

exonemo “On Memory”

Duration : 7/6 (Thu.) - 8/6 (Sun.), 2023

Opening Reception : 7/8(Sat.) 5-7pm

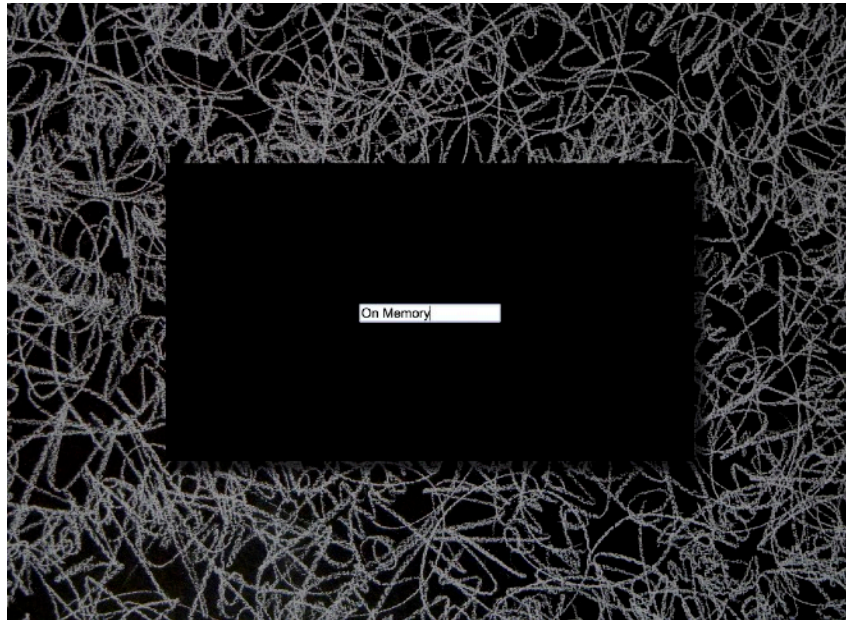
*We are open on Wed to Sat. 12-7pm and Sun. 12-5pm

*Closed on Mon., Tue. and National Holidays

*exonemo will be present at the opening reception on 7/8, Saturday, 5-7pm. The exhibition opens at noon before the reception.

Venue : WAITINGROOM (1F-2-14-2 Suido, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 112-0005, JAPAN)

WAITINGROOM (Tokyo) is pleased to present “On Memory,” a solo exhibition by exonemo from July 6 to August 6, 2023. This will be exonemo’s third solo exhibition at the gallery in two years, and will consist mainly of a new series of works based on the theme of documentation and memory. The new series presented in this exhibition is premised on the extremely provisional condition that it disappears when reloaded and cannot be recorded or documented anywhere — that is, it is a text that survives only in human memory. In an age where all information can be recorded as digital data, and where the advent of blockchain technology has ostensibly boosted its permanence even further, this work, which is based on the idea of human memory as an essential precondition, seeks to highlight both the permanence of digital data and artworks as well as their ephemeral nature through exonemo’s unique brand of humor. In the early stages of the exhibition, exonemo will exhibit their works at three locations simultaneously. From July 7 (Fri) to July 9 (Sun), exonemo will participate in the Tokyo Gendai art fair at Pacifico Yokohama, at the NowHere (New York) booth, and from July 8 (Sat) to July 10 (Mon) at the CADAN: Contemporary Art fair, at WHAT CAFE & T-LOTUS M (Tennozu). We hope you will take this opportunity to visit all three venues.



《On Memory》 2023

About the artist, exonemo

The Japanese artist unit by Kensuke Sembo and Yae Akaiwa formed in 1996 on the internet. Starting in 2000, they started their activities in an actual space, presenting installation work, performance and event organize. Their experimental projects are typically humorous and innovative explorations of the paradoxes of digital and analog computer networked and actual environments in our lives. In 2006, they won the Golden Nica for Net Vision category at Prix Ars Electronica. In 2012, they formed Internet Secret Society named “IDPW” and have been organizing “Internet Yami-Ichi” in both Japan and abroad since then. They live and work in New York since 2015. Their recent exhibitions include a group exhibition “GEMINI Laboratory Exhibition” (2022, ANB Tokyo, Tokyo), a group exhibition “Kazuo Umezaki The Great Art Exhibition” (2022, TOKYO CITY VIEW, Tokyo / ABENO HARUKAS Art Museum, Osaka), a solo exhibition “CONNECT THE RANDOM DOTS” (2021, WAITINGROOM, Tokyo), a group exhibition “Aichi Triennale 2019” (2019, Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Aichi) and many others. At their solo exhibition “EXONEMO UN-DEAD-LINK [Reconnecting to Internet Art]” held in 2020 (Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Tokyo), they were awarded the 2020 (71st) Art Encouragement Prize for New Artists by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. In 2021, they were selected as the third artist for the Obayashi Foundation’s grant program “Visions of the City - Obayashi Foundation Research Program”, and a book documenting their research, “Infected Cities,” was published in the spring of this year.

