years that the surfaces of photographs started to be subjected  
to any comparable level of conceptual scrutiny and physical abuse.  
Since graduating from the painting department at Kyoto City  
University of Arts in 1996 with an MFA, 41-year-old Yuki Kimura has  
been honing in on the instabilities of the photographic image and its  
ambiguous relationship with form. As part of her ongoing inquiry  
into the material support of images, her recent work has been  
concerned with the spatial and volumetric aspects of photographs.  
Getting beyond what Jeff Wall has termed the medium's "burden  
of depiction," she explores photography's previously overlooked  
capacities for formalism (or something like it) by affirming the  
palpability of photographic surfaces in assemblages that render  
any distinctions between graphic and plastic irrelevant.

In *Image and the Shadow (St. Elmo's Fire)* (2006), 15 grainy black-and-white photos of forms that appear to be abstract sculptural  
studies in paper are hung on a wall, with 15 similarly formed frosted-white  
plexiglass objects placed on the floor below. Kimura purchased  
the photographs at the Paris flea market Puces de Vanves, knowing  
nothing about their origin but being drawn to the mysterious  
forms. She then rephotographed the images and mounted them  
on plexiglass, while also producing the accompanying derivative  
plexiglass objects. Transmitted to their surface destination via rays  
of light, photographs are usually thought of as depthless images  
extracted from preexisting three-dimensional forms; Kimura

shrewdly reverses this process here, extracting (contrived) volume  
from (primary) surface imagery.

The work is part of a series called "Image and the Shadow" (2005–06), which interrogates the relationships between form,  
substance and appearance in various ways. In *Image and the Shadow 01* (2005), a circular, plexiglass-mounted Lambda print showing  
an oceanic horizon is hung on the wall, with a piece of grey-tinted  
transparent plexiglass in the same shape and size placed on the floor  
below, propped up by the same wall like a disembodied cast "shadow"  
that has its own autonomous materiality. These works disrupt the  
hierarchical structure of Plato's cave allegory, in which the insubstantial  
two-dimensional imagery of shadows cast against the cave's wall  
is a secondary and illusory derivation of the higher truth of three-  
dimensional reality. The photographic image in Kimura's art doesn't  
pose as a thing's immaterial appearance split from itself; it always  
possesses its own spatial and corporeal authenticity.

In *Get Going into the Details* (2005), Kimura presents a bare panel  
of wood hanging on a wall alongside a series of other panels mounted  
with photographic images of wood. On the surface of things, there  
is no detectable difference between the wood and the identically  
proportioned Lambda prints depicting wood grain. Are we looking  
at an image or an object? Once again, the question is rendered  
redundant—the real wood projects a surface image onto the plane of  
our retina (which is a threshold made of nerve endings) in exactly the  
same way that the photographs do, and the mounted photographic  
prints have just as much volume and tangibility as the solid plank.

For her first solo museum show, "Untitled" (2010–11), at Izu Photo  
Museum, Nagaizumi, Japan, Kimura presented a series of untitled  
arrangements with found photographic images blown up and mounted  
on generic IKEA tables. This horizontal display forced the viewer to  
physically navigate their way around the picture planes and to see  
them from various vantage points as objects in our space rather than  
as monofocal vertical planes shown at eye level referring to another  
time and place. In his seminal series of essays "Notes on Sculpture"  
(1966), Robert Morris wrote that the wall-mounted relief was no longer  
legitimate since it "timidly resists" gravity. Emphasizing horizontality,  
he proposed that the "ground plane, not the wall, is the necessary  
support for the maximum awareness of the object." Photography was  
left out of the equation in Morris's time, but Kimura's tabletop-mounted





images similarly affirm their own concrete materiality by subjecting the palpable surfaces of the photos to gravitational force.

Throughout the "Untitled" exhibition, various found objects, including rocks, pieces of wood, a Polaroid photo and a partly melted candle, were arranged on top of the tables, interrupting the pictorial content with their immediate presence as raw material. The only two wall-mounted images in the main room of the exhibition were partially occluded by living potted plants that were placed on the floor directly below them, playing on image/object relations by adding an element of literal depth to what is otherwise considered a homogeneous two-dimensional plane.

At the entrance to the exhibition was a small table with a blank white canvas covering its surface. On close inspection, an indistinct image of mountains could be seen lurking beneath this affixed, not-quite-opaque fabric, suggesting a landscape shrouded in snow. The "flat" image here was in fact the sum of multiple layers, bringing to mind Rosalind Krauss's reading of collage as a "literalization of depth." Rejecting Clement Greenberg's credo that early 20th-century collage had flattened and foregrounded the material surface of the image, Krauss argued instead that the collaged image's surface is the image of eradicated surface. Krauss proposed in her 1981 essay "In the Name of Picasso" that, with its superimposition of discontinuous fields in front or on top of the ground it now masks, "the collage element obscures the master plane only to represent that plane in the form of a depiction."

Kimura's image/object assemblages might be read in terms of expanded collage practice, but we should also remember that "collage" means simply "to glue" and that a defining feature of these untitled

Kimura's tabletop-mounted images similarly affirm their own concrete materiality by subjecting the palpable surfaces of the photos to gravitational force.



(Opposite page)  
**UNTITLED** (detail), 2010, two Lambda prints mounted on alpolic, wood, iron, lacquer, stones, dimensions variable. Photo by Yasushi Ichikawa. Courtesy Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo, and Izu Photo Museum, Nagazumi.

(This page)  
**UNTITLED**, 2010, Lambda print mounted on alpolic, wood, ceramic, plant, dimensions variable. Photo by Yasushi Ichikawa. Courtesy Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo, and Izu Photo Museum, Nagazumi.



arrangements was nonfixity. This made the play of re-presentations more fluid: the original field of the photographic surface was disrupted but not irreparably broken, with objects partially obscuring the pictures while also partially replicating their content. The rocks and potted plants were sourced according to what was already in the found images, so the "real-life" objects ended up with secondary status.

