

Iyamari

(b. 1987, Saitama, Japan)

London / Tokyo based artist

Founder and director of the TELESCORE PROJECT

www.iyamari.info

2014 MFA | Tama Art University, Traditional Japanese Painting Course

2012 BFA | Tama Art University, Traditional Japanese Painting Course

Iyamari was born in Japan, where she established herself as a thriving artist. After three well-attended solo shows and successful curation of two exhibitions in Tokyo, she decided to move to London to focus on her new art work, and direct her successive collaborative video art projects.

She was born into a family with a long-standing tradition in crafts and handiwork, specialising in making Kiri-tansu (traditional style Japanese chests made out of paulownia wood) and bespoke Kimono fabrics. During her childhood, she spent most of the time in the art studio of her father, a painter. In spite of her family background, she does not seek a continuation of the traditional artistic or craftsmanship ways, but rather she reinterprets the Japanese aesthetics into a new modern art form inspired by traditional Japanese art, underpinned by contemporary scientific reasoning.

Her artistic expression spans a variety of media, including multimedia presentations. Notably, she is the founder and director of the Telescore Project, which brings together artists and performers from diverse disciplines, including dance, music, and even software programming.

While she possesses a background in traditional handcrafts and Japanese painting techniques, Iyamari uses these skills in new and experimental ways to express herself. The main themes of her artworks are time and perception, and the creation of a model of "a moment" and human cognisance. Her artistic interest is channeled through the use of trees as mediums of time-keeping - analysing tree ring records linked to the trees' surrounding environment, process of growth, and the time records kept inside of their body.

All of her print works are hand printed using various trees' parts: growth rings cut crossways, cut lengthways and the bark. Almost all of the print works are made using tree stumps or felled wood, and are printed with Sumi ink. This ink is made from animal glue and soot and when it is applied on living trees the glue does not harm them. The idea to use Sumi ink for printing was inspired by the technique used by Japanese tree surgeons for protecting trees against pathogens after unhealthy branches are pruned. The ink prints are displayed on Japanese traditional paper. Iyamari also uses vintage wooden articles that have become old-fashioned or obsolete, and repurposes these for her artworks.

Telescope Project

Started in the Spring of 2016, Telescope Project is a world-wide collaborative art project, which takes Iyamaru's artistic interest in time and perception into a different direction. It aims to familiarise the viewers with the cross-species interaction and coexistence of trees and humans. Specific trees, and their area of origin, are presented in short films inspired by the local area's culture. The films use a soundtrack created by digitally processing the tree's cross-sections into sound. The soundtrack is incorporated into the project work for the performance artists to interpret the music, and the tree's significance to the given area, into a dance or performance.

Trees and humans have been sharing the environment for a long time. There are trees with symbolic meanings in almost every area in every country. Additionally, there are particular cultural traditions which have flourished around the use of these trees. This shows us how human cultures are affected by land and environment. Our project tries to bring them together and present the 'relationship of the tree and human'.

Selected Exhibitions

- Solo Exhibitions**
- 2018 Stay - , Millennium Art Gallery, London
 - 2016 間 - Ma, Kunugi Gallery, Tokyo
 - 2015 Touch the Boundaries, Fujiya Gallery, Tokyo
 - 2014 I CAN SEE, BUT I CAN'T SEE, Ginza Retro Gallery Musee, Tokyo

- Curated Exhibitions** / participated as a curator and an artist
- 2016 Telescope Project Opening Exhibition, Shibuya Hikarie, /8, showcase aiiima
 - Collaborated with the dancer Norihito Ishii from the Butoh dance company SANKAI-JYUKU
 - 2015 Beyond the Farthest Plane, 3331 arts Chiyoda, Akibatamabi 21
 - Sponsored by Tama Culture Reconstruction Foundation
 - Exhibition featured in Japanese newspaper The Nikkei

- Group Exhibitions**
- 2015 TAMA VIVANT II, Parthenon Tama, Tokyo
 - 2014 Graduation Exhibition of Five Art Universities in Tokyo, The National Art Center Tokyo
 - 2013 Maturibayashi, Sato Museum, Tokyo
 - 2012 Tama University Japanese painting graduation exhibition, Tokyo Art Gallery Melsa

- Grants / Awards**
- 2014 Tama Culture Reconstruction Foundation for the exhibition 'Beyond the Farthest Plane'

- Other Experiences**
- 2018 Guest Talk at SOAS university of London