

21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

PRESS RELEASE

2017.10.28



The Marionette Maker (detail) 2014

Janet Cardiff & George Bures Miller

2017.11.25 (Sat.) -
2018.3.11 (Sun.)

Exhibition Title	Janet Cardiff & George Bures Miller
Period	Saturday November 25, 2017 - Sunday March 11, 2018
Hours	10:00-18:00 (until 20:00 on Fridays and Saturdays and 17:00 on Jan 2-3) *Ticket sales end 30 minutes before closing time
Venue	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa
Closed	Mondays (but open Jan 8 and Feb 12), Dec 29-Jan 1, Jan 9, and Feb 13
Admission	General: ¥1,000(¥800) College students: ¥800(¥600) Elem/JH/HS: ¥400(¥300) 65 and older: ¥800 *Prices in brackets are for groups of 20 or more and advance tickets
Advance Tickets	Ticket PIA (Tel 0570-02-9999) P code: 768-702 LAWSON-Ticket & HMV (Tel 0570-000-777) L code: 53934
Inquiries	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa (Tel: 076-220-2800)
Organized by	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa (Kanazawa Art Promotion and Development Foundation)
Supported by	Embassy of Canada in Japan

Media Contact **21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa**

Exhibition Curator: NAKATA Koichi

Public Relations Office: KAWAMORI Yoshiyuki, OCHIAI Hiroaki

1-2-1 Hirosaka, Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan 920-8509

Tel: +81-(0)76-220-2814 Fax: +81-(0)76-220-2802

<http://www.kanazawa21.jp> E-mail: press@kanazawa21.jp



About the Exhibition

Janet Cardiff & George Bures Miller—first large-scale solo exhibition in Asia

Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller's works display a command of sophisticated sound and video technology, and striking sculptural creations. The viewer undergoes a complex perceptual experience of "hearing and seeing" and enters their imaginative world in a spell of enchantment. When experiencing a Cardiff and Bures Miller work, unseen things become visible, soundless things are heard, and we suddenly step beyond reality into their story with our senses and values in disarray. The pair has previously exhibited works in Japan, including *The 40 Part Motet* at Maison Hermes, and participated in such art festivals as the Yokohama Triennale, Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial, and Setouchi International Art Festival. Cardiff and Bures Miller's exhibition this time features such recent large-scale works as *The Carnie* (2010), *The Marionette Maker* (2014), and *Conversation with Antonello* (2015) along with new works and eight installations being shown in Japan for the first time. Installed in the spatially autonomous galleries of this museum, the pieces will tell their stories in synchronicity. A precious opportunity to experience the work of a groundbreaking international artist team.

About the Artists



Portrait Cardiff & Miller | 2012
Photographed in Grindrod, BC, Canada
Photo: Zev Tiefenbach

Janet Cardiff (left)

Born: 1957, Brussels, Ontario, Canada

George Bures Miller (right)

Born: 1960, Vegreville, Alberta, Canada

Began collaborating around 1995. Currently live and in Grindrod, British Columbia (Canada) and Berlin. Since the 1990s, Cardiff and Bures Miller have created sound installations and "Walks" commanding high-level sound technologies. The latter works—in which viewers walk around a park, art museum, or city district guided by Janet's voice on headphones—rouse the walker's senses using images and stories created in response to places seen and sounds heard. In *Forest* (for a thousand years...) (2012) for Documenta 13, they placed more than 30 speakers in a Kassel forest to manifest a grand soundscape embodying a thousand years of forest time, while in *Alter Bahnhof Video Walk* (2012), viewers explored the Kassel station guided by iPod images and Janet's voice through earphones. Representing Canada at the 49th Venice Biennale, the artists won the La Biennale di Venezia Special Award and Benesse Prize. They have also participated in Documenta 13 (2012) and numerous international art festivals. In Japan, they have participated in the Okayama City Arts Festival LOVE PLANET program (2003), Yokohama Triennale (2005), 1st Yebisu International Festival for Art and Alternative Visions (2009), Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial (2009), Setouchi International Art Festival (2010), and Aichi Triennale 2013. They have also held a solo exhibition, "Janet Cardiff & George Bures Miller" (2009), at Maison Hermes.

Principal
Featured Works

The Marionette Maker

Materials: Mixed media installation including caravan, marionettes, robotics, audio, and lighting

In the gallery stands a vintage camping trailer. Peering inside, we see a world of tiny marionettes and animals who play and dance to music. A woman sleeps and dreams inside the trailer, and as a work inside a work, a writer is seen busily writing her dream for re-creation. We who watch feel as if we, too, are gazing on the world from within her dream.

