

May 13, 2022

Press Release

Hirosaki Museum of Contemporary Art 2022 Exhibition [Spring / Summer]

Ryoji Ikeda | solo exhibition

Date: April 16 (SAT) – August 28 (SUN), 2022

Venue: Hirosaki Museum of Contemporary Art

Overview of New and Recent Works, Including Installation in the Brick Warehouse's Spacious Atrium

Ikeda's First Major Japanese Solo Exhibition in 13 Years resonate with the Museum Architecture



data-verse 3, 2020 Photo: Takeshi Asano ©Ryoji Ikeda

The Hirosaki Museum of Contemporary Art (Hirosaki, Aomori) presents a solo exhibition of works by the internationally acclaimed artist and composer Ryoji Ikeda, based in Paris and Kyoto, from Saturday, April 16 through Sunday, August 28, 2022. Ikeda (b. 1966) has created numerous immersive works that dynamically combine technology, light, and sound to electrify the viewer's senses. This will be Ikeda's first major exhibition at a Japanese museum since 2009, and will showcase his recent activities including new works.

Since 2000 Ikeda has pursued the theme of data, with a particular interest in scientific fields such as genetics, quantum physics, and astronomy, which he has incorporated into works that present new ways of perceiving the world in numerical terms. For example, in *data-verse 3* (2020), shown for the first time in Japan, data from NASA and many other scientific organizations is collected, processed, and converted into high-resolution images projected in the gallery. Experienced both visually and aurally, the works envelop viewers in a world composed of vast amounts of data that usually go unseen and unnoticed.

In addition to a projection in the spacious, 15-meter-high atrium, video and sound works in each gallery connect to one another, and the works resonate and sympathetically vibrate with the unique architectural space of the renovated Brick Warehouse. This exhibition promises to expand the possibilities of the space, originally built as a brewery around 100 years ago and converted into an art museum, and offers the opportunity to experience a diverse range of works that provoke the imagination.

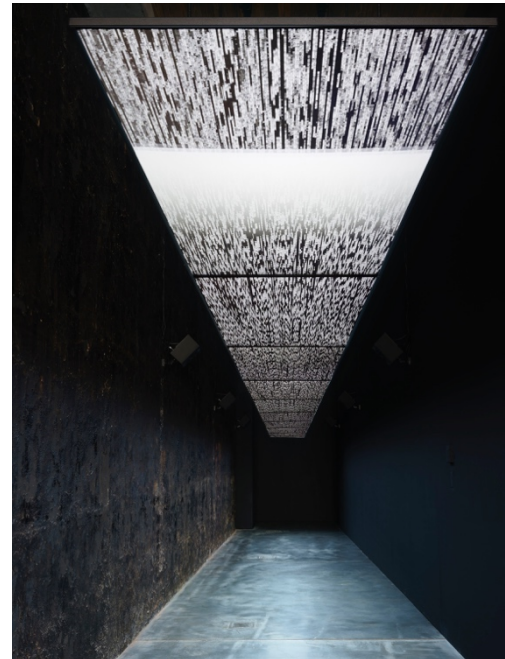
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Exhibition Highlights

1. Large-Scale Audio-visual installation in the 15-meter-high Atrium

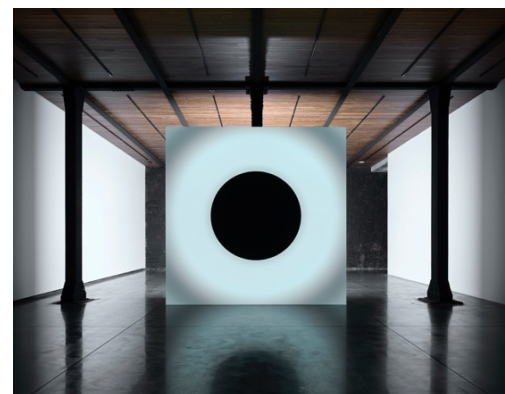
data-verse is a three-part video and audio work, presented for the first time at the 58th Venice Biennale in 2019, incorporating vast quantities of open-source data from organizations such as CERN (the European Organization for Nuclear Research) and NASA (the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration). The series, created with data ranging from the inside of the atomic nucleus to the furthest reaches of the cosmos, takes the viewer on an epic journey that oscillates between micro and macro perspectives. Here *data-verse 3*, which was also featured at Art Basel 2021, will be presented in Japan for the first time. Representing the culmination of Ikeda's recent work, it will be projected in the atrium space which is the museum's most distinguishing architectural feature.