Along with tables, chairs also featured heavily in the "Untitled" exhibition. In one arrangement, a generic dining chair was placed on the floor supporting a horizontally displayed aerial image of a different floor. This in turn supported some dried peppercorns on its surface, while a printed image of yet another floor was propped up vertically against the backrest, adding to the multiplicity of intersecting spaces. In another work, the glossy surface of a tabletop-mounted image was interrupted by the reflected image of an actual chair next to the table. Elsewhere, a photograph of a worn leather chair was made into another glossy tabletop, upon which a Polaroid photograph of a vase of flowers sat. The depicted chair was on wheels, as was the actual table carrying the image(s).

Kimura has also made several manifestations of the work *Eleven* (2009), in which two identical bought chairs are displayed side by side, visually punning the duplication of form in the number 11 as well as the notion of photographic reproduction. Chairs have appeared with curious regularity in art that examines the differences, or lack thereof, between form and content, pictorial flatness and depth, and creation and representation. Amikam Toren's *Neither a Painting Nor a Chair* (1979–80), for instance, has 12 similar flat images of a chair made from wood shaved off the same chair and pulped into pigment, displayed next to the feeble, skeletal remains of the original chair, so that the total substance remained, while the image of the thing is almost, but not fully, split from its material form. Joseph Kosuth's iconic *One and Three Chairs* (1965) is comprised of a chair, a photograph of the same chair and a photocopy of the dictionary definition of the word "chair." Robert Rauschenberg's *Pilgrim* (1960) has a chair affixed to a painting, occupying the vertical space of the picture as well as the floor below it. At the very genesis of collage there is also Picasso's *Still Life with Chair Caning* (1912), in which the vertical surface, evidently depicting a horizontal tabletop arranged with breakfast items, is affixed with a piece of oilcloth simulating a chair-caning pattern.

In her work *Untitled (Room)* (2012), shown earlier this year at Le Plateau in Paris, Kimura further interrogated dualities of two-dimensionality/three-dimensionality and horizontal/vertical display. A found image of an interior domestic space was blown up, reprinted with inkjet on adhesive paper and stuck directly on the wall in a corner of the gallery, with the edges of the print partially occupying the intersecting wall and floor. This use of the fully dimensional architecture granted the pasted flat plane of the photograph height, width and literal depth—the work's dimensions are 242 by 380 by 40 centimeters. The picture shows an open window, looking out on more windows in the facades of surrounding apartment blocks—a wink, perhaps, toward the ideal of the Renaissance fresco's homogeneous and transparent pictorial "window," which is made impossible here by the overtly cubic presentation of the image.

Kimura's art could appear to be absolutely opposed to the trompe-l'oeil tradition, since any spatial illusion within the flat picture is always in some way disrupted by the intrusion of literal physicality. Once she has had her way with her selected photographs, they appear to us as pure substance rather than as indexes to something outside of themselves. But then, trompe l'oeil was never a total deceit of the eye. The most important moment in experiencing these initially illusory images was precisely the revelation of their artifice, the uncovering of the trick, wherein lay the indication of the artist's skill. In this sense, Kimura's work is a logical continuation of the genre, with additional layers being built up and folded in on the inherent "treachery of images," to borrow René Magritte's phrase.

In *Post-Disembodiment (Origin)* (2006), a plexiglass-mounted image of a sandstone wall is hung on an actual wall, with the space of an arched doorway sliced out of it. Next to this, a wooden panel with the



(Opposite page)  
**ELEVEN**, 2009, two chairs, 68 x 32 x 34 cm each. Photo by Yasushi Ichikawa.

(This page, top)  
**UNTITLED**, 2010, Lambda print mounted on alpolic, wood, aluminum, cotton, 100 x 68 x 72.6 cm. Photo by Yasushi Ichikawa. Courtesy Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo, and Izu Photo Museum, Nagaizumi.

(This page, bottom)  
**UNTITLED**, 2010, Lambda print mounted on alpolic, side table, polaroid, 94 x 62.5 x 69.8 cm. Photo by Yasushi Ichikawa. Courtesy Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo, and Izu Photo Museum, Nagaizumi.

same size and shape as the missing doorway from the first image leans against the same wall. This panel carries the depiction of a door with a shadow cast on its surface, while also casting its own real-time shadow on the ground that supports it. In life and in traditional trompe-l'oeil painting, doors indicate depth behind the surface image that meets the eye. Here, the disembodied/re-embodied door image is just another object in our immediate presence.

While we might consider photographic images to possess height and width without penetrable depth, they are only made visible via volumetric substance, such as pigments on printed matter or pixels through a liquid-crystal-display screen. The photography historian Geoffrey Batchen has demonstrated the many ways in which photographs in the 19th century were experienced as unique, opaque and tactile things. They were expensive, rarefied objects whose concrete presence was further affirmed when they were hand-tinted, combined with hair and other material stuff, carried in ornate cases, or worn as jewelry. But after some early 20th-century experiments with the physicality of photographs by László Moholy-Nagy (who coined the term "photoplastik") and other artists, the medium came to be seen as essentially outward-looking, with the job of documenting that which existed independently in front of the camera's lens. At the height of formalism in painting and sculpture, the materiality of the photographic surface was considered inconsequential and invisible—we looked through it, straight to the allegedly disembodied and infinitely duplicable depiction.

Yuki Kimura has worked toward a new photo-ontology that escapes the established vocabulary of indexicality, depiction, representation and reproduction.





In 1970, the survey exhibition "Photography into Sculpture," curated by Peter C. Bunnell at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, billed itself as the "first comprehensive survey of photographically formed images used in a sculptural or fully dimensional manner." Hilton Kramer, critic for the *New York Times*, was unimpressed. He wrote in his irascible review that the printed photograph "generates its own standards of purity and truth," and to use it as material in a three-dimensional construction was "to violate the integrity of the photographic process." While Bunnell showed that there were artists at this time exploring the sculptural possibilities of photographs, Kramer's response suggests that Greenberg's prohibitions against mixing media still held sway.

