

Shinro Ohtake

12 October – 12 December 2014

Preview: 11 October 2014, 6.30 – 9 p.m.



Left to right: Shinro Ohtake, *Scrapbook #66*, 2010–2012, mixed media artist book, 72 x 96 x 129 cm (28¼ x 37¼ x 50¼ in), 27.2 kg, 830 pages. Shinro Ohtake, *Time Memory 28*, 2014, 220.5 x 300.5 x 10.5 cm (86¾ x 118¼ x 4¼ in). Credits: Courtesy of the artist and Take Ninagawa, Tokyo.

Parasol unit foundation for contemporary art is delighted to present a solo exhibition devoted to the work of Japanese artist Shinro Ohtake, from 12 October to 12 December 2014. (Preview 11 October 6:30 to 9 p.m.)

With an extensive, diverse and innovative body of works executed over the past thirty years, Shinro Ohtake has clearly positioned himself as one of the most important creative forces in contemporary Japanese art. Ohtake's oeuvre includes drawing, pasted works, painting, sculpture, and photography, as well as experimental music and videos, but the activity of cutting and pasting is clearly his most powerful form of expression. Much of his work utilises found images and scraps discarded from urban culture and the mass media, often with reference to the underground music culture. In 1977, Ohtake began his ongoing series of 'Scrapbooks', for which he is renowned and has to date completed more than sixty. Due to the elaborate process of making the Scrapbooks, each one becomes both a painted and sculptural entity. An extensive presentation of his Scrapbooks was shown during the 2013 Venice Biennale.

The exhibition at Parasol unit provides important exposure of Ohtake's early, recent and new works. It focuses particularly on his 'Retina' and 'Time Memory' series, but also includes works from the 'Frost' and 'Cell' series. Several of Ohtake's films, another integral part of his practice, will also be screened during the exhibition.

Curated by Ziba Ardan, Founder/Director of Parasol unit foundation for contemporary art, this exhibition is Shinro Ohtake's first major show in a public London institution. It is accompanied by a full colour publication, including essays by Marco Livingstone and Julien Bismuth, and a related programme of educational events, family workshops, a poetry reading and artist talk at the Japan Foundation, London.

Parasol unit foundation for contemporary art

Notes to Editors Artist Biography

Born in 1955 in Tokyo, **Shinro Ohtake** is one of Japan's leading and most innovative contemporary artists. His practice extends from the creation of visual arts projects and artist books to sound and architectural projects. Through his noise band JUKE/19 (1978–1982), Ohtake has also influenced the direction of experimental music in Japan. Following his various exhibitions held in Japan and internationally, and in recognition of his outstanding contribution, Shinro Ohtake was awarded one of Japan's most prestigious art awards: The Agency for Cultural Affairs Minister's Award for the Fine Arts 2013–2014.

Recent solo exhibitions include 'NEWNEW', at the Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art (MIMOCA) and 'OKUSOKU / Velocity of Memory' at the Takamatsu City Museum of Art, 2013. Shinro Ohtake had mid-career survey exhibitions at Tokyo's Museum of Contemporary Art, 2006, and the Fukuoka Art Museum, 2007, toured to Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art. His work is in numerous public and private collections in Japan, including the Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, the Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, and Benesse House, Naoshima. International collections include the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and the Victoria & Albert Museum, London. In 2009, he completed a site-specific commission for Benesse Art Site Naoshima, the Naoshima Bath 'I ♥ 湯' (I love you). Recent international exhibitions include the 56th Venice Biennale and the Setouchi Triennale in 2013, documenta 13 in 2012, and the 8th Gwangju Biennale in 2010. He will also participate in the Yokohama Triennale 2014.

Parasol unit foundation for contemporary art is grateful for the generous support of The Asahi Beer Foundation, The Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation, The GB Sasakawa Foundation, The Japan Foundation and The Pola Art Foundation.



VISITOR INFORMATION

Founded in December 2004, Parasol unit foundation for contemporary art is a registered educational charity and a non-profit institution that operates purely for the public benefit. Every year the foundation organises four challenging and thought-provoking exhibitions of works by international contemporary artists working in various media, arranges other artistic projects, and gives an Exposure award which offers the possibility of an exhibition to graduating student/s from an annually selected art school in the UK. The foundation also engages with the public and its neighbouring community through a full programme of educational events. In its genuine mission to serve the public, the foundation does not bear the founder's name and its exhibitions do not derive from any particular private collections. Admission to all exhibitions at Parasol unit is free of charge. Thanks to this innovative model between private funding and public support, one of London's most vibrant contemporary art spaces has come to exist and thrive.

Free Admission

14 Wharf Road, London N1 7RW

Opening hours:

Monday by prior arrangement.

Tuesday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Sunday, 12–5 p.m.

Directions: Tube to Old Street or Angel

Buses: 43, 205 or 214 via City Road.

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