

## Nobuaki ITOH Solo Exhibition *Āto and Artist*

Title: *Āto and Artist*

Artist: Nobuaki ITOH

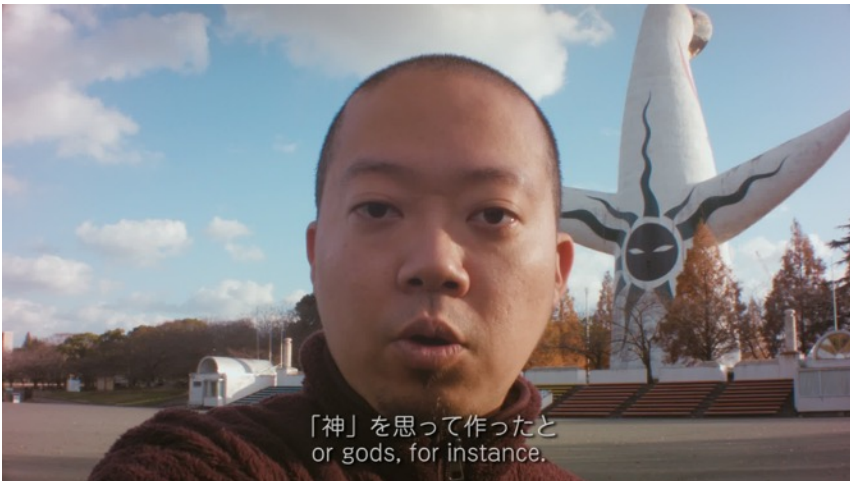
Duration: 11/26 (Sat.) - 12/25 (Sun.), 2016

- Our gallery hours are Monday 5-11pm, Thursday to Saturday 12-7pm, and Sunday 12-6pm

- Opening Reception : 11/26, Saturday, 6-9pm with the artist present

Venue : WAITINGROOM (Shibuya Hyacca Bldg. 4B, 2-8-11 Ebisu-nishi, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo)

Tokyo, Japan - WAITINGROOM is pleased to announce Nobuaki ITOH Solo Exhibiton, *Āto and Artist*, from November 26th to December 25th, 2016 and it is the first time to present the artist's solo exhibition at our gallery. ITOH has been exploring the issue of body, life / death, and spirit, which are not avoidable for human being, and creating video and installation works in this theme. The exhibition will consist of two video works; *Āto (Art)*, the video consists of short footage, which show the artist himself talking the issue of the "essence of art" in front of masterpieces, artist's studio, and people who are touring to watch artworks. The other work, *Artist*, a kind of "Mockumentary" which shows the process of changing the mind of one woman, who had not been able to decide whether she would become an artist or not, but finally stated her will to be an artist. In this video, what changes her mind is a practice of shouting "Ten Statements for an Artist" which consist of remarks by 10 artists, the method of which is based on the new employee trainings of Japanese companies. In this exhibition, there will be two different versions of the work, *Āto (Art)*, Japan and Spain versions, and *Artist* along with the related drawings.



《*Āto (Japan Ver.)*》 2015, single channel video with sound, 10min.5sec.



《*Āto (Spain Ver.)*》 2015, single channel video with sound, 10min.5sec.

### About the artist, Nobuaki ITOH

Born in 1981 in Nara, currently lives and works in Nara and Kyoto. He graduated from Kyoto University of Arts and Design in the major of Fine Art in 2006 and obtained a Ph.D. in Art at Kyoto City University of Arts in 2016. His recent exhibitions include a solo exhibition "*Āto*" (APMoA Project, ARCH vol.13: Nobuaki ITOH, Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Nagoya, 2015), group exhibition "*GRAVEDAD CERO*" (Matadero Madrid, Madrid, Spain, 2015), solo exhibition "*Artist and Prophet*" (HAGISO, Tokyo, 2014), "*Ushimado Asia Triennale*" (Setouchi City Museum of Art, Okayama, 2014), group exhibition "*Me'tis - fighting art -*" (Gallery @KCUA, Kyoto, 2012), group exhibition "*RESONANSE*" (Suntory Museum, Osaka, 2010) and many others.