Today, the Greenbergian doctrine of medium specificity is so thoroughly disregarded that multidisciplinarity might be the new totalitarianism, and any artist working with consistent fidelity to a single medium is forced to justify their lack of hybridity. And yet the insistence on photography's essential transparency as documentation has been remarkably enduring. Over the last decade, Yuki Kimura has worked toward a new photo-ontology that escapes the established vocabulary of indexicality, depiction, representation and reproduction. Experimenting with new material and spatial possibilities, her self-referential assemblages foreground the image's objecthood in the world of matter. There is no looking through or past her surfaces—we have to look directly at them, thus refuting the American physician and writer Oliver Wendell Holmes's euphoric remark of 1859 that photography meant "form is henceforth divorced from matter." That divorce, it would seem, was never quite finalized. ☺

(Opposite page)  
**POST-DISEMBODIMENT (ORIGIN)**, 2006,  
two Lambda prints mounted on wood,  
120 x 180cm, 95 x 46cm.

(This page)  
**UNTITLED (ROOM)**, 2012, inkjet print  
on adhesive paper, 242 x 380 x 40 cm,  
installed at Le Plateau, Paris, 2012. Photo  
by Martin Argyroglo.

# *Yuki Kimura*

## Complex connections

While choosing photography as her medium, which captures the reality before our eyes, Yuki Kimura endeavours to draw out those elements hidden from the eye, what she calls the 'latent effects' of images—associations that summon up our powers of imagination, leading on to other, derivative images. For Kimura photography is not a means of capturing reality, but a material for giving visual form to conceptual ideas. In her works, which also include video and more recently sculpture and installation, she gathers trifling events and mundane images to entice the viewer into a totally new realm—a construct of her imagination. The experience is akin to entering Alice's wonderland through the looking glass.

Initially taking her own photographs, in 2003 Kimura arrived at the technique of using found photographs. By using the private souvenirs of anonymous individuals, pictures of no special value, come upon by chance and not sufficiently representative of a particular era or set of social customs to be classed as vintage, she conjures up a certain association or fiction that she invites us to interpret as we choose. Rather than placing the image in a frame, she teams it with objects to form sculptures, which she develops into a spatial installation.

To avoid bringing the aura and history of the original into her work, Kimura does not use found photographs in their existing form. She removes part of the image, or makes additions, changes colours, or cuts out fragments and turns them into objects, playing visual tricks by manipulating the image to give wings to her flights of fancy. She recognizes the potential for images to change, or of derivative images to take on a life of their own and in turn to spawn complex connections and changes in her way of thinking as a result of using a computer.

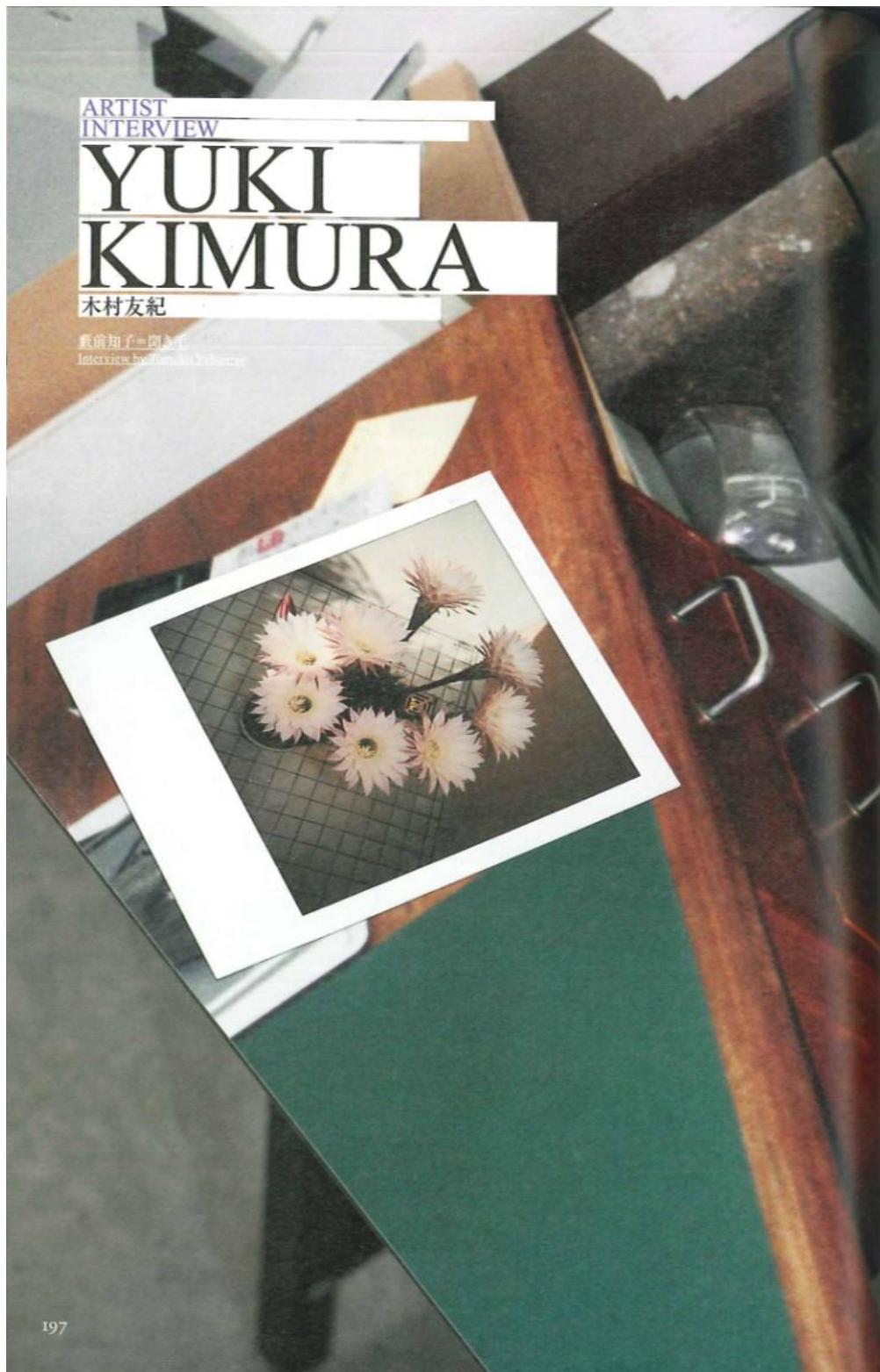
*Image and the shadow (st. elmo's fire)* (2006) is constructed around fifteen monochrome photographs of a mysterious object found in a Paris flea market. Removing the silhouettes of this model from the images, Kimura cut out their shapes in white Plexiglass and lined them up on the floor beneath the photographs, thus reconfiguring the images from multiple two- and three-dimensional perspectives to produce a new, wave-like topography of 'photo shadows'.