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ARTIST STATEMENT

It must have been about 15 years ago.

On a stormy day, the cats next door to us were sheltering from the cold as they lay on top of each other, exposed to the wind and rain.

As I looked at these little creatures, feeling each other's warmth and enjoying the sense of security of being with their friends, it suddenly occurred to me that their feelings at the time, which no one records or documents, must surely be preserved somewhere in the universe.

The theme of this exhibition is documentation and memory. The idea of digital data, which exonemo always deals with in their works, is now believed to have acquired a certain permanence with the advent of blockchains. Digital data, which was previously thought to be ephemeral, is now eternal (although no one knows if this is true or not).

The work presented in this exhibition, entitled "On Memory," is a new series that combines materials of different durability: materials as substances, electronic devices as supports, digital data inscribed on blockchains, and human memories. How long will this work, which has taken shape thanks to a miraculous balance of uncertainty, be able to exist? Or will it fade away from our memories in the blink of an eye? We hope you will come to experience this new experiment in which your memory is also a part of the work.

exonemo

**Human memory as a medium of documentation**

exonemo, which has always shuttled fluidly between the network world and the real world, has chosen to focus on the idea of human memory this time.

It has become commonplace to record and store almost all information around us in the form of digital data, from passwords to photos of our memories. It is also an easy task to search the internet to find information on records written by someone else in this world. With the advent of blockchains, moreover, which constitute a decentralized system rather than a centralized database, the preservation of digital data has become even easier. And yet, even in this day and age, there are still things that survive only in human memory.

In the new series presented in this exhibition, a framed monitor displays a shape similar to the search bar of an internet browser, and in addition, a short text is typed into it. This text is typed by a staff member just before the gallery opens for the day, and disappears when the power is turned off at the end of the work day. It is forbidden to record this string of text in photographs or notes, while the sharing of this text among the staff is done through verbal transmission, based on memory.

As such, in addition to materials such as picture frames and electronic devices like monitors, digital data that is now believed to be permanent and human memory are all necessary for the new exonemo series "On Memory" to take shape. Human beings will surely die someday, but how long can a work of art with elements that survive only in human memory continue to be a "work of art"? In a sense, this exhibition on the theme of documentation and memory and their permanence foreshadows the end of what we know to be "works of art," and by extension, digital data, which is now believed to be permanent, promising to remind us of the existence of things that cannot survive without the use of human memory.

Concurrent event "Tokyo Gendai"

exonemo will participate in the art fair "Tokyo Gendai" from NowHere (New York).

Invitation only : 7/6 (Thu.)

Public View : 7/7 (Fri.) 11am - 7pm

7/8 (Sat.) 11am - 7pm

7/9 (Sun) 11am - 5pm

Venue : Pacifico YOKOHAMA

(1-1-1, Minatomirai, Nishiku, Yokohama, Kanagawa, 220-0012)

Ticket : Advance ticket JPY ¥2,550 - / Same-day ticket JPY ¥3400-

Website : <https://tokyogendai.com/ja/about/>

Tokyo Gendai

**Concurrent event "CADAN: GENDAI BIJUTSU 2023"**

exonemo's work will be exhibited in a special booth looking back at the 2021 group exhibition "I am here by WAITINGROOM".

Invitation only : 7/7 (Fri.)

Public View : 7/8 (Sat.) 1pm - 8pm

7/9 (Sun.) 1pm - 7pm

7/10 (Mon.) 1pm - 6pm

Venue: WHAT CAFE & T-LOTUS M

(2-1, Higashi-Shinagawa, Shinagawa, Tokyo, 140-0002)

Ticket: Up to 1 accompanying guest allowed / Free admission ticket / General (500 yen)

Website : <https://cadan.org/cadangendaibijutsu2023/>

exonemo

Formed in 1996 by SEMBO Kensuke and AKAIWA Yae.
Live and work in New York since 2015.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2021

