

Press Release

2022.1.28

Sabbatical Company (Ai Sugiura · Shoko Masunaga · Akiko Minowa · Yasuko Watanabe) *OR We are still chatting.*

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February 19 - March 20, 2022

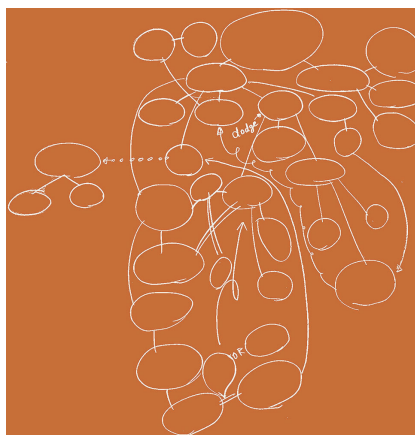
*Please note that we may have a limited number of entry to the exhibition, in order to prevent infection and spread of the new coronavirus.

Talion gallery is pleased to announce the opening of “OR We are still chatting.” by Sabbatical Company.

Sabbatical Company is the art collective formed in 2015 with 4 artists, Ai Sugiura, Shoko Masunaga, Akiko Minowa and Yasuko Watanabe. They have been achieving various projects to bond their unnoticed curiosities through their dialogues, acquiring different terms from their each time while they have been working with their different methods.

“OR” in this exhibition title has been existing since the first Sabbatical Company was formed, to show one of their possibilities. Within the exhibition “OR Have a good day.” which took place in Gunma, 2016, “OR” was proposed as another possibility opposite to spend time at same place, putting their feeling “If we cannot stay together, please have a good day”. Since then three of the members have experienced residences at domestic places and overseas, and literally continued their activities from distant places until 2019.

Now they are living closely after a long separation but Sabbatical Company is questioning again about “to spend time together and its distance” in the same way that many peoples practice under this global pandemic. As they have talked each other “let’s state our activities after 10 years” at the start of the group, they are starting to search their words for coming 2025. Their sway and perplexity revolve to the keyword “OR” again. This exhibition “OR We are still chatting.” invite the musician Toshihiro Yanai as their collaborator, to form their communications with power of music, which stand before the words are named as the words .



Sabbatical Company | Sabbatical Chart Map 02 | 2021

Sabbatical Company The Present Place

Sabbatical Company was formed in 2015 and at the start of the group under the slogan of “Share time before becoming words” , we have decided that “At now, let’ s do not name what we are going to do. And let’ s look back our activities after 10 years and sum the words born of our projects” . Untill now we have worked on 9 projects and try to consider while picking up the words one by one which generated from them. 6 years have passed from our start. It is a little less than 4 years by given time 10th anniversary. During this period, we are trying to continue our practices while prolonging and dodging to be put in context or to be assessed. Currently, Sabbatical Company starts thinking the way of our activities toward 2025. In this exhibition we start up a new project to show our present place under this circumstances, inviting Toshihiro Yanai again who were the collaborator of the project in 2017 to deliver our time of searching words with help of music.

“OR” , this word has been continously existing since we starts as a keyword to suggest a certain kind of possibility of Sabbatical Company’ s activities. At the project “OR Have a good day.” in 2016, the word was presented as another possibility opposite to spend time at same place, putting their feeling “We cannot stay togehter but please have a good day” . As we expected, since this year three of the members have experienced residences at domestic places and overseas, and literalily continued their activities from distant places until 2019. And after 2020, global pandemic has spread while they live closely after a long separation. Sabbatical Company is questioning again about to spend time together and its distance in the same way that many peoples practice. To use slowly and effectively our own given 4 years, we have made our sway and perplexity revolve to the keyword “OR” again.

The most part of Sammatical Company’ s meating is always a trivial convesation. New discovery is often happened to be made at the very next moment after chatting and laughing about exiting things recently found, delicious foods and various rumors, forgetting today’ s agenda. For us, every chat is a milestone connecting to important discovery. Picking up the overlooked and forgotten words carefully, and take time to see them once again. We think that prolonged time enamles to doing it. We are still chatting “OR OR OR OR.....” to postpone the conclusion.