**IN YOU MAY ATTEND A PARTY WHERE STRANGE CUSTOMS PREVAIL** (2006), which takes its title from the message in a fortune cookie, Kimura begins by cutting the arched door from a found

photograph of a castle wall, then cuts the same arch shape over and over again from background images in other photographs. In the resulting aggregation, spread around the gallery, connections are forged through this encoded image between fragments of landscape from different, unrelated, locations.

*Pictures of a Man* (2007) grew out of found photographs of a man with a moustache, a figure with whom Kimura felt a fateful connection. Picking out distinguishing details, such as the wallpaper behind him, his nose and his moustache, she recomposed them in photographic and sculptural forms.

In this way, she makes a playful experiment that tests the notion that photographs are not simply records, but triggers that create memories and wellsprings of the imagination.



薮前知子  
美術手帖  
Bijutsu Techo, November, 2010, p.197-211.



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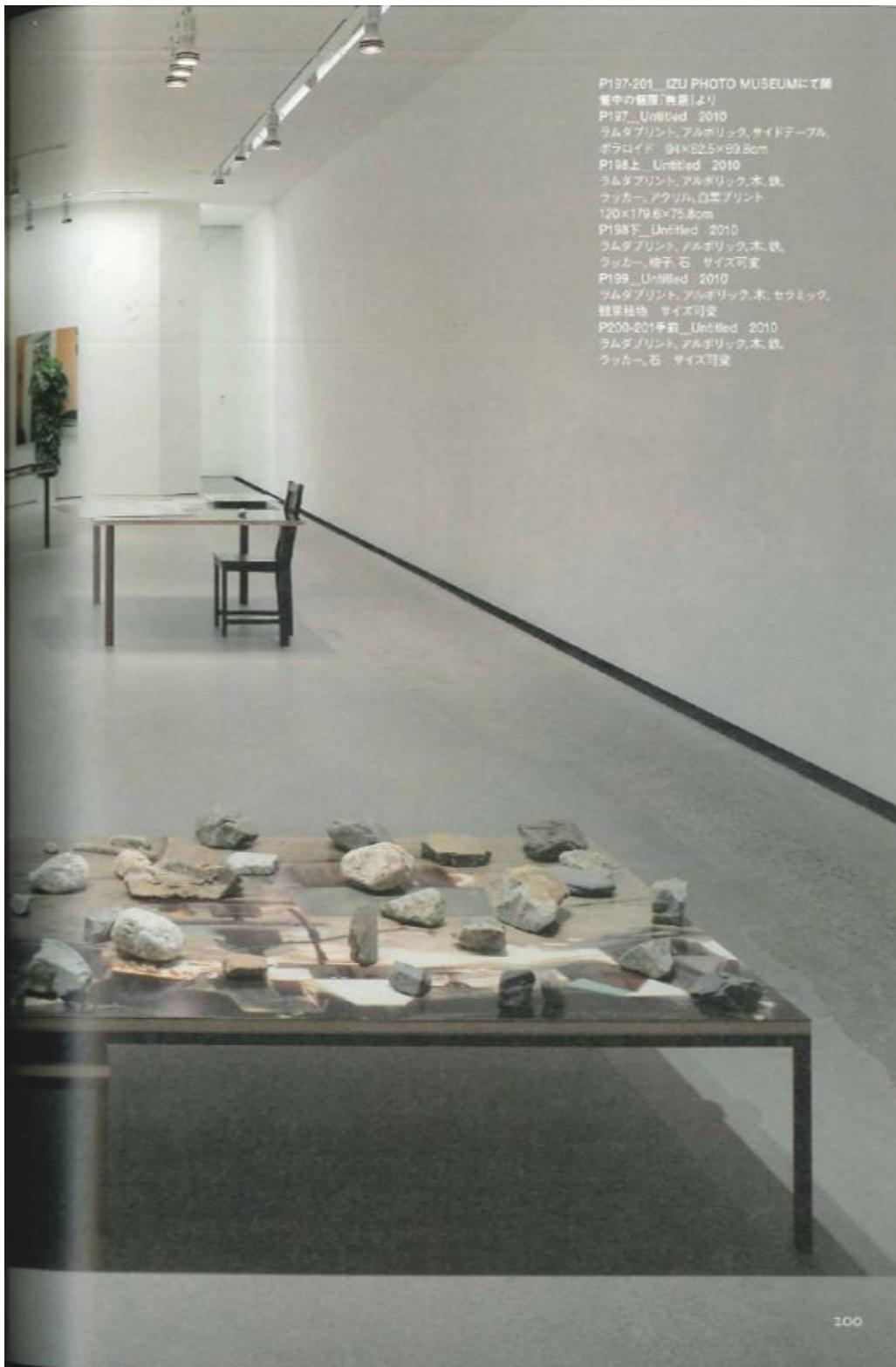
薮前知子  
美術手帖  
Bijutsu Techo, November, 2010, p.197-211.



