



APERTO 07

## KAWAGOE Yurie Insect Specimen of a Coward

2017.5.27 (Sat.) -  
2017.9.24 (Sun.)

“Aperto”—a series introducing rising young artists.

“Insect Specimen of a Coward” embodies  
our complex inner emotions in fresh, lifelike figures of insects.

Exhibition Title	Aperto 07 KAWAGOE Yurie Insect Specimen of a Coward
Planning	TATEMATSU Yumiko (Curator, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa)
Period	Saturday, May 27 – Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:00 - 18:00 (until 20:00 on Fridays and Saturdays)  Closed: Mondays (open on July 17, August 14, and September 18) and July 18 and September 19
Venue	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa (Long-term Project Room)
Admission	Free
Organized by	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa (Kanazawa Art Promotion and Development Foundation)
Inquiries	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa (Tel +81-(0)76-220-2800)

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**About the Exhibition**

“What if human emotions were expressed as insects?” Compelled by this thought, KAWAGOE Yurie (1987-) embodies the heart’s sentiments in imaginary insect figures and evokes a world of illusion. Her “insectified” (not “personified”) motifs she moreover arrays as insect specimens, thereby giving faces to our foolish, loveable emotions. Through her signature piece, “Insect Specimen of a Coward” and latest works, this exhibition will present Kawagoe Yurie’s world and the insect-like emotions she describes as “adorable.”



*specimen of cowards*, 2013  
collection of the Artist

**Exhibition Features****Imaginary insects created so real, they almost appear to exist**

Figures of insects—elaborately constructed using paper clay, fine wire, fabric, paper, etc. This exhibition will display 30 such “insect” works. Emotions and weaknesses deep in the human heart will become visible in the forms of imaginary insects, each with its own appearance. Through her insect figures, Kawagoe Yurie depicts the love and conflict present inside everyone.



*specimen of cowards (detail)*, 2013  
collection of the Artist

**“Their elaborate style, unique specimen titles, and insect-like features are a must see”—this museum’s director in 2011**

SHIMA Atsuhiko, now director of 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa was a juror for the 2011 Shell Art Award. Shima, then a curator with the National Museum of Art, Osaka, highly appraised Kawagoe’s work and nominated it for the Shell Art Award.

**In a talk, renowned editor TSUZUKI Kyoichi will reveal the true fascination of Kawagoe’s works**

TSUZUKI Kyoichi is a renowned editor/writer in the contemporary art, architecture, and photography fields. Tsuzuki edited the contemporary art magazine “ArT Random” (102 issues) and photographed the book “TOKYO STYLE” showing the real lives of Tokyoites. Kawagoe Yurie in 2013 won the Tsuzuki Kyoichi Award with her graduate exhibition piece. This time, in a talk with Kawagoe, Tsuzuki will present the fascination of Kawagoe’s works from his perspective.

## Artist Profile

## KAWAGOE Yurie

1987 Born in Toyama, Japan  
 2013 Master.Graduate School of Art and Design, University of Toyama, Selected Solo Exhibition  
 2017 ARTBOX152 Nishida Museum, Toyama  
 2015 Gallery Art Point, Tokyo, Gallery Taigado, Kyoto  
 2014 Ginza Surugadai Gallery, Tokyo  
 2013 Gallery Venere, Takaoka  
 2012 Ginza Surugadai Gallery, Tokyo

## Selected Competitive Exhibition

2015 "The 89th Kokuten Exhibition"(exemption of examination) The National Art Center, Tokyo  
 2014 "Japanese Painting 2014" Nagai Art Gallery, Tokyo  
 2012 "Japanese Painting 2012" Nagai Art Gallery, Tokyo

## Selected Award

2014 Honorable Mention Award of "Japanese Painting 2014" (Nagai Art Gallery organized)  
 Asahi Printing Award of Art Fair Toyama 2014 New Face Award of "The 88th Kokuten Exhibition"  
 2013 Kyoichi Tsuzuki Award of "Geibun 4" , University of Toyama, Graduate Exhibition  
 2011 Taro Igarashi Award of "Geibun 2" , University of Toyama, Graduate Exhibition  
 Incentive Award of "The 85th Kokuten Exhibition", Selected Shell Art Award 2011



## Artist Statement

In my work, I evoke the varied emotions and weaknesses inhabiting the human heart by presenting them in the form of insects.