Sabbatical Company (Ai Sugiura • Shoko Masunaga • Akiko Minowa • Yasuko Watanabe)



#04 “OR Have a good day.” Maebashi Works I 2016

Sabbatical Company

Artist collective formed by artists of the same generation, Ai Sugiura, Shoko Masunaga, Akiko Minowa and Yasuko Watanabe in 2015. The name comes from the Sabbath. Sabbatical which means creative long vacation to strengthen the expertise and Company which derives the company who eat bread together are their concepts.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- 2019 "#07 Sabbatical Bird" Publishing ZINE (Portland, United State)
- "#09 End of Summer Artist in Residence" (Portland, United State)
- "#08 Sabbatical Company "POTLUCK" party" (Tokyo)
- 2018 "#07 Sabbatical Bird" (Instagram)
- "Sabbatical Company+Yanai Toshihiro" Music Can
- 2017 "#06 (hanage+Sabbatical Company) sound"
- Rail road siding (Saitama)
- "#05 Dyeing socks" 3331 Arts Chiyoda (Tokyo)
- 2016 "#04 OR Have a good day" maebashi works (Gunma)
- "#03 Session_Have a good day" (Tokyo,
- "#02 Field Trip_1 Visiting Mr. Asai Kenjiro"
- "#01 When I came back to home in the evening" Milkyeast (Tokyo)



#09 End of Summer Artist in Residence Program Open Studio
2019 | Installation view at Portland



Sabbatical Company "Air Pump" MV | 2017



"#04 OR Have a good day." Maebashi Works | 2016
Photo : Shinya Kogure



#02 Field Trip_1 Visiting Mr. Asai | 2016

Ai Sugiura

- 1982 Born in Aichi, Japan
2005 B.F.A, Sculpture Course, College of Art and Design,
Musashino Art University
2007 M.F.A, Sculpture in Fine Arts Course, Musashino Art University

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 "Someone's Travel, a Place I Don't Know" Second2. (Tokyo)
2019 "Some Ways to Know Spring has Sprung"
Si:said gallery (Klaipeda, Lithuania)
2017 "Pass by, stop suddenly" HAGISO (Tokyo)
2016 "Neighborhood" JULY (Shanghai)
2014 "Fragments in daily life" LAD GALLERY (Aichi)
"Fragments in daily life"
Attic gallery, Treasure Hill Artist Village (Taipei)
2013 "Go into a room" fable8710 (Tokyo)
"Because it is there. " Gallery Gen (Tokyo)
2011 "Dream in a Salad" fabre8710 (Tokyo)
2010 "Electric mouse" Shinjuku Ophthalmologist Gallery (Tokyo)
2009 "The Seven Dwarfs" Gallery Gen (Tokyo)
"treasure hunt play" Gallery Gen (Tokyo)
2008 "A pencil rocket" Gallery Ai (Tokyo)

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 "Taking a Walk Through Yokohama City. "
exhibited in two places Food & Time Isetan and Wharf (Kanagawa)
"#1" Second2. (Tokyo)
2020 "Room and Garden The Form of Distance"
Musashino Art University Museum Gallery 1 (Tokyo)
"Creative Railway" Motomachi-Chūkagai Station (Kanagawa)
2018 "Time" Ivy Palace (Taipei)
2017 "A Fitting Pattern" Book Site (Tainan)
"Lost in Materials" Howl Space (Tainan)
"Art Hyperactivity Disorder" Shanghai Fashion Center (Shanghai)
2016 "OR have a good day" Maebashi Works (Gunma)
"Open studio" The Swatch Art Peace Hotel (Shanghai)
"Memory Holds a Tongue" DNA (Shanghai)
"When I come back home in the evening. " Milkyeast (Tokyo)
2015 "18x8" PointB Worklodge (New York)

SELECTED AWARDS

- 2017 "Win Prize" Daikokuya Contemporary Art Competition (Tochigi)
2011 "Win Prize" Arts Challenge 2011 Aichi Art Program (Aichi)
2010 "Bronze Prize" Maebashi Art Compe Live (Gunma)
2009 "Teiya Iwabuchi Prize" Amuse Art Jam in Kyoto (Kyoto)
2006 "Excellent Prize" Jeans Factory Art Award (Kochi)
2005 "Excellent Prize"
Musashino Art University Degree Show 2005 (Tokyo)



Neighbors/Kodaira | 2020 | Digital print, frame, acrylic board
35.4x142.3x3cm
Installation view at Musashino Art University Museum Gallery 1 (Tokyo)
Photo : Takuma Ishikawa



Role Players | 2019 | Digital print, wood, building material, plaster, clamp
Installation view at Si:said Gallery (Klaipeda, Lithuania)
Photo : Andrej Vasilenko



