

Aperto 10

YOKOYAMA Nami

Memories of Love and Me

2019.4.6 (Sat) -

2019.6.30 (Sun)

**“Aperto”—a series introducing rising young artists.
A young painter now in the spotlight for her “love” themed neon painting series
asks of us the meaning of a common, overused word, “love”**

Exhibition Title	Aperto 10 YOKOYAMA Nami Memories of Love and Me
Period	Saturday April 6, 2019 - Sunday June 30, 2019
Hours	10:00-18:00 (until 20:00 on Fridays and Saturdays)
Venue	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa Long-term Project Room
Closed	Mondays (but open on April 29 and May 6) and May 7 (Tue)
Admission	Free
Inquiries	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa Tel: +81-(0)76-220-2800
Organized by	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa (Kanazawa Art Promotion and Development Foundation)

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About the Exhibition

YOKOYAMA Nami (1986-) produces paintings depicting motifs of objects that are consumed or discarded in everyday life. By giving a leading role to items ordinarily ignored, whose fate it is to be thrown away, she distances herself from predefined meanings and uses, endeavoring to see in new ways and express “the primordial beauty and meaning of existence inherent in all things.”

This exhibition will feature works addressing the themes she has recently turned her energies to—“What is love?” and “What is beauty?” Yokoyama’s neon series of paintings depict both the beautiful light of the neon tubes—their leading role—and their “unsightly” wiring, power cords, and mounting hidden at the back. In this way, she gives equal prominence to our ideals and aspirations and our hidden side we are unable to gloss over. Then, her charcoal drawing series *Memories of Love and Me*, whose name lends this exhibition its title, depicts scenes of her memories of a girl and a dog named Love. After hearing the news that advances in selective breeding to meet people’s preferences in fact shorten the dogs’ lives, she felt compelled to examine the “love” we give our dogs.

“Love”—a word used too casually these days. By exercising her qualms and misgivings or else serious emotions about “love” in artworks, she pursues the meaning of this word tossed around in everyday life. Through some 30 paintings and drawings—the fruits of Yokoyama’s investigation into “love”—visitors will have occasion to ponder the essential nature of things.

Artist Statement

“Love” is a word popularly used throughout the world. The word spread in Japan under the influence of Christianity, and today many people are familiar with it.

Love, the ability to care for others, is considered the most important thing in life, and the word is often used as a theme in movies, songs, and artworks. It is also used as a logo on t-shirts, keyholders, and commonplace objects of all kinds. We live in a world filled with the word “love.” Yet, is the world full of love in its true meaning? This word we repeat over and over, like a magic incantation, I sense has been so overused its original meaning has fallen away, leaving only its letters—an empty word.

This time, compelled by memories of love in my life, I display artworks that search for the essence lost from the word “love.”

About the Artists

YOKOYAMA Nami

YOKOYAMA Nami Born in Gifu in 1986. Lives and works in Ibaraki, Japan. In 2012, completed her MFA in painting at Aichi Prefectural University of Fine Arts and Music. Her major exhibitions include the “NISSAN ART AWARD 2017” (BankART Studio NYK, 2017), “VOCA Exhibition – The Vision of Contemporary Art 2015” (Ueno Royal Museum, 2015), “Reaching for the Real” (Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, 2014), and “Draw the world” (Art Lab Aichi, 2013). Her major awards include the “Nissan Art Award 2017 Audience Award” (2017) and “The 8th Kinutani Koji Award, Incentive Award (2016).”



**Exhibition
Features**
The meaning of a common, overused word, “love”

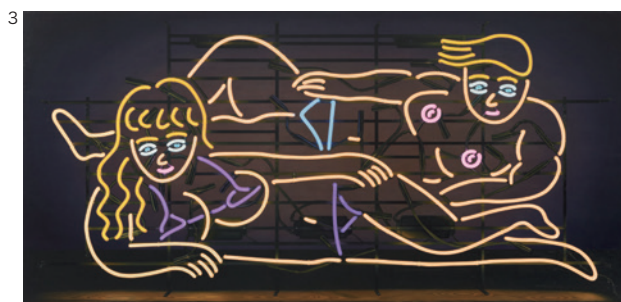
Yokoyama has recently taken up “love” as a theme for her art. She is motivated in this by her qualms and misgivings about “love,” a word used to excess in the world. Through the artworks she displays this time, she asks of us the meaning of this word so easily said, which has drifted from its essential meaning.