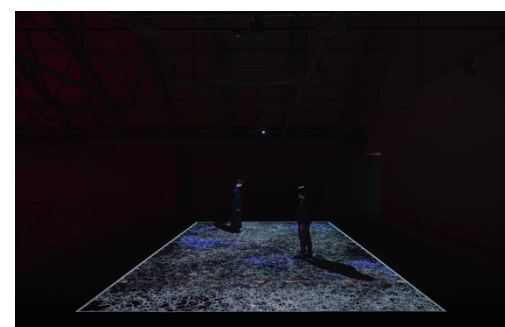
data.flux [n°1], 2020
Photo: Takeshi Asano
©Ryoji Ikeda

2. Visual and Auditory Experience of Works that Resonate with Museum Architecture

The works of Ikeda, whose activities began with electronic music composition, construct a space as if creating music in response to the venue's character. The works will be deployed so as to highlight to maximum effect the architectural characteristics of the museum, such as its steel structure and black coal-tar walls, which retain the atmosphere of the late 19th and early 20th century when it was constructed and used as a warehouse. In addition to positioning artworks so as to engage in dialogues with the space, the superimposition of audiovisual elements will bring about resonance between the architectural space and the artworks as a whole. Viewers will enjoy a site-specific experience of the works only possible through an in-person visit to the museum.



point of no return, 2018
Photo: Takeshi Asano
©Ryoji Ikeda



data.tecture [n°1], 2018
Photo: Takeshi Asano
©Ryoji Ikeda

3. New and Recent Works, Those Exhibited in Japan for the First Time

Ikeda's first solo show in Japan in 13 years (2009) features new and recent works incorporating a wide range of processes, including the laser piece *exp* and floor-projected piece. This is a rare opportunity to view the recent activities of international artist Ikeda through a diverse body of work that expands the viewer's senses. Closer proximity to the artist and his creations is offered through an archive and listening area where visitors can listen to samples of Ikeda's past musical pieces and browse records of his activities.



exp #1-4, 2020-2022
Photo: Takeshi Asano
©Ryoji Ikeda

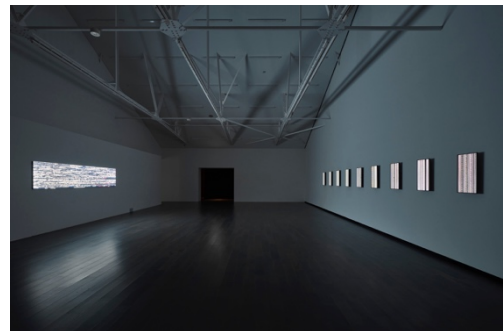
Works in the exhibition

[1st Floor]

- 1 *point of no return* (2018)
- 2 *data.flux [n°1]* (2020)
- 3 *data-verse 3* (2020)
- 4 *exp #1, exp #2, exp #3, exp #4* (2020-2022)
- 5 *grid system [n°2-a], grid system [n°2-b], grid system [n°2-c], grid system [n°2-d]* (2022)
- 6 *data.tecture [n°1]* (2018)

[2nd Floor]

- 7 *data.scape [DNA]* (2019)
- 8 *data.scan [n°1b], data.scan [n°2b], data.scan [n°3b], data.scan [n°4b], data.scan [n°5b], data.scan [n°6b], data.scan [n°7b], data.scan [n°8b], data.scan [n°9b]* (2011/2022)



Left: *data.scape [DNA]*, 2019
Right: *data.scan [n°1b-9b]*, 2011/2022
Photo: Takeshi Asano
©Ryoji Ikeda