Gradual Boundary. Spring has Sprung | 2019
Digital print on acrylic board | Si:said Gallery (Klaipeda, Lithuania)
Photo : Andrej Vasilenko



Indoor Travel | 2016
Wood, wire, plywood, lacquer paint,
flooring material | 240cmx300x135cm
Installation view at Milkyeast (Tokyo)
Photo : Shizune Shiigi

Shoko Masunaga

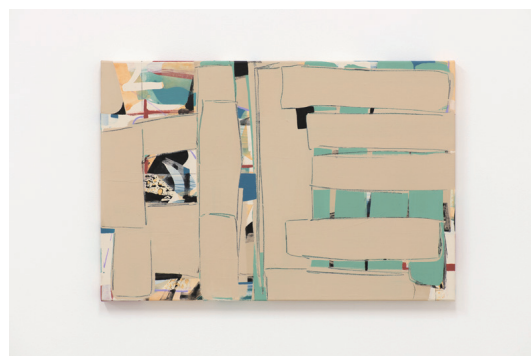
- 1980 Born in Osaka
2001 Graduated from Seian Zokei Junior College (Painting) , Kyoto
2018-19 The Japanese Government Overseas Study Program for Artists,
Japan (Residence in New York)

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 "editing" nidi gallery (Tokyo)
2021 "replace" LOKO GALLERY (Tokyo)
2019 "Box, Box, Box" Cooler Gallery (New York)
2018 "CRITERIUM 93 Shoko Masunaga"
Gallery 9, Contemporary Art Gallery, Art Tower Mito (Ibaraki)
2016 "RURAN TADD PADAN-PADAN" gallery yolcha (Osaka)
"platform" LOOP HOLE (Tokyo)
2015 "Abstract Butter at HAGISO" HAGISO (Tokyo)
2013 "Line/Color" ART TRACE GALLERY (Tokyo)
2012 "Abstract Butter" nidi gallery (Tokyo)

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 SCENE5 "exercise" Takuro Usui, Shoko Masunaga
Time & Style Midtown(Tokyo)
"Face Up" Satoshi Uchiyama, Hideyo Ohtsuki, Akira Kawasaki,
Yasuo Tanaka, Shoko Masunaga, Yusuke Mitsufuji (Tokyo)
2020 "Ordinary objects" Alex Dodge, Shoko Masunaga, Ryosuke Ogino,
Fuminao Suenaga Maki Fine Arts (Tokyo)
2019 "Behind the Seen" NARS Foundation (New York)
"The Body Responds by Lying" NARS Foundation (New York)
2017 "VOCA (The vision of contemporary art)"
The Ueno Royal Museum (Tokyo)
2016 "3331Art Fair2016-Variou Collectors Prize"
Arts Chiyoda 3331(Tokyo)
"At night when I got home" milkyeast (Tokyo)
2015 "This is what in the mailbox" ETNA&IONIO (Tokyo)
"means of making painting" Kodama Gallery (Tokyo)
"CHAIN REACTION" Kodama Gallery (Tokyo)
"Three desks" Takuro Usui, Masato Akimoto, Shoko Masunaga
Art Center Ongoing (Tokyo)
"quadruple track" Gendai Heights (Tokyo)
2014 "Medium Conditions" Yuta Hayakawa, Kazuo Yoshida, Shoko
Masunaga HAGISO (Tokyo)
2013 "Contemporary Art SIDING RAIL ROAD 2013"
Tokorozawa School Lunch Center Number Two (Saitama)
"in the dish" Gallery CUBE in Seian Zoukei University (Shiga)



Wall#2 | 2021 | Acrylic, oil, charcoal on canvas | 41x60.6x2cm



Alex Dodge, Shoko Masunaga, Ryosuke Ogino, Fuminao Suenaga
"Ordinary objects"
2020 | Installation view at Maki Fine Arts (Tokyo)



Abstract Butter | 2020 | Spinach dip, carrot dip, ketchup,
mayonnaise, butter, seaweed, cheese, white bread
Approx. 11x11cm from 6 slice pack



Box, Box, Box | 2019 | Installation view at Cooler Gallery, New York
Photo : mami kosemura

Akiko Minowa

- 1980 Born in Tokyo, Japan
- 2006 B.F.A, Sculpture Course, College of Art and Design,
Musashino Art University
- 2008 M.F.A, Sculpture in Fine Arts Course, Musashino Art University

