

**For immediate release:**

**Okamoto Mitsuhiro**

**Okinawan Steak**

**February 6 - February 27, 2021**

eitoeiko is pleased to announce the fifth solo exhibition with Okamoto Mitsuhiro(B.1968, Kyoto). The exhibition which is titled 'Okinawan Steak' is curated by Takeshi Kudo. It focuses the artist's career in Okinawa. Okamoto lived and worked in Okinawa from 2004 until 2006. Okinawa saved Kyoto from the ravages of war. Because Okinawa became the battlefield in the Pacific War, the vintage temples and shrines have remained in Kyoto today. Okamoto's grandmother told him, and that is the reason why the artist moved there from Kyoto.

In the summer of 2004, a U.S. military helicopter crashed on Okinawa International University's campus. At that time, Okamoto worked in Ryukyu University as a part-time lecturer. Okamoto got to know the Okinawan students accustomed to keeping silence when the noise of jet plane occurred outside in the class. Okamoto's artwork in Okinawa reflects his experience, that indicates the correlation between Okinawa, the United States and Japan.

There are a lot of steak houses in Okinawa which satisfy the U.S. military person's appetite. Okinawa is strategically important place. Therefore Okinawa itself is, so to speak, a juicy steak. This exhibition picks up Okamoto's humorous and witty artworks which refer to Okinawa. The show attempts to summon flexible and various ideas from petrified perception with the allegory by the artist. It will start with his video 'to MANKO', the ordinary scenery of Okinawa. Then the other artworks, which tell us the unsolved problems, follow the significant installation, Red Carpet. Juxtaposing the heritage of the war and the present situation, the exhibition becomes a (dark) tourism to Okinawa.

Takeshi Kudo, curator

Okamoto Mitsuhiro

After received his MAE from Shiga University, Okamoto studied at the Art Students League of New York. Back to Japan to CCA Kitakyushu, he rounded the artist-in-residence programs in India, Spain and Germany. Moved to Okinawa and Taiwan, 2004-06. Back in Kyoto and opened Kunst Arzt, 2012. Recent exhibitions include Art with Emperor(also he curated), Kunst Arzt, eitoeiko, 2020, Cherry Blossom Party, eitoeiko, 2020, Aichi Triennial, After Unfreedom of Expression, 2019, Bishojo, MonTUE, Taipei, 2019, Celebration, Rohm Theatre Kyoto, Stary Browar, Poland, 2019, The shape of things to come, Aoyama Gakuin University, 2019

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**eitoeiko**

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Open TUE - SAT 12PM-7PM

[www.eitoeiko.com](http://www.eitoeiko.com)



Photo: Okamoto Mitsuhiro, Okinawan Steak, acrylic on canvas, 124x92cm, painted in 2005