Biography

Ryoji Ikeda

Born in 1966 in Gifu, Ikeda currently lives and works in Paris and Kyoto. While rooted in electronic music, the internationally active composer and artist also produces art as experimentation. Ikeda's immersive live performances and installations employ an elaborate orchestration of sound, visuals, matter, physical phenomena, and mathematical concepts. He performs and exhibits worldwide at spaces such as Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Singapore Art Museum, Ars Electronica Center Linz, Elektra Festival Montreal, Grec and Sonar Festivals Barcelona, Aichi Triennale Nagoya, Palazzo Grassi Venice, Park Avenue Armory New York, The Whitechapel Gallery London, The Barbican Centre and Somerset House London, Museo de Arte Bogota, Hamburger Bahnhof Berlin, DHC/Art Montreal, Festival d'Automne à Paris, Sharjah Biennale, Carriageworks Sydney, Auckland Triennale, MONA Museum Hobart – Tasmania, Ruhrtriennale, Telefonica Foundation Madrid and Kyoto Experiment Festival, ACT Centre Gwangju (Korea), Singapore Art Science Museum, Kunstverein Hannover, RuhrTriennale, Festival d'Automne and Pompidou Center, Barbican, The Vinyl Factory, and ZKM Centre for Art and Media, Karlsruhe, among others. In 2018, Ikeda launched an online source under the name, codex I edition. He has received the Prix Ars Electronica Collide@CERN in 2014, and the 70th Japanese Minister of Education Award for Fine Arts (Media Arts Division) in 2020.

Exhibition Booklet

A Japanese-English bilingual guide to the exhibition that includes commentaries on the works and photographs of the exhibition. In addition to an essay by Mika Yoshitake, the book contains an interview with the artist conducted by Barbara London. The book can be reserved at the shop adjacent to the museum or the online store. A message will be posted on the museum website when the online store is ready to accept orders.

Date of publication: July 2022

Specifications: A5 size (single gatefold cover), 64 pages, full color

Price: 800 yen (tax included)

[Profiles]

Writer: Mika YOSHITAKE

Independent Curator. Former Curator at Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C. (2011-2018).

Interviewer: Barbara LONDON

Curator and writer. Former curator at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York (1973-2013), and the author of *Video/Art: The First Fifty Years* (Phaidon, 2020).

General Information

Exhibition Title:	<i>Ryoji Ikeda / solo exhibition</i>
Date:	Sat., April 16 – Sun., August 28, 2022
Opening Hours:	9:00-17:00 (Last admission 30 minutes before closing)
Closed:	Tuesdays (except on April 26, May 3 and August 2, 2022)
Admission (tax included):	Adults 1,300 yen (1,200 yen) University Students 1,000 yen (900 yen) *() Price for a group over 20 people *Free of charge for high school students and under; international students staying in Hirosaki; Hirosaki citizens over 65; and visitors with disabilities and one attendant
Organizer:	Hirosaki Museum of Contemporary Art
Venue:	Hirosaki Museum of Contemporary Art 2-1 Yoshino-cho, Hirosaki City, Aomori, Japan 036-8188
With Special support from:	Starts Corporation Inc.
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Tel:	+81-172-32-8950
Access:	From JR Hirosaki Station - Take the Konan Bus to the Horai-Bashi stop (app. 9 min.) and walk 5 minutes - 20 minutes on foot - taxi 7 minutes
Website	http://www.hirosaki-moca.jp
SNS:	Instagram: @hirosaki_moca Twitter: @hirosaki_moca Facebook: @hirosaki.moca

About the Museum

Hirosaki Museum of Contemporary Art opened on 2020, After renovating the Yoshino-cho Brick Warehouse, a piece of modern industrial heritage and iconic landmark of Hirosaki City constructed in the late 19th and early 20th century. Its buildings were renovated by architect Tane Tsuyoshi. The goal is to connect the region and the world through contemporary art, offering opportunities to engage with diverse and abundant visions and ideas, and serving as a dynamic cultural hub that stimulates new creativity connected to the past, present and future.



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