

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ***The Age of Disappearance***

1 July – 6 August 2017

Two-person exhibition by Satoru Aoyama and Ken Ikeda



Satoru Aoyama, *The Age of Disappearance*. © Satoru Aoyama, courtesy of Mizuma Art Gallery

Mizuma Gallery is pleased to announce *The Age of Disappearance*, a two-person exhibition by Japanese artists, Satoru Aoyama and Ken Ikeda, an embroiderer and a musician respectively.

*“Traditions, bodies, disaster, war, documentary media - it goes without saying that this is an age in which each of those is itself confronted with many different disappearances, but within that, I think the notion of what the nature of “art” will be in the future is very important.”* – Satoru Aoyama

When talking about “The Age of Disappearance”, both Aoyama and Ikeda were eager to discuss the current social situation, with the fading existence of laborious, handmade creations standing against the brewing forces of advancement that come with our