

## Junya Kataoka + Rie Iwatake Solo Exhibition

### “As the inevitable spin of a light bulb and a fan on a marble slab”

- Period           October 26th (Saturday) - November 30th (Saturday), 2019
- Hours           Tuesdays through Fridays, 13:00 - 20:00  
Saturdays, 12:00 - 19:00 (closed on Sundays, Mondays, and National Holidays)  
*\*Open for shortened hours on November 9th (Saturday) [12:00-17:00]*
- Venue           KANA KAWANISHI GALLERY  
4-7-6 Shirakawa, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-0021 JAPAN  
tel +81 3 5843 9128   e-mail [gallery@kanakawanishi.com](mailto:gallery@kanakawanishi.com)

#### ▼OPENING RECEPTION

October 26th (Saturday), 2019 18:00 - 20:00



*Spinning Light Bulb*

2015- | light bulb, fan | 80 × 300 × 300 mm

© Junya Kataoka + Rie Iwatake, courtesy KANA KAWANISHI GALLERY, photo by John L Tran

KANA KAWANISHI GALLERY is pleased to announce the opening of Junya Kataoka + Rie Iwatake’s solo exhibition, *As the inevitable spin of a light bulb and a fan on a marble slab*, which will be the first occasion to showcase the works of the artist duo at our gallery.

Junya Kataoka + Rie Iwatake started showcasing their works together as combined installations in 2013 while they both participated in a residency program in Paris, and since then, have been showcasing actively and internationally in projects such as *Bloc Projects* (Sheffield, UK, 2019) and *Ostrale Biennale 019* (Dresden, Germany, 2019), both already in 2019. Their works consist of kinetic works that feature unique behaviors of mundane everyday objects such as light bulbs and tableware, as well as delicate collage works combining various materials and fragments that visually transcend the layers of time and space.

The title of this exhibition, *As the inevitable spin of a light bulb and a fan on a marble slab*, refers to the quote *As the encounter of a sewing machine and an umbrella on an operation table* by Comte de Lautréamont (Isidore Lucien Ducasse / 1846-1870 / France).<sup>1</sup> The quote has been heavily featured by Surrealist artists who follow the *dépaysement*

<sup>1</sup> *Les Chants de Maldoror*, Comte de Lautréamont, 1869

philosophy; the method used in art to evoke a situation of discomfort by displacing matters away from its original context.<sup>2</sup>

Artists such as Giorgio de Chirico, René Magritte, Salvador Dali, Man Ray, and Marcel Duchamp have created works directly referring to this quote, however, the uniqueness in the works of Kataoka + Iwatake lay in how the works connote a sense of neutrality even while having displacement within themselves.

For example, hidden attributions of everyday materials such as a smooth turn of a light bulb or a movement created by tracing the rugged surfaces of a sea cucumber are featured in their kinetic works, while they naturally become reallocated into daily life. Additionally, their collage works feature motifs transcending dimensions of time and space and layers of printing and hand-drawings, while they result as an exquisite piece of two-dimensional work that continuously stimulates the viewers' curiosity.

This exhibition will not only introduce their representative works, but also the new works of the artist duo. We cordially look forward to welcoming all to the first occasion of introducing the solo exhibition by Junya Kataoka + Rie Iwatake at our gallery.



*Sea Cucumber with Teavares*

2016 | dried sea cucumber, teaware, motor | 100 × 280 × 340 mm  
© Junya Kataoka + Rie Iwatake, courtesy KANA KAWANISHI GALLERY



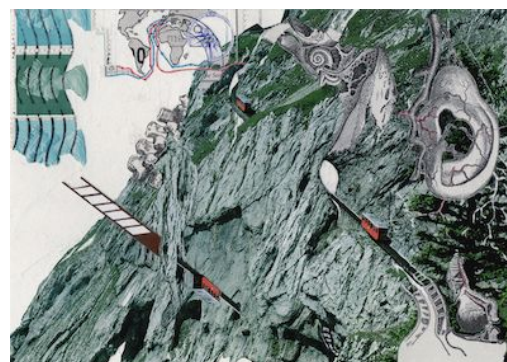
*Tea room*

2017- | lithograph | 570 × 640 mm  
© Junya Kataoka + Rie Iwatake, courtesy KANA KAWANISHI GALLERY



*atopon*

2019 | archival pigment print | 1118 × 900 mm  
© Junya Kataoka + Rie Iwatake, courtesy KANA KAWANISHI GALLERY



*Pilatus*

2014 | collage  
© Junya Kataoka + Rie Iwatake, courtesy KANA KAWANISHI GALLERY

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.moma.org/interactives/objectphoto/assets/essays/Hauptman\\_ORourke.pdf](https://www.moma.org/interactives/objectphoto/assets/essays/Hauptman_ORourke.pdf)

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## Artist Statement

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I placed a light bulb that came out of light onto a table, and it made one swivel turn.

It was a moment an attribution of a known object became unknown.

Already-known facts transcend predictions of the things we already know.

We become amused by the surreal moments that momentarily appear in our real life.

This exhibition will consist of kinetic works that present simple phenomena as are,  
along with some collage works.

Both the kinetic and collage works connote chance encountering within its production process,  
and attempt to capture phenomena as tentative elements,  
aiming to transform contexts attributed from their forms.

Junya Kataoka + Rie Iwatake

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## Artist Profile

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Major solo exhibitions of the artist duo include *Big Two-Hearted River* (2019, 3331 Arts Chiyoda, Tokyo), *Under35 Junya Kataoka + Rie Iwatake* (2017, BankART studio NYK, Kanagawa, Japan), *A Blot on the Landscape* (2016, The Container, Tokyo), and *Latent Constellation* (2016, Treasure Hill, Taipei, Taiwan). Group exhibitions and art festivals include *Trans\_2018-2019* (2019, Akiyoshidai International Art Village, Yamaguchi, Japan), *Art and Glasses Road Show* (2018, Kamata\_Soko, Tokyo), *Roppongi Art Night* (2018, Roppongi Hills, Tokyo), and *Local Enough?* (2016, Taipei Artist Village, Taipei, Taiwan).

**Junya Kataoka** was born in 1982 in Tochigi, Japan.

He received his B.A. at Musashino Art University, Department of Design Informatics in 2005, and M.A. at University of Tsukuba, Master's Program in Art and Design, Plastic Art and Mixed Media in 2010.

**Rie Iwatake** was born in 1982 in Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa.

She received her B.A. at Kanazawa College of Art, Department of Craft, Textile Course in 2006, and her M.A. at University of Tsukuba, Master's Program in Art and Design, Constructive Art in 2010.