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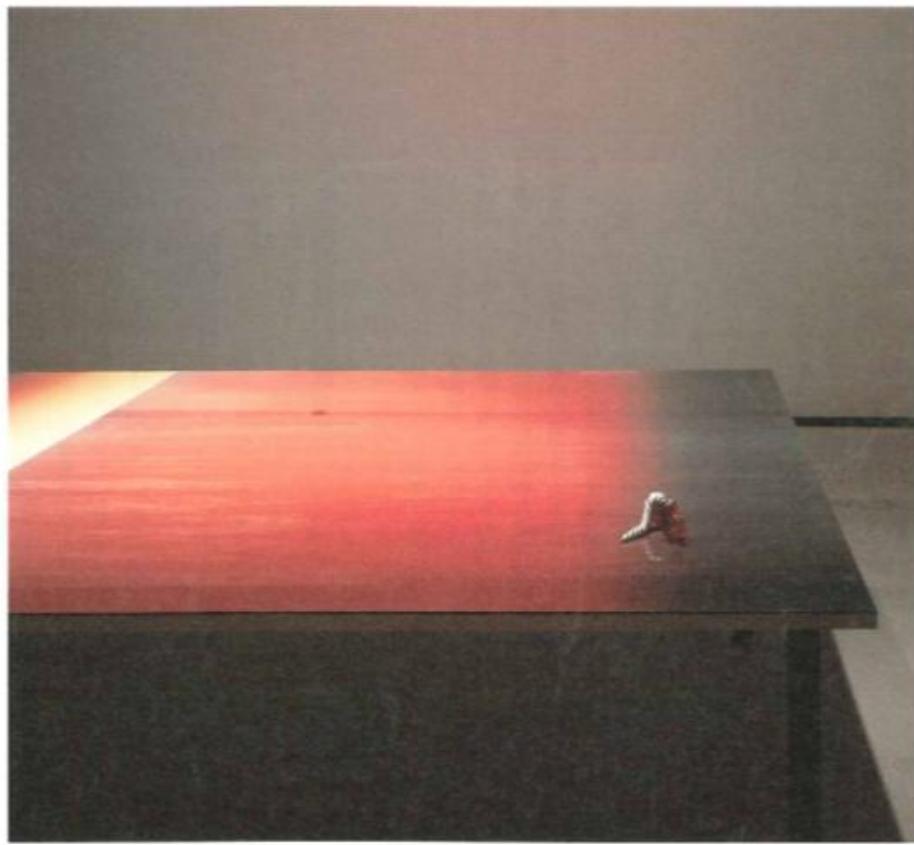
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美術手帖  
Bijutsu Techo, November, 2010, p.197-211.



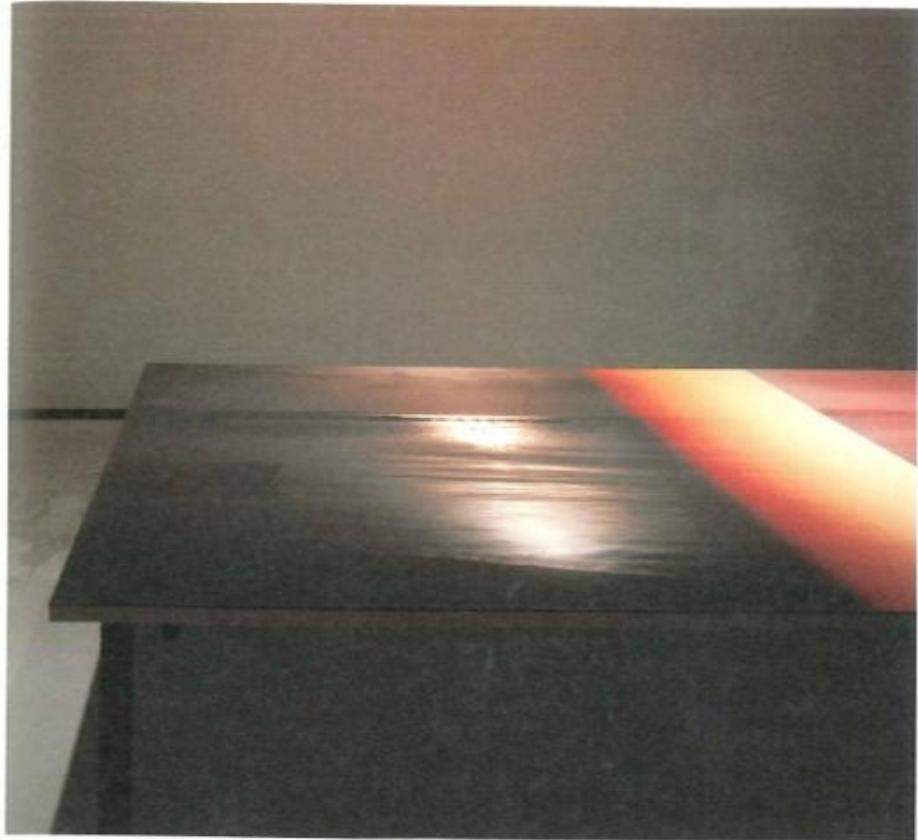
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GALERIE  
CHANTAL CROUSEL

「木村友紀 告別」展  
2010年9月5日～2011年1月11日までIZU PHOTO  
MUSEUM(静岡)にて開催中。  
◎11月7日(日)14時30分～木村友紀と歩和田愛子  
(小説家)が出演するトークイベントを開催。要電話  
予約  
IZU PHOTO MUSEUM  
10:00～17:00(11月から1月～16:30)  
水(祝なら木)、年末年始休  
静岡県長泉町東野クリマチスの丘347-1  
Tel.055-989-8780  
<http://www.izuphotomuseum.jp>



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P202-203 IZU PHOTO MUSEUMにて  
開催中の個展「無題」より  
P202上\_203\_Untitled 2010  
ラムダプリント、アクリル、木、鉛、ラッカーリ  
版画、両台 122×358×79.3cm  
P202下2枚\_Untitled 2010  
ラムダプリント、アクリル、椅子、黒胡桃  
41.5×45×90 cm  
撮影(P197-203)一市川誠史  
Courtesy of IZU PHOTO MUSEUM