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## What on earth do we consider as “art”?

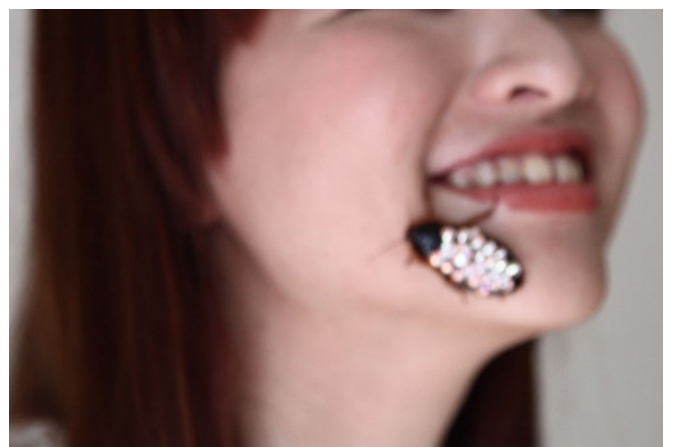
The exhibition will consist of two video works, *Āto (Art)*, and *Artist*, which question us “What on earth do we consider as art?”

In the work, *Āto (Art)*, ITOH himself is projected in front of museums and public artworks around Japan, talking about “the essence of art”. Where is the essence of art? How the ideal art should be? ITOH says in the video that the artwork created from the illimitable desire of recognition can easily be consumed but the “X” beyond the artwork, in other words, to pursue the ideal which human being never can reach is the genuine “essence of art”. In the meantime, he sometimes makes funny faces or weird gestures while he is talking in a detached tone, hence those footages of selfie images are as if the collage of videos posted on SNS so that a contradiction between what he says and his attitude are appearing gradually. As the artist himself acts both roles who shoot and to be shot, his words become wandering between reality and fiction. In addition to this work, *Āto (Japan Ver.)*, which has been exhibited at Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, there will be another version, *Āto (Spain Ver.)*, which was shot during his residency in Madrid (Spain), and both will be projected as 2 channel format in the gallery space. Spain version was made with almost the same script and same setup in front of Spanish masterpieces and environment around art, using the same method of the Japanese one. By projecting Spain and Japanese versions together in the same space, even if the object is the artist himself, the contrast is appearing by the circumstances, it illuminates the different situations surround art in both countries, furthermore the different history of them.

The work, *Artist*, is a kind of “Mockumentary” which shows the process of changing the mind of one woman, who had not been able to decide whether she would become an artist or not, but finally stated her will to be an artist, by practicing to shout “Ten Statements for an Artist” which consist of remarks by 10 artists, the method of which is based on the new employee trainings of Japanese companies. It starts as a comical setting to keep shouting “Ten Statements for an Artist”, but eventually she almost becomes an indoctrinated person, by repeating this attitude over and over again. To repeat the principal of how the artist should be highlights the question of “What is an Artist” paradoxically, and this operation of repetition changes those words to the meaningless ones by degrees. However, she declares that she will be an artist at the end with satisfied smile, feeling like a sense of accomplishment. “Chicken or the egg, Artist or Fine Art”. The question of “Who/What is an Artist?” is being connected to “Who/What am I?” which is an universal question for self-consciousness.

“I have been exploring the issue of body, life/death and spirit, which are not avoidable for human being. I don’t limit my style of making artworks, but chooses on each occasion the best way to make audiences realize these issues.” - Nobuaki ITOH

ITOH has been making artworks that the truth/ falsehood or real/fiction are mixed up, by using the relationship between acting and being acted in the video intentionally. The two video works in this exhibition create the distortion of real (reality) in the screen and question where is the true identity of attitude he does and words he says in the video, hence, it makes audience realize his universal theme of spirit about Art and Artist.