CONNECT THE RANDOM DOTS, WAITINGROOM, Tokyo, Japan

2020

UN-DEAD-LINK, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
Slice of the Universe, Masahiro Maki Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2019

U & I, NOWHERE, New York, USA
LO, WAITINGROOM, Tokyo, Japan

2018

The Life-Cycle of Interfaces, New Media Artspace gallery, Baruch College Library 1F-4F, New York, USA

2017

Milk on the Edge, hpgrp Gallery, New York, USA

2013

TO THE APES, Mitsubishi-Jisho Artium, Fukuoka, Japan

2008

UN-DEAD-LINK, Plug.in, Basel, Switzerland

2006

WORLD B, Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM], Yamaguchi, Japan

2003

new FUNKtion, Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Hiroshima, Japan

2000

DISCODER, command N, Tokyo, Japan



Solo exhibition "*CONNECT THE RANDOM DOTS*" installation view
(WAITINGROOM, Tokyo, 2021)

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2023

Proof of X - Blockchain As A New Medium For Art -, THE FACE DAIKANYAMA, Tokyo, Japan

2022

Exhibition of Digital Antique, BE AT STUDIO HARAJUKU (Laforet HARAJUKU 6F), Tokyo, Japan
GEMINI Laboratory Exhibition, ANB Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
Kazuo Umezaki The Great Art Exhibition, TOKYO CITY VIEW, Tokyo / ABENO HARUKAS Art Museum, Osaka, Japan
SPRING SHOW, WAITINGROOM, Tokyo, Japan

2021

Hybrid by Nature, GOETHE Institute, ONLINE
I am here by WAITINGROOM, CADAN YURAKUCHO, Tokyo, Japan

2020

10TH, WAITINGROOM, Tokyo, Japan
Viewing Room Exhibition, WAITINGROOM, Tokyo, Japan
Yebisu International Festival for Art & Alternative Visions, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan

2019

The Shape of the Things to Come: Technology, AI and Human, Aoyama Gakuin University, Tokyo, Japan
Aichi Triennale 2019, Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Aichi, Japan
The Invisible Hand, 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney, Australia
Reincarnation of Media Art, WRO Art Center, Wroclaw, Poland
TECH ART FOR COLLECTORS - ARTJAWS SPECIAL GUEST EXHIBITION, Zürcher Gallery, New York, USA
Illuminating Graphics 2, Creation Gallery G8, Tokyo, Japan
ARTPORT: SUNRISE/SUNSET, Whitney Museum of American Art website, New York, USA

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (continued)

2018

Ars Electronica Festival 2018: ERROR - THE ART OF IMPERFECTION, Gallery Space, Linz, Austria
Indonesian Netaudio Festival 2018, Jogja National Museum, Jog Jakarta, Indonesia
Reincarnation of Media Art, Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM], Yamaguchi, Japan
Rhizome Net Art Anthology, Rhizome - New Museum, New York, USA
Open Space "In Transition", NTT Intercommunication Center [ICC], Tokyo, Japan
New Japan. Observer Effect, Solyanka State Gallery, Moscow, Russia
Gradation, hpgrp gallery, NY, USA
Micro Internet Yami-ichi, NADA Art Fair, NY, USA
Hello World - for the Post-Human Age, Art Tower Mito, Ibaraki, Japan

2017

Forever Fornever, Rhode Island College, Bannister Gallery, Providence, RI, USA
SIGHT + SOUND 2017, Never Apart, Montreal, Canada
Ars Electronica in Berlin 2017, DRIVE. Volkswagen Group Forum, Berlin, Germany
World Wide Water - Friday Late x Boiler Room, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
CAPRI BY NIGHT, Schauspiel Köln, Cologne, Germany
NARS Spring Open Studios, NARS Foundation, NY, USA
Landscapes: New vision through multiple windows *directed by exonemo,
 Japan Creative Centre, Singapore

2016

Spirit and Digit, Electro Museum, Moscow, Russia
Hybrids: On the borderline between Art and Technology, Onassis Cultural Centre, Athens, Greece
POSTDIGITAL ECOSYSTEMS, Babycastles, New York, USA
Digital Illusion, Gallery Senne, Brussels, Belgium
*DA DA * DA! - HACKING ART x LIFE*, Goethe-Institut Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
Internet Bedroom @Print Screen Festival, Print Screen Festival, Holon, Israel
Single channel, Anthology Film Archives, New York, USA
Internet Yami-ichi in London, Offprint festival, Tate Modern, London, UK
ICC Open Space, NTT Intercommunication Center [ICC], Tokyo, Japan
Eco Expanded City, WRO Art Center, Wroclaw, Poland