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Interview with YUKI KIMURA

## 写真に「触れる」という行為 イメージへの挑戦とそこにある論考

■ 現在 IZU PHOTO MUSEUM にて「木村友紀 無題」展が開催されている。木村は現代美術の文脈において、イメージや写真に対する徹底した分析と考察に基づいた作品を発表してきた。常に新しい表現方法に挑みつづける彼女に話を聞く。

薮前知子＝聞き手

### 写真を扱う仕事 そこに示される精神

——まず、今回の展示について聞かせてください。美術館での最初の個展ということもあってか、印象として感じたのは、木村さんの仕事が一つの成熟に達したのではないであります。しかし、印象として感じたのは、木村

——そのままに、一つの作品が、この空間のなかにあるものだけではなく、その外にある何万というイメージ一般を呼び起すような拡張を感じました。そのようないくつかの理由をお聞かせいただけますか？

木村 これが美術館での初個展であるということよりも、ここが写真的美術館であることのほうが私にとって重要な問題でした。私は美術のフィールドで写真を扱う仕事をしているのですが、写真のフィールドから見たときにもそのことが明確に伝わらなければならぬと思いました。写真をどう

のように扱うか、イメージの選択からその提示方法までのすべての作業の根柢となる精神性が私の作品だということです。

そこにフォーカスしていくうちに言葉や物語が消え、さらにはそれらを拒絶する意思のようなものが現れたのです。

——もつとも目につくのは、壁に掛けられたイメージがわずかしかなく、ほとんどがテーブルの形で提示されていることです。この手法は、どのようなところから出てきたのでしょうか。

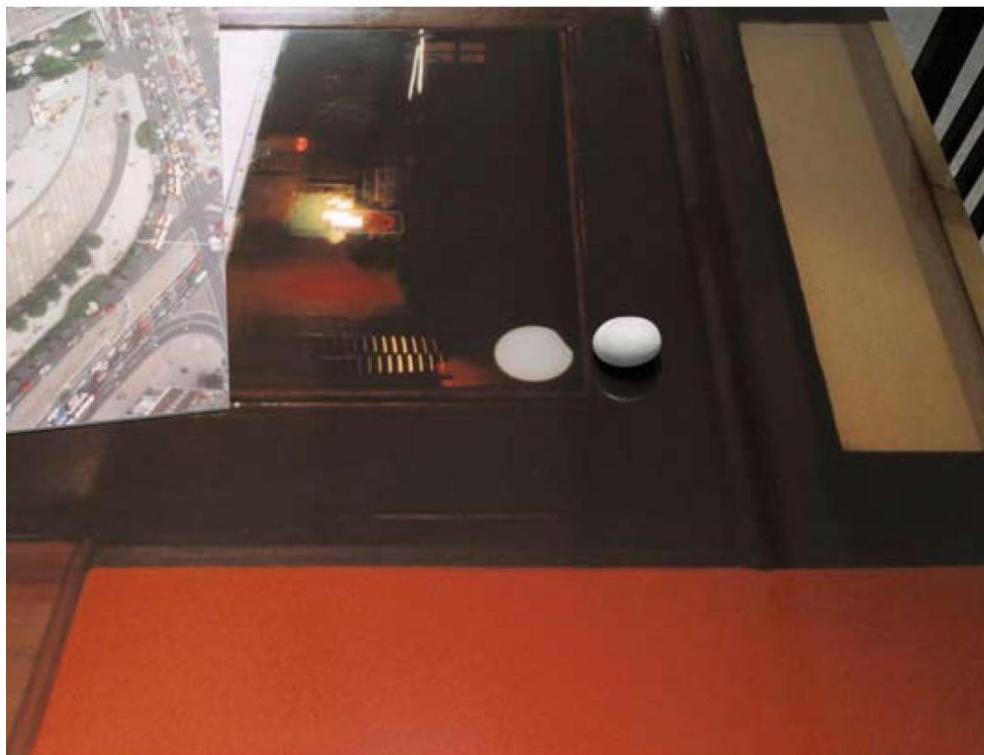
木村 壁に picture (写真) を掛けるという絵画的なプレゼンテーションに対して、

「関係」の糸口になるものが、極力排され

### Yuki Kimura

1971年京都市生まれ。96年京都市立芸術大学大学院美術研究科修了。近年の主な個展に「1940年は月曜日から始まる閏年」(タカ・イシギャラリー、東京、2009)、「POSTERIORITY」(大和ブレス・ビューリングルーム、広島、2009)など。グループ展に「Pastic Memoires—いまを照らす方法」(東京都現代美術館、2010)、「インシデンタル・アフェアーズ うつろいゆく日常性の美学」(サントリーミュージアム「天保山」、大阪、2009)。来年は水戸芸術館現代美術センター(茨城)、国立国際美術館(大阪)でのグループ展などに参加予定。

Artist Interview ■ YUKI KIMURA ■



「無題」展より「Gallery\_1」の右中央に展示された作品のクローズアップ  
撮影=市川靖史

これまでにも、床置きやアングルで自立させた、より物質性を強調する展示方法を試みてきました。今回はその発展として「写真に直接触れる」という行為を実践したのです。それを可能にする最良の方法として、テーブルという形式を選びました。

——これまでの作品では、まず一枚の写真があり、ある言葉によって繋がりが生まれて……というように、作品がつくられていくストーリーのようなものが、全体の構成と不可分にあつたと思います。しかし今は、それも感じられません。今作の構想のプロセスについて教えていただけますか？

**木村** 制作過程におけるストーリーとは、作家が作品を構築してゆく段階の話で、それは作品の構成と不可分です。しかし初期のビデオ作品などを除いたこれまでの作品で、タイトルなどの言葉は重要でしたが、そこにナラティブを提示したことはありません。私自身が静止画像の断片性や乖離性に興味があり、それを重視してきたからだと思います。