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

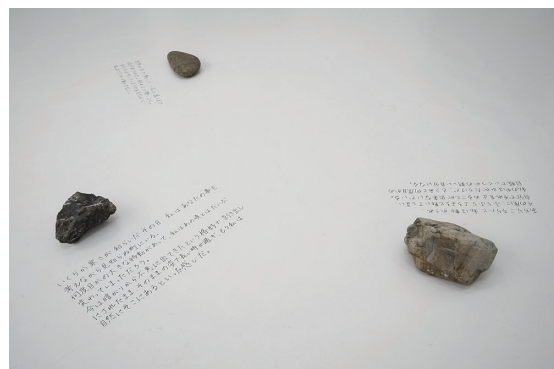
- 2021 "16:51 — 21:03" gallery21yo-j (Tokyo)
- 2020 "16:51 — 21:03" tadpole-lab art project space (Tokyo)
- 2018 "Picking Stones" gallery21yo-j (Tokyo)
- 2015 "The distance and fence " krautraum (Tokyo)
"Think of you. And some of the about me. " void+ (Tokyo)
- 2014 "Samudra manthan and Amrita of mistake " gallery21yo-j (Tokyo)
- 2012 "The echo of a courtyard " gallery21yo-j (Tokyo)
- 2011 "MUSHINOIDOKORO " switch point (Tokyo)
- 2010 "Shape thrown out " Gallery Q (Tokyo)
- 2008 "Interruption scenery" Gallery Q (Tokyo)
- 2006 "In a certain garden" Futaba Gallery (Tokyo)

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 "After finishing the meal, turn the date and let's draw some lines behind the calendar. " krautraum (Tokyo)
- 2017 "railroad siding 2017"
the 2nd Center for Meal factory of Tokorozawa City (Saitama)
"Intimacy and opposite shore" krautraum (Tokyo)
Sabbatical Company #05 "Go dyeing socks"
3331 Art Fair 2017 (Tokyo)
"SETSUDAN vol.III" 3331 Arts Chiyoda 1F 3331GALLERY (Tokyo)
- 2016 "MEETING POINT 2016 " Fuchu Art Museum (Tokyo)
Sabbatical Company #04" OR Have a good day."
Maebashi Works (Gunma)
Sabbatical Company #01" When I'll go home in the evening. "
milkyeast (Tokyo)
- 2015 "Unknown VOID Series No.6 " / void+ (Tokyo)
- 2014 "quadruple track" / GENDAIHEIGHTS Gallery Den (Tokyo)
"META PLAY " / GALERIE KRITIKU (Prague, Czech)
"Unknown History" Record Collection launch exhibition
"After History" NADiff a/p/a/r/t (Tokyo)
- 2014 "From the nothing,with love." Koganei Art spot Chateau 2F (Tokyo)
- 2013 "I've Been Dreaming for a Long Time. " TALION GALLERY (Tokyo)
"railroad siding 2013"
the 2nd Center for Meal factory of Tokorozawa City (Saitama)
"Unknown History Series No.4" Underground (Tokyo)
"Tell all the Truth but tell it slant" TALION GALLERY (Tokyo)
- 2011 Tokorozawa Biennial "railroad siding 2011"
the 2nd Center for Meal factory of Tokorozawa City (Saitama)
"The 3rd COREDO Women's Art Style"
COREDO Nihonbashi (Tokyo)
- 2010 "3331 secret auction" 3331 Arts Chiyoda (Tokyo)
- 2009 "RE:Membering -Next of Japan -"
DOOSAN ART CENTER DOOSAN GALLERY (Seoul)



16:51 — 21:03 | 2021 | Installation (Video:Color, Sound:4h36m, texts, lights, pirints, googlemap, town, others) | Dimensions variable



Picking Stones | 2018 | Installation (Stone, texts, photos, others) | Dimensions variable



House Effect | 2017 | Installation (Words, orange, basket, carpet, watch, scenery of the outside, lights, sheer curtain, chair, telescope, mirror, book, globe, photo, acrylic board, bird cage, halfway) | Dimensions variable



