

Okamoto Mitsuhiro

LOVE & PEACE

December 2 - December 30, 2023

Gallery Talk: December 2, 5PM-6PM/ guest: Kudo Takeshi, curator

LOVE & PEACE is the magic word. With a little blurring of the words, most things can be accepted as right and good. LOVE and PEACE are both so abstract in concept that there is often a big misunderstanding between the people who express them and the people who receive them. Some people use these cliché words strategically, while others, who are pure and innocent (or more accurately, ignorant and unconscious), may honestly imagine a utopian world. A lot of people use LOVE as a shield to hurt others and kill each other in the name of PEACE, you know. When used by an individual, it is usually to appeal to 'good people,' and when used by various organizations, it is often (I feel) used to lead a certain segment or community in a certain direction, to stimulate consumption, or to strengthen ideological control. The use of easy-to-understand language is the most effective technique for seducing people.

Okamoto's exhibition under this title will also feature a number of new works with bird motifs, mainly doves, which are symbols of peace and freedom. Okamoto's work attempts to disturb and question the values and meanings commonly shared by many people, by (radically) connecting several bird species that have particular allegories and messages with art works, company logos, or political symbols that evoke a verbal or spiritual effect. In an age dominated by conceptual art that cannot be understood without reading explanations (especially by the superficial left) or by wet expressions that provoke straightforward emotions, Okamoto's works are very distinctive in the Japanese art scene, sharply accusing contemporary society of problems through intellectual methods such as parody and humor. However, behind these humorous expressions there is a strong sense of irony and powerful criticism.

At a time when wars are raging around the world, I sincerely hope that through this exhibition, people will have the opportunity to acquire a way of thinking that transforms information and knowledge into wisdom, and not be misled by naïve images.

Kudo Takeshi, curator of Aomori Museum of Art

Okamoto Mitsuhiro

B.1968, Kyoto. Received his M.A.Education from Shiga university, 1994. Studied at A.S.L.N.Y in 1994-96. Studied at CCA Kitakyushu in 1997-99. Stayed at AIR in Germany, Spain, India, and others in 2001-04. Lived and worked in Taiwan and Okinawa in 2004-06. Back to Kyoto from 2007 and founded KUNST ARZT in 2012. Exhibitions in eitoeiko include Cherry Blossom Party, 2019-2022, CATastrophe, 2022, Okinawan Steak, 2021, Art with Emperor, 2020, UFO, 2018, The DOZAemon exhibition Tokyo 2017, 2017, 69, 2016, Makkuro Pop, 2014, and others. Okamoto's artwork has been exhibited internationally.

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artworks in the exhibition



L: LOVE & PEACE, taxidermy white dove, shackles, resin(Robert Indiana's LOVE), chain, 2023

R: Heaven's Justice, bird droppings on panel, copied paper (Picasso's Dove, 1949), plexiglass, 2023



L: PEACE & PEACE, taxidermy, tobacco(Peace), LED, resin, wood, 2023

R: Oogarasu Copyright's table 4 RM, LED, taxidermy, mirror, special sheet, miniature toilet bowl, 2022