今回の場合は、テーブルが持つ形状が、より簡潔な内容を構成することを容易にしました。水平に置かれたイメージは遠くか

木村　インスピレーションの段階や後<sup>あと</sup>先<sup>さき</sup>はとても曖昧なものです。すべてのアイデアが同時に成立し、その細部を後から丁寧に解説していくような作業です。

しかし、冒頭でもお話しした通り、今回は当初から、この場所でどのような作品を提示すべきかという考え方をしました。そこには、写真を展示するための新しいバリ

ー見渡すことができません。それにより一つの空間のなかに独立した小さい空間を点在させ、それらが互いに干渉し合わない、意味を結ばない一つの整然とした部屋を構成することができます。

——個々の要素が互いに意味を結ばないと

いうことが、テーブルの形状を採用することよりも前に、構想のなかにあつたということでしょうか。

木村　インスピレーションの段階や後<sup>あと</sup>先<sup>さき</sup>は

となるような方向に変化させた理由があるとしたら、どんなことでしょうか。

木村　以前やつたことをベースにその何かを変化させたということではないんです。これまでの作品においてさえ、そういうふた



「無題」展より「Gallery\_1」の展示から  
撮影=市川靖史

エーションをただ羅列するというような、無機質で抽象的な部屋のイメージが浮かんできました。

——これまでの木村さんの作品には、やはり鑑賞者に個々のイメージの関係の読み取りを促す要素があったと思います。それを今回、このような、それぞれが自律しつつ、「イメージ」という概念そのものの参照項

としているように見えます。それを物語を関連づけ、それを物語的に理解しようとするのは、認識の本質的特性です。並列された複数のイメージを前に、人は自ずと関係や伏線を解読します。その機能を利用して私が提示してきたのは、全くくだらない表層的な関係や、解読したところで何處にも到達しない伏線、空洞でした。そこに翻弄され

■ ■ ■ 作品を  
一つの「態度」として  
現前させる ■ ■ ■



Artist Interview ■ YUKI KIMURA ■

冒流的ジエスチャーとその失敗  
——今回の展示に話を戻すと、壁に掛けられた作品の画面には、観葉植物の葉(P206)が触れています。「置く」「触る」行為は、「見る」ことのメタファーなのでしょうか。そしてこのことは、何を引き起こしているのでしょうか?

WHERE STRANGE CUSTOMS PREVAIL  
(2006)<sup>\*</sup>は、占いや偶然の符合といった意味を迫る事象に対する身の交わし方についての作品です。それはまさしく「イメージをどう扱うか」という問いであり、インスタレーションはその実践でした。写真を切り取って床に置いたり、別のイメージに替えたり、ナンセンスなタイトルを付けることなど、つまりイメージやオブジェの提示方法ですが、それらを作品の態度として現前させようとしたのです。

ることで見えてくるものは、脅迫性や暴力性というイメージの下部構造です。私の作品には常にこうしたイメージに対する挑戦があります。

例えば『YOU MAY ATTEND A PARTY



YOU MAY ATTEND A PARTY WHERE  
STRANGE CUSTOMS PREVAIL 2006  
大和プレスビューイングルーム「POSTE  
RIOORITY」展 展示風景(2009年)  
(個展図録「DAIWA PRESS VIEWING  
ROOM vol.09」より) 撮影:ホンマタカシ  
Courtesy of Daiwa Press Viewing Room  
and Taka Ishii Gallery



\*1 YOU MAY ATTEND A PARTY  
WHERE STRANGE CUSTOMS PREVAIL  
2006年、タカ・イシイギャラリー(東京)にて発表  
したインスタレーション作品。「あなたは奇妙な習  
慣の蔓延するパーティーに出席するでしょう」と  
いうタイトルの言葉は、木村が引いたフォー  
チューンクッキーの中に入っていた言葉。左は本  
作を収めた同名作品集表紙(同ギャラリー刊)。

木村 「置く」「触る」行為は、「見る」ことのメタファーだとは考えていません。

物が触れることで、写真は紙の表面であることを、イメージは二次元の像でしかないことを露わにします。それは写真を見る（崇める）対象からいつたん引き落とすための冒涜的なジェスチャーです。しかし、写真と物はすぐさま手を組み、新たなイメージを創出します。それらの冒涜は常に、失敗を前提とした不毛な脱力感を伴っています。

—失敗というものは作品が、作家の意図とは別の現れ方をするという意味でしょうか。イメージの、不可避に現れる強さのようないものが、かえって強調される状態が生まれるとして、それもまた作品の意図に含まれるのでしょうか。

木村 しかしその失敗は自ら望んで招くものです。それらの失敗が予定通り飲み込まれて空洞化したままイメージに付着して放置されています。それが作品に漂う気配を導き出します。滑稽さとも言えるかもしれないけれど。それが作品を成立させていると考えています。

—スポットを使うという展示方法も、こ



7 24 & 138-11 2010 ラムダプリント、アルボリック、フレーム 2点組  
63×83×3.5cm、63×86×3.5cm 撮影=市川靖史

この視覚体験が浮き彫りになります。光の進む速度が時間の尺度となるように、光によって現在が指示され続けるのです。—先ほど写真の物質性ということに言及されていましたが、おそらくそれはデータ全盛のこの時代には、失われていく文化です。木村さんの作品には、普遍性とともに、そうした限定的で個別的な時代に対するノスタルジーのようなものを感じられます。写真の細部に現れた「趣味」のようなものに対する執着も含まれるかもしれません。そこには、木村さんご本人の世代や国籍も含めた出自が反映されていると考えてよいのでしょうか？

これまでと違うのですね。昼と夜のように、二つの部屋の照度のコントラストをつけたりしていく、光に対する意識が少し変化なさったように感じます。

木村 アナログプリントの時代につくりだされたイメージは、デジタルのそれに比べて格段に質が高く、その濃密な情報量に反したイメージの無意味さがとても面白い部分です。庶民の営みとしてのプリントやアルバムという習慣が終わってゆくことで、それらがある限定された時代の現象であつたことがわかります。