▶ Video clip http://www.cardiffmiller.com/artworks/inst/marionette_video.html



3.
The Marionette Maker (detail) 2014

4.
The Marionette Maker 2014

The Carnie

Materials: Moving carousel with synchronized audio and light

An antique carousel reminiscent of the kind seen at traveling carnivals in the 1940s. Under bright lights spin a wooden horse, giraffe, deer, and other animals. Strange sounds emit from speakers attached to the animals' mouths, and old manikins hung from above dance in mid-air like angels. The bizarre carnival-like spectacle threatens to pull us into a dream or world of madness.

▶ Video clip http://www.cardiffmiller.com/artworks/inst/the_carnie_video.html



5.
The Carnie 2010
Photo: Larry Lamay

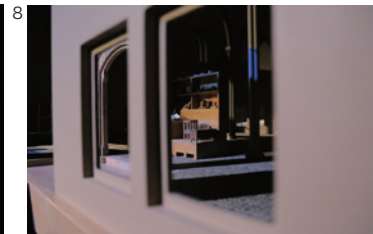
6.
The Carnie (detail) 2010
Photo: Larry Lamay

Principal
Featured Works**Conversation with Antonello (2015)**

Materials: Mixed media installation with scale model, diorama, audio and lighting
Collection of the Vancouver Art Gallery, Gift of the Artists

This is the artists' reply to Antonello da Messina's painting *Saint Jerome in His Study* (1475) for the 2015 "Soundscapes" exhibition at the National Gallery (London). The building interior portrayed minutely in that painting, in the Flemish style, they have recreated in a three-dimensional architectural model. By peering inside, we can experience the painting three-dimensionally from all angles. The building's shadow and outer landscape are visible through windows, and lighting and projections are used to transform day into night. Sounds—footsteps, perhaps those of the artist or his model Saint Jerome, and the voice of a counter tenor singing "Vergine Bella"—call viewers into the monastery's interior spaces.

▶Video clip http://www.cardiffmiller.com/artworks/inst/antonello_video.html



7.
Conversation with Antonello 2015

8
Conversation with Antonello (detail) 2015

Related Event

Artist talk: Janet Cardiff & George Bures Miller

Date/time: Sunday November 26, 2017 14:00~16:00

Venue: Theater 21, BIF / 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

Admission: Free

Capacity: 130 people

Apply: Starting 10:00 November 14 (Tue) on our website. First 130 applications.

Language: English - Japanese (consecutive interpretation)

Publication

**Something Strange This Way
- Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller**

The catalogue for their solo exhibition at ARoS Aarhus Art Museum (Aarhus, Denmark 2014-15) will be revised in Japanese with the addition of works exhibited at this museum. Their first monograph published in Japan. The publication will feature comments by the artists and an essay by curator Maria Kappel Blegvad along with numerous photos of artworks and production scenes. Important keywords related to their activities and artworks will also be provided in dictionary format.

Publication: SEIGENSHA Art Publishing, Inc.

Scheduled release: November 25, 2017

Expected Price: ¥2,500 (tax excluded)

Specifications: 23x16.5cm / approx. 200 pages

Images for
Publicity

Photos 1-10 are available for promotional purposes. Interested parties should apply to the public relations office on reading the conditions below.

Application form ► https://www.kanazawa21.jp/form/press_image/

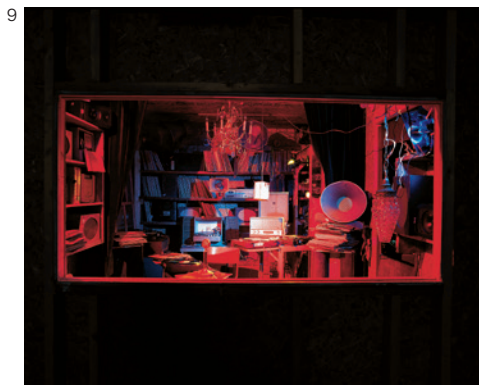
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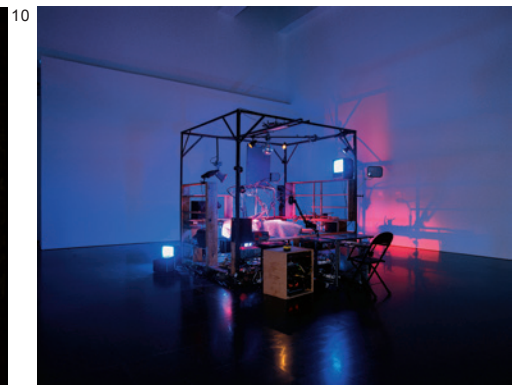
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Please send proofs to the public relations office to verify information.

Please send a publication (paper), URL, DVD or CD to the museum for our archives, afterwards.



Opera for a Small Room (detail) 2005
Photo: Markus Tretter (Kunsthaus Bregenz)



The Killing Machine 2007
Photo: Seber Ugarte & Lorena Lopez