Left and Right: *《Artist》* 2013-2014, single channel video with sound, 35min.

**Nobuaki ITOH**

1981 Born in Nara, Japan

Currently lives and works in Nara and Kyoto

**EDUCATION**

2016 Kyoto City University of Arts, Ph.D. in Art, Kyoto, Japan

2009 Kyoto City University of Arts, M.F.A. in Concept and Media Planning, Kyoto, Japan

2006 Kyoto University of Arts and Design, B.A. in Fine Art, Kyoto, Japan

**SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

2016 *Āto and Artist*, WAITINGROOM, Tokyo

2015 *Animal (STUDY)*, ART SPACE ZERO-ONE, Osaka

*Āto (AM Ver.)*, Antenna Media, Kyoto

*APMoA Project, ARCH vol. 13 : Nobuaki ITOH, Āto*, Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Nagoya

2014 *0099*, CASO, Osaka \*Solo as Itoh+Bak

*Artist and Prophet*, HAGISO, Tokyo

2013 *Artist*, Antenna Media, Kyoto

2011 *Prophet*, Gallery @KCUA, Kyoto

2010 *Dead body of recollection*, "CUBIC" Gallery Iteza, Kyoto

2009 *1+1=1*, "CUBIC" Gallery Iteza, Kyoto

*a short story*, CASO, Osaka

2008 *1+1=1*, CASO, Osaka

*People who is recognizing the phantom image/ Questioner and Actor*, Gallery16, Kyoto

2007 *BODY SOAP*, "CUBIC" Gallery Iteza, Kyoto

2004 *delusive skin*, "CUBIC" Gallery Iteza, Kyoto

**SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

2016 *S-HOUSE Museum Opening Exhibition*, S-HOUSE Museum, Okayama

2015 *GRAVEDAD CERO*, Matadero Madrid, Madrid, Spain

*Art Week in front of school 2015*, Asanuma Memorial, Nara

*Still moving @KCUA*, Gallery @KCUA, Kyoto

2014 *Ushimado Asia Triennale*, Setouchi City Museum of Art, Okayama

*Hairy Soy Source, Soap and Ten Statements for an Artist*, MIACA, Hong Kong

*ego - Reexamining the Self -*, punto, Kyoto

2013 *Cho-Kyoto 2013*, Today's Machiya in Kyoto, Kyoto

*Nuit Blanche Kyoto 2013*, Gallery @KCUA, Kyoto

*Ogaki Biennale*, IAMAS, Gifu

*Transfiguration of Aesthetic Sense*, Osaka City Central Public Hall, Osaka

2012 *Transmit Program #3 Me'tis -fighting art-*, Gallery @KCUA, Kyoto

2011 *DONATIONS!! - For the stricken area of Great East Japan Earthquake -*, GURA, Kyoto

2010 *WAKUWAKU Kyoto*, Rissei Elementary School, Kyoto

*Small Museum 2010*, Gallery Yuragi, Kyoto

*RESONANSE*, Suntory Museum, Osaka

2009 *NONAME-KYOTO*, Rissei Elementary School, Kyoto

*NONAME-YOKOHAMA*, Yokohama ZAIM, Kanagawa

*New Design of Narration*, Image Forum, Tokyo

2008 *Graduation Exhibition*, Kyoto City University of Arts, Kyoto

2007 *Taro Okamoto Award for Contemporary Art*, Taro Okamoto Museum of Art, Kanagawa

*Shijo Street Gallery*, Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank, Kyoto

2006 *STAIRS*, CASO, Osaka,

*Graduation Exhibition*, Gallery RAKU, Kyoto

2005 *FRAME PLUS Hisao MATSUURA*, CASO, Osaka

2004 *Kyoto Art Annual*, Kyoto University of Arts and Design



《Ten Statements for an artist drawing》 2013-2014, paper, pencil, inkjet print  
installation view (Antenna Media, Kyoto)