私たちの世代はその変遷を経

■ ■ ■ 写真とは  
「後であること」 ■ ■ ■

Artist Interview ■ YUKI KIMURA ■



上——Pictures of a Man 2007 東京都現代美術館 MOTコレクション「Plastic Memorie—いまを照らす方法」展 展示風景(2010年4月24日～6月20日) Courtesy of Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo and Taka Ishii Gallery 撮影=木奥恵三  
下——the man 2007 ラムダプリント、アルボリック、ラミネート、フレーム 86×121×3.4cm

験した当事者で、多くをその恩恵に与つてゐると思います。しかしながら私自身のノスタルジーと作品はほとんど関係がないと考えています。

例えば『Pictures of a Man』(2007)というひげの男をテーマにした作品で、そこに選んだイメージそのものは時代性や趣味性と捉えるものです。しかしその裏には、白人の中年男性や1960年代のニューエイジ的なアジア趣味のイメージを故意に抽出し、作品として見せることに示される文化的な交換のジェスチャーがあり

ます。それを支える精神性は、非常に現代的で複雑なものです。それを私個人の特有のものだと主張することに面白さを感じられないし、実際そうではないと信じています。作品が開かれた構造物として機能するために、自分自身と切り離したところで考える必要があるのです。

—前回の大和プレス・ビューアイングルームでの個展には「POSTERIORITY (事後性)」というタイトルがつけられています。今回も時間にまつわるこの言葉が、館内で配布されるリーフレットのなかに使われています。リニアで不可逆な、私たちが時間に対して一般的に持つている感覚を覆し、より複雑なものへと開いていくという企図は、木村さんの作品の核の部分にあるとも感じます。この言葉についてご説明いただけますか?

**木村** すべてがやり尽くされた後である現在から、さらに何を創るかを迫られることがアーティストの宿命です。そのことと、写真に残された過去のイメージを集め、そこから何かを提示しようとする私の仕事が、まさ

## ■危機感こそがこの時代の論点■

に一致すると考えました。写真とは「後であること」なのです。またそこには、先端を目指すべきアートが、先ではなく後であることを主張するという屈折したテーマがあるのです。

### システムに対する抵抗はアートの実践

—この展覧会のオープニングに合わせて開催された、荒川医さん、<sup>\*3</sup>松原慈さん、<sup>\*3</sup>前田岳究さんを交えたトークの記録を見せていただきました。そこでは、アーティストを取り巻く社会的な制度への違和感を語っておられましたね。

制作とは既存のシステムに対する抵抗であるべきで、だからこそアートは常に更新されるのだというご発言に、これまでの木村さんの活動と照らし合わせて、まずは驚いたのですけれども、同時に納得もしました。このトークの目的について教えていただけますか?



ポートレート撮影=前田岳究

**木村** 90年代を経て美術のシステムが確立される一方、徐々にそれらが形式化し始めています。私たちが共通に抱いている危機感こそが、この時代の論点だと思います。このメンバーはそういった現状に意識的



\*3 「無題」展オープニングトーク  
展覧会初日に美術館にて開催。松原、荒川、木村の3名に加え、前田はスカイブを中継してベルリンから参加した。同展の構想が話題になったほか、アーティストの置かれている現在の状況(作家の職業化、アートの商品化など)に対する危機感が語られた。



\*2 個展「POSTERIORITY」  
2009年、大和プレス・ビューアイングルーム(広島)にて開催。左はこの展覧会の展示をまとめた作品集「DAIWA PRESS VIEWING ROOM 09」(大和プレス刊)。木村自身が構成を担当した同書は、もう一つの展覧会とも呼べる内容。清水稼、中井康之、田中功起らが論考を寄稿。

撮影(P197-203.205-206.208.211)=市川靖史 Courtesy of IZU PHOTO MUSEUM 210

Artist Interview ■ YUKI KIMURA ■



Untitled 2010 ラムダプリント、アルボリック、木、アルミニウム、綿布  
100×68×72.6cm 撮影=市川靖史

で、それに抗うジエスチヤーをすでに起こしているアーティストたちです。これから先、このようなグループでの活動や共感するアーティスト同士の会話がとても重要ななると考えています。

——社会のシステムに対して、作品 자체が何らかの効果を与えるとお考えですか？

それとも、これまでなさってきたように、木村友紀個人としての制作とは別の、他のアーティストとの「コラボレーション」などの活動がそれに当たるのでしょうか。

木村 美術のシステムは社会のシステムの一部分です。アートが社会から切り離されて存在することはありえないことです。写真の上に置かれた石は、つい先日まで自然の一部でした。しかし拾われて美術館に置かれたことで、それらは社会的な存在であることを余儀なくされてしまいます。制作過程、作品、展覧会、その一部始終に社会との交渉があり、そのなかでの一つ一つの具体的な問題の解決がアートの実践です。

——イメージの表層的な関係性を扱いつつ、それを支える下部構造を浮き彫りにするというお話もありましたが、それはすでに、スペクタクルな形式から逃れられないアートの制度に対する抵抗も含んでいるということですね。

一見不親切な、「無題」というタイトルがつけられた今回の展覧会では、木村さんのそうした意識がより鮮明に形をとるのを見ることができたと思います。

2点組の作品が久々に登場するなど、これまでの手法を総括し、新しい何かへ向かうような心構えも感じられました。これらの展開を楽しみにしています。

やまぶえ・ともこ

1974年東京都生まれ。東京都現代美術館学芸員。主な担当企画に「大竹伸朗 全景 1955-2006」(2006)、MOTコレクション「夏の遊び場 特集展示 伊藤存+金氏徹平」「特集展示 岡崎乾二郎」(ともに2009)、「Plastic Memories—いまを照らす方法」「入り口はこちら なにがみえる?」(ともに2010)など。