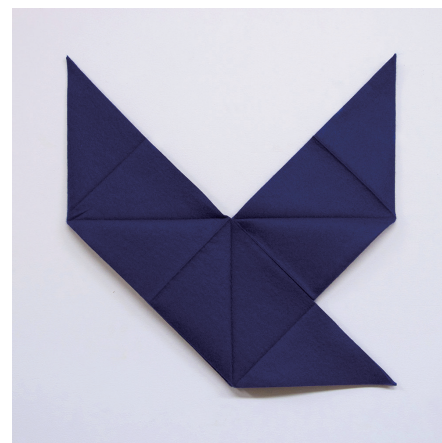
愛される人間をもう一方と入れ替えることは単に不可能なことなのです。
Trip with a stone | 2014
Installation (Video: color, sound, 13min40sec, stone, books, others) | Dimensions variable

Yasuko Watanabe

1981 Born in Chiba , Japan
 2007 M.F.A. Painting in Fine Arts Course, Musashino Art University, Tokyo

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2015 "wow!signal" Gallery SIDE 2 (Tokyo)
 2011 "tempestoso/fantastico" Gallery of The Fine Art Laboratory/gFAL (Tokyo)
 2010 "starlight star" Gallery SIDE 2 (Tokyo)
 2008 "chorus" Gallery SIDE 2 (Tokyo)



A trick boat | 2017 | Felt | 41x41x1cm

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2019 "Small Infinity" MA2Gallery (Tokyo)
 2018 "Giving shapes to ideas" Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku (Tokyo)
 2017 "ICHIHARA ARTxMIX 2017" IAAES (Chiba)
 2016 "ARTxICHIHARA 2016 Spring" IAAES (Chiba)
 "d.10 window Exhibition" Polestar Shin-machi Premium stage (Aomori)
 "Fragments for unknown scenery" Akibatamabi21 (Tokyo)
 "When I come back home in the evening." milkyeast (Tokyo)
 2015 "The Camera Knows Everything" HAGIWARA PROJECTS (Tokyo)
 2014 "Paper objects Festival" Kalnciema Quarter (Latvia)
 "PIOON project" TRATTORIA LA BOCCA (Shizuoka)
 2013 "Ome Art Program 2013" Ome Municipal Museum of Art (Tokyo)
 "Summer Drawing Show" Gallery SIDE 2 (Tokyo)
 "Permanent Exhibition" Musee Bernard Buffet (Shizuoka)
 2012 "Over the Rainbow" Fuchu Art Museum (Tokyo)
 "small sculptures" GALLERY SIDE 2 (Tokyo)
 "Going In/Into the Painting" MA2Gallery (Tokyo)
 2010 "MAM SCREEN" Mori Art Museum (Tokyo)
 2008 "Formless Life" Mura Jutaku 1F (Kanazawa)
 "TRANSACUTIN" Gallery SIDE 2 (Tokyo)
 2007 "Art Award Tokyo" Gyoko Underground Gallery (Tokyo)
 2006 "Walk with your head up" naca NPO Art Aomori (Aomori)
 "Shadow" Gallery SIDE 2 (Tokyo)



Dear outside | 2017 | Handmadefelt | 3300x3600cm



(Top) re-touch[no.010-down] space
 2012 | Video | 1.19min
 (Bottom)re-touch[no.010] space
 2012 | Video | 1.17min

SELECTED GRANTS AND AWARDS

2017 The Gotoh Memorial Foundation Gotoh Cultural Award Fine Arts Division (Living in US for private researching from March 2018 to March 2019)
 2014 The Asahi Shinbun Foundation



to far away [no.006]space | 2008 | Video | 2.32min

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[Exhibition Informations]

Title OR We are still chatting.
Artists Sabbatical Company (Ai Sugiura • Shoko Masunaga • Akiko Minowa • Yasuko Watanabe)
Date February 19 - March 20, 2022 11 am - 7 pm
Closed on Monday, Tuesday and Holidays
Venue TALION GALLERY (2-2-1 B1, Mejiro, Toshima-ku, Tokyo)
Directed by Tsuyoshi Ueda (TALION GALLERY)

[Notice]

We kindly request visitors for following measures to protect guests from infection during their visit. Please check the updated information on our web site (taliongallery.com).

- To prevent overcrowding, we may have a limited number of entry to the exhibition.
- If you have a fever or symptoms such as coughing, sore throat, please refrain from visiting the gallery.
- Please wear a mask and disinfect their hands upon entering.

[Inquiries]

TALION GALLERY

Email: info@taliongallery.com Tel/Fax: +81-3-5927-9858

171-0031 B1 2-2-1 Mejiro, Toshima-ku, Tokyo URL: www.taliongallery.com