Human emotions and weaknesses are like insects. Jealousy and loneliness always come along, seemingly out of nowhere, and take abode in the heart like a parasite. Before one realizes it, the jealousy or loneliness has multiplied and commenced eating and manipulating one's heart from the inside out. Even an emotion normally staying deep in the heart will, at some moment, appear on the surface—as if emerging from a pupa—and spread its wings.

On the other hand, when we observe particular emotions and weaknesses from different angles and try touching them, we start to notice how interesting and attractive each one is. Even varieties of emotion that people see as negative or unhealthy reveal aspects of charm on closer observation. I find them adorable, these emotions and weaknesses that sometimes peep out and show their faces.

Kawagoe Yurie

## Curator's Statement

Kawagoe Yurie approaches production by first imagining "a human emotion taking form as an insect." Her concept, in this sense, is opposite to "personifying" non-human things by giving them human characteristics; in her case, she has established a style of giving strikingly apt insect forms to human sensibilities. Then, in *Yowamushi Specimens* (2013), after embodying normally hard-to-distinguish emotions in richly illusionistic insect forms, she categorizes and arrays them for display in a specimen box, thereby taking her art into a beautiful new realm. An artwork composed of three foldable panels, it also resembles a triptych altarpiece. The human themes, seemingly placed in an altarpiece for conducting religious rites, evoke humanity's original sin and its consequences: suffering, the deceits of the passions, absurd death, and the vanity of life. In the insects of *Yowamushi Specimens*, we sense truth—the ability to poke fun at our pessimistic views of the world.

In the state of dying of coward (2015) an insect's process of sublimation is depicted serially as in a scroll painting. One is brought to mind of a kuso painting of the body's decay in nine stages. Here, however, an insect of emotion fades and transforms, strikingly, into a blooming flower in what might be called a triptych.

In her new work, *Cowards* (2017), Kawagoe arrays specimens of comical emotions of flattery. The larvae, moreover, grow large without maturing and forming pupae. The Japanese community, which takes form even when mature adults are not present, is peculiar. In a certain sense, it can also be considered a high-level matured society. If things continue this way, the Japanese will not only mature but also degenerate and deteriorate. As people grow, they foster insects in their injured, worried, and suffering hearts. The insects hide their weakness behind comical masks and move through our world without ever spreading their wings.

Tatematsu Yumiko

## Related Events

## Special Talk Kyoichi Tsuzuki &amp; Kawagoe Yurie

**Date/time:** Sunday June 3, 2017 16:00-17:30 special talk / 18:00-19:30 after party

**Venue:** Project Room

**Admission:** ¥1,000(includes one drink)

**Capacity:** 60 people

## Kyoichi Tsuzuki: Profile

Born in Tokyo in 1956, Tsuzuki worked as an editor and writer for the magazine, "Popeye," from 1976, dealing chiefly with contemporary art, architecture, design and urban life. From 1989 to 1992, he compiled *ArT RANDOM*, a 102-volume collection of contemporary art affording a comprehensive view of diverse contemporary art around the world in the 1980s. He has since written many articles and edited books on contemporary art, architecture, photography and design.

In 1993, Tsuzuki published "TOKYO STYLE," a collection of actual, ordinary living spaces in Tokyo. His 1996 series, "ROADSIDE JAPAN" won the 23rd Ihei Kimura Award. Currently, he is busy issuing his own email magazine on the topic of "roadside" in Japan and around the world.

About the  
"Aperto" Series

The exhibition series "Aperto" introduces up-and-coming young artists in a solo exhibition format. As an art museum actively engaged with the contemporary world, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa looks closely at new trends now in the process of forming. Artists and curators collaborate in creating occasions for exhibiting works and act as an intermediary between today's creation and that of the future. This exhibition series looks at individual artists who, although having little experience with solo or important group exhibitions at art museums, possess sufficient creative motivation to command a solo exhibition and who are expected to make a significant impact in the future. Artists are selected without regard for their nationality or expressive media by the curator at 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa.

Note: "Aperto" is Italian for "open."

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*dying of coward, 2015*  
collection of Asahi Printing Co.,Ltd



*eclosion and dew, 2014*  
collection of Asahi Printing Co.,Ltd



*specimen of jealousy, 2015*  
collection of the Artist



*an observation set of exclusion(lunacy), 2012*  
collection of the Artist



*mating cowards, 2016*  
collection of the Artist