



archegraph study_Sapporo, 2016 © SUZUKI, Migrant Bird Space

YUYA SUZUKI

archegraph study_Berlin

19 Jun. – 06 Aug. 2020
Opening: Thurs. 18 Jun., 6pm
Koppenplatz 5, 10115 Berlin

In search of a new visual language, Japanese artist Yuya Suzuki responds to the environment around him: minimalist amorphous shapes, semi-symmetric patterns and bright, blazing colours function like fragments or syllables of an unintelligible code. When viewed as series or as room-filling installation, Suzuki's works unfold into a linguistic landscape that feels strangely familiar, yet cleverly escapes definitive meaning. Each image is created from a part of an actual city-scape, but the level of abstraction varies: from motifs that closely resemble the original to heavily abstracted patterns. His "archegraph studies" – a term he coined in 2016– are visual texts that could also be described as an abstract syntax or musical pattern. Suzuki's notes proliferate endlessly, defying a harmonious melody.



archegraph study_Beijing, 2019 © SUZUKI, Migrant Bird Space

Suzuki creates drawings, paintings and sculptures that are linked to our unconscious perception of contemporary urban life. He is a flaneur. Travelling the world, Suzuki wanders through cities he visits and collects impressions of mundane objects and elements that easily escape our attention. He uses these neglected objects to create his own visual vocabulary. Even though his work is based on his subjective perception, he aims to create a language that is universal at the same time. City-dwellers all over the world will be able to recognise certain elements: may these be associations to skyscrapers, bridges, windows and trees or smaller banal objects like a stack of boxes, plastic curtains or traffic lights – for each viewer there will be different motifs to identify and connect to. Suzuki's post-minimal abstractions – he regards Sol Lewitt as an inspiring influence – provide just enough imaginative space to remain accessible to any audience. The term "arche" in his title "archegraph study" refers to the Greek word for "origin", whereas the word "graph" translates as "symbol" or "image". Suzuki's "original images" therefore depict a minimal archetypal language, shared by humans worldwide. By abstracting elements that are familiar across cultures, he taps into the collective unconscious of urban life.

While in the streets, Suzuki collects his impressions by taking photographs. Back in his studio, he pencils an outline of each visual fragment and transforms it into a finely drawn abstracted symbol. He then uses colour-pencils or acrylic gouache for colour. Some of his motifs are outright flat, simple and two-dimensional, whereas others are more detailed and contain a three-dimensional perspective. His working process is swift and spontaneous. "When choosing the colours for my drawings, I try not to think too much. It is a very intuitive, quick approach." He uses a heavy paper that in itself has an almost haptic structure and absorbs the paint, leaving a dense, velvety finish. His precise colour-pencil drawings are just as buoyant and intense. While there are recurring elements in each of his "archegraph studies" – as of now, there are individual series for Tainan, Nagoya, Sapporo, Beijing and Berlin – every study is clearly different, assembling different colour-schemes and abstract urban shapes. Each series captures a city in a unique way, yet also tells a common story of urban spaces everywhere. As Suzuki travels across the world, he takes the viewer to seemingly familiar places, all the while projecting a futuristic vision of indefinite possibilities.

Dr. Eva Morawietz
Director of Migrant Bird Space, Berlin



Yuya Suzuki at Künstlerhaus Bethanien
© Andrea Katheder

YUYA SUZUKI

1983 born in Fukushima, Japan

lives and works in Sapporo. Current artist-in-residence at the Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin

Solo Exhibitions

- 2019 Phantoms Agora, Siao-Long Children's Museum of Arts, Tainan / Taiwan
New Excavation, MUMU Gallery, Tainan / Taiwan
Futuristic Allegory, Migrant Bird Space, Beijing / China
- 2018 City under the water, Center for Contemporary Art (PCCA), Jinxi / China
archegraph study_Tainan, Absolute space for the Arts, Tainan / Taiwan
- 2017 Remaking Ghosts, Soulangh cultural park, Tainan / Taiwan
archegraph study_Seoul, salon cojica, Sapporo / Japan
- 2016 Walk and cultivation, CAI02, salon cojica, Sapporo / Japan
- 2013 Out of the music, CAI02, Sapporo / Japan
- 2012 garden and half of there, world, and something, CAI02, Sapporo / Japan

Group Exhibitions (Selection)

- 2019 Sapporo Art Stage 2019, SCARTS, Sapporo / Japan
BENIZAKURA ARTANNUAL 2019, Benizakura park, Sapporo / Japan
grafting, naebono art studio, Sapporo / Japan
ASYAAF, DDP, Seoul / South Korea
Grafting, Art space + cafe Barrack, Seto, Japan
- 2017 Sapporo international Art Festival 2017 - guest house project, Sapporo / Japan
Nanji 11th Season 1 Group Exhibition, SeMA Nanji Residency, Seoul / Korea
- 2016 Sapporo Art Stage 2016, Sapporo Station Underground Passage CHI KA HO / Sapporo / Japan
Assemble NAGOYA 2016, MAT NAGOYA / Japan
Hekiga Planning 02, Terrace planning / Sapporo / Japan

Grants and Awards

- 2020 Japanese Government Overseas Research Program, Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan
- 2016 Sapporo Station JR Tower Art Box / Japan
- 2015 Nomura Foundation Art and Cultural Grant / Japan
- 2013 Art Osaka, Grand Prize / Japan

Residency programs

- 2020 Künstlerhaus Bethanien Berlin/Germany
- 2019 Migrant Bird Space, Beijing/ China
- 2018 Points Center for Contemporary Art, Jinxi / China
- 2017 Soulangh Artist Village, Tainan / Taiwan
SeMA NANJI Residency, Seoul / Korea



CONTACT

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Migrant Bird Space is a Berlin- & Beijing-based art foundation and gallery, providing a showcase for artists as well as art-agency services in China and Europe. Working out of the gallery space at Koppenplatz in the heart of Berlin, the foundation offers a professional platform for cross-cultural communication between China and Europe with a focus on contemporary Chinese art. Promoting both established and emerging artists, Migrant Birds provides gallery spaces for exhibitions in Beijing, Berlin and Shanghai, an artist-in-residence program, regular talks and lectures, as well as support in liaising with museums, universities, private institutions and more.

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