LOVE 2018
oil on linen
182 × 227.5 cm
Photo: WAKABAYASHI Hayato

**Her “love” themed neon series expresses the outer surface
and essence of things**

Using neon tubing, she creates her design—the reclining figures of a man and woman, a cross, or the letters LOVE—then paints it on canvas. Depicted is the beautiful light of the neon tubes, manifest from darkness, and behind it, their “unsightly” wiring, power cords, and mounting. By giving equal attention to the bright light of the neon tubes and the hardware normally hidden at the back, she exposes the essential truth behind the pretense and elevates primordial beauty and meaningful existence to prominence.



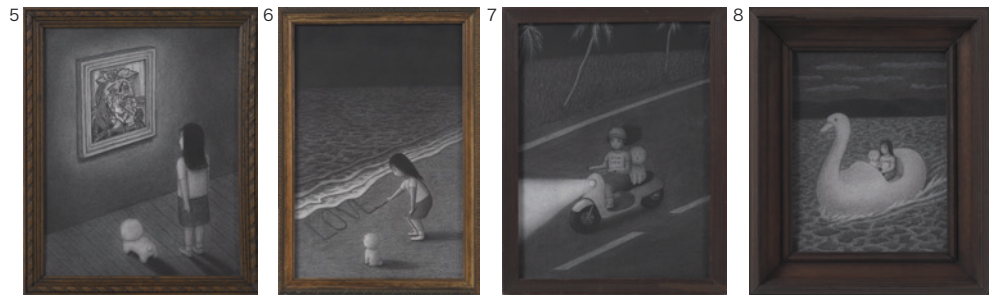
Sexy Man and Sexy Woman 2018
oil on linen
194 × 400 cm
Photo: WAKABAYASHI Hayato



Cross 2018
oil on linen
46 × 46 cm
Photo: WAKABAYASHI Hayato

Charcoal drawings depicting memories of a girl and her dog Love

After hearing the news that advances in selective breeding to meet people's preferences in fact shorten the dogs' lives, Yokoyama embarked on her series *Memories of Love and Me*. Faced with the fact that our pets—companions to be loved and cherished—have their lives shortened for our own convenience, she has depicted scenes of a little girl's quiet days with her dog. The drawings, rendered in charcoal with a gentle touch, question what it means "to love."



From *Memories of Love and Me*
(2018-19)
carbon on paper
33.7 × 27.7 cm
Photo: WAKABAYASHI Hayato

From *Memories of Love and Me*
(2018-19)
carbon on paper
51 × 36 cm
Photo: WAKABAYASHI Hayato

From *Memories of Love and Me*
(2018-19)
carbon on paper
44.6 × 34.7 cm
Photo: WAKABAYASHI Hayato

From *Memories of Love and Me*
(2018-19)
carbon on paper
30.6 × 25.5 cm
Photo: WAKABAYASHI Hayato

An expansive solo exhibition by a closely watched young painter

Yokoyama has won acclaim at exhibitions considered the gateway to success for artists. A recipient of the NISSAN ART AWARD Audience Award in 2017 and Kinutani Koji Award Incentive Award in 2016, she is a closely watched young artist who is steadily gaining recognition. Yokoyama's solo exhibition this time will feature some 30 of the works she has created with the deepest interest in recent years.

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."

Related Event**Artist Talk**

YOKOYAMA Nami will discuss her exhibited artworks.

Date/time: May 25 (Sat), 2019 14:00-15:00

Venue: 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

Admission: Free

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

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