2015

First Look: Real Live Online, New Museum, New York, USA
HOLIDAY BRING YOUR OWN BEAMER NYC - REVERSE + BABYCASTLES, Reverse, New York, USA
Refest, La MaMa, New York, USA
The Vault - Image, perception, the alchemy of light, ACT Center, Gwangju, Korea
Elements of Art and Science, Ars Electronica Center, Linz, Austria
Post City, Ars Electronica Festival, Linz, Austria
Memory Burn, bitforms gallery, New York, USA
Sayoko Yamaguchi - The Wearist, Clothed in the Future, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
3331 ART FAIR 2015, 3331 Arts Chiyoda, Tokyo, Japan

2014

The Cave of Light, kumagusuku, Kyoto, Japan
CODE: Language of Our Time, The Lab. Knowledge Capital, Grand Front Osaka, Osaka, Japan
DAI-KOJIKI-TEN, Nara Prefectural Art Museum, Nara, Japan
BCTION, Demolition Building, Yotsuya, Tokyo, Japan
Sapporo International Art Festival, Chi-Ka-Ho, Hokkaido, Japan
Good Morning Mr. Orwell 2014, Nam June Paik Art Center, Seoul, Korea
Art Hack Day Berlin: Afterglow, transmediale, Berlin, Germany

2013

Better Than Universe, Daegu Media Art ZKM 2013, Daegu, Korea
Republic of the Two, Arko Art Center, Seoul, Korea
Money After Money, EYE OF GYRE, Tokyo, Japan

2012

Media City Seoul, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea
Yebisu International Festival for Art & Alternative Visions, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
[Internet Art Future↔] - Reality In Post Internet Era, NTT Intercommunication Center [ICC], Tokyo, Japan



"Metaverse Petshop", 2022, installation view
 Supported by NowHere | NFT advisor Toshi / wildmous



Group exhibition "Kazuo Umezaki The Great Art Exhibition"
 installation view (TOKYO CITY VIEW, Tokyo, 2022)
 photo by Ichiro Mishima (Artifact)

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (continued)

2011

Ways of Worldmaking, The National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan
YCAM LabACT vol.1 "The EyeWriter", Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM], Yamaguchi, Japan
Little Tokyo Design Week 2011, Little Tokyo City, LA, USA

2010

Vibrations of Entities, NTT Intercommunication Center [ICC], Tokyo, Japan
Random Access, Nam June Paik Art Center, Seoul, Korea
Cyber Arts Japan, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
Exploration in Possible Spaces, NTT Intercommunication Center [ICC], Tokyo, Japan

2009

Got exists., NTT Intercommunication Center [ICC], Tokyo, Japan
eARTS BEYOND, Oriental Pearl TV Tower, Shanghai, China
CODED CULTURES – Exploring Creative Emergences, The frei_raum Q21, Vienna, Austria
Between Site & Space, ARTSPACE, Sydney, Australia

2008

YUDA ART PROJECT, Yuda hot spring area, Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM], Yamaguchi, Japan
Diorama of the City: Between Site & Space, Tokyo Wonder Site, Tokyo, Japan
LISTE 08 -The Young Art Fair, Basel, Switzerland
SYNTHETIC TIMES, National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China

2007

Beautiful New World, Long March Space/Inter Art Center/Guangdong Museum of Art, Beijing/Guangzhou, China
Pocket Film Festival, Tokyo University of the Arts, Kanagawa, Japan
Aoba En-nichi 2, sendai mediatheque, Miyagi, Japan
My Own Private Reality, Edith Russ Site for Media Art, Oldenburg, Germany
L'Expérience Japonaise, Le Haut-parleur culturel à Marseille [WAAW], Nimes, France
ICC: Open Space, NTT Intercommunication Center [ICC], Tokyo, Japan
DEAF07: Interact or Die!, Las Palmas, Rotterdam, Netherlands
*Lab*Motion*, Tokyo Wonder Site Hongo, Tokyo, Japan
The Power of Expression, JAPAN, The National Art Center, Tokyo, Japan

2006

Connecting Worlds, NTT Intercommunication Center [ICC], Tokyo, Japan
CyberArts 2006, O.K. Centrum, Linz, Austria
Cyberlounge, Museo Tamayo, Mexico City, Mexico
ICC: Open Space, NTT Intercommunication Center [ICC], Tokyo, Japan
AIT HOUR MUSEUM, Panasonic Center Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
KANDADA, command N KANDADA, Tokyo, Japan