**AWARDS**

2012 The 12th Gunma Biennale for Young Artists  
2009 Encouragement Prize at Graduation Exhibition, Kyoto City University of Arts  
2007 Taro Okamoto Award for Contemporary Art, Taro Okamoto Museum of Art  
1999 Shortlisted for Bungakukai Shinjinsho

**VIDEO SCREENINGS**

2016 Screening "Melting Point"+TEGAMI Project from Hamburg, The Third Gallery Aya, Osaka  
Melting Point – FRISE, Hamburg, Germany  
Tokyo Lift-Off Film Festival 2016 Official Selection, UPLINK, Tokyo  
2015 13e Festival international Signes de Nuit : FOCUS JAPAN, Maison du Japon, Paris, France  
Image Forum Festival 2015, Theater Image Forum, Tokyo, Kyoto, Aichi, Fukuoka, Yokohama, \*Invited Work  
2009 New Design of the Narration, Image Forum Cinematheque, Tokyo  
2006 KATARIHA – experimentation of storytelling -, Image Forum Cinematheque, Tokyo  
2005 Young Perspective 2005, Image Forum, Tokyo  
2004 BIWAKO Biennale, Tokiwa-kan Project, Tokiwa-kan, Shiga  
Video Sarcasm, Kansai German Culture Center, Kyoto

**ARTIST IN RESIDENCE**

2015 El Ranchito Korea -Japan, Matadero Madrid, Madrid, Spain

**CATALOGUES AND BROCHURES**

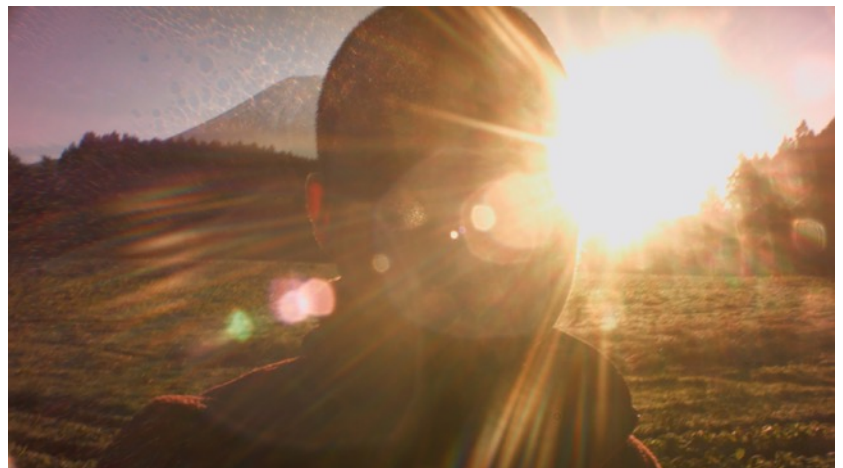
*APMoA Project, ARCH vol.13 Nobuaki ITOH "Āto"*, Brochure, Feb. 2015, Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art  
*Gifu Ohgaki Biennale 2013*, Catalogue, Jan. 2015, Institute of Advanced Media Arts and Science [IAMAS]  
*document ego*, April 2014, ego exhibition documentation catalogue association  
*Kyogei Transmit Program #3 Metis – Fighting Art -*, May 15th 2012, Kyoto City University of Arts ART GALLERY @KCUA  
*RESONANSE*, April 2010, Suntory Museum

**PUBLIC COLLECTIONS**

S-HOUSE Museum, Okayama

**ARTIST WEBSITE**

<http://nobuakiitoh.com>



《Āto (JAPAN Ver.)》2015, single channel video with sound, 10min.5sec.

**\*Inquiry about the exhibition and artist**

WAITINGROOM (Director: Tomoko Ashikawa)

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