2005

MobLab, Institute of Advanced Media Arts and Sciences [IAMAS], NTT Intercommunication Center [ICC], sendai mediatheque [smt], Saito IMI Graduate School, Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] etc., Japan
Rock the Future, FACT, Liverpool, England
Jakarta Video Festival 2005, Jakarta, Indonesia
Beijing International New Media Arts Exhibition, China Millennium Museum, Beijing, China
EXPO 2005 AICHI JAPAN, EXPO Plaza, EXPO Vision, Aichi, Japan
Art meets Media: adventures in perception, NTT Intercommunication Center [ICC], Tokyo, Japan

2004

SonarSound Extra, Ebisu Garden Place, Tokyo, Japan
Nam June Paik Award 2004, Phoenixhalle, Dortmund, Germany
Reactivity: unpredictable past, NTT Intercommunication Center [ICC], Tokyo, Japan
Tokyo Style in Stockholm, Beckmans School of Design, Stockholm, Sweden
Navigator, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Taiwan
n_ext: New Generation of Media Artists, NTT Intercommunication Center, Tokyo, Japan
Mediarena: contemporary art from Japan, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth, New Zealand
Roppongi Crossing: New Visions in Contemporary Japanese Art 2004, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
SHIDA TEN, nou LABORATORY, Tokyo, Japan



Solo exhibition "UN-DEAD-LINK" installation view
 (Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Tokyo, 2020)
 Photo by Ryuichi Maruo

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (continued)

2003

In Media Sockets, Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM], Yamaguchi, Japan

2002

AIT HOUR MUSEUM, Former Sakuragawa Elementary School Gymnasium, Tokyo, Japan

art.bit collection, NTT Intercommunication Center [ICC], Tokyo, Japan

program, Asahi Art Festival 2002, Tokyo, Japan

Akihabara TV3, command N, Tokyo, Japan

2001

Istanbul Biennial, The Imperial Mint, Istanbul, Turkey

EXPO KOBE 2001, Kobe Port Island, Hyogo, Japan

BUZZ CLUB: news from Japan, MoMA PS1, New York, USA

media message: look thru language, sendai mediatheque, Miyagi, Japan

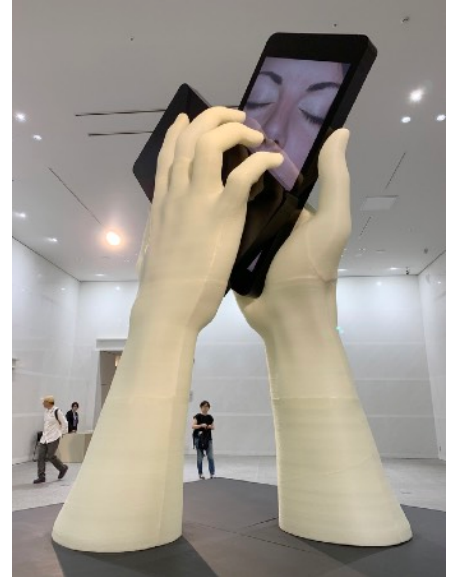
2000

mediaselect 2000, Garden Pier / Port of Nagoya, Aichi, Japan

Ars Electronica Festival 2000, Ars Electronica Center, Linz, Austria

Spiral Super Sign Project, SPIRAL, Tokyo, Japan

TECH.POP.JAPAN, International Film Festival Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands



“The Kiss”, 2019, installation view
Aichi Triennale 2019
(Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Aichi)

AWARDS

2021 The 71st Minister of Education Award for Fine Arts – The New Face Award

The 3rd Obayashi Foundation Research Program “Vision of the City”

2016 The Grant Program for Art-related International Exchange by Yoshino Gypsum Art Foundation

2015 The Program of Overseas Study for Upcoming Artists organized by Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan

2010 Tokyo Type Directors Club - RGB Prize

2006 Prix Ars Electronica Net Vision Golden Nica

2000 Prix Ars Electronica .NET Honorary Mention

1997 Java Grand Prix – Grand Prix

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Obayashi Foundation

Taguchi Art Collection

Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography

Google Inc.

ARTIST WEBSITE

<http://exonemo.com>

***Inquiry about the exhibition and artist**

WAITINGROOM (Owner & Director: Tomoko Ashikawa)

Address: 1F-2-14-2 Suido, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 112-0005

Hours: Wed. to Sat. 12-7pm Sun. 12-5pm

*Closed on Mon. Tue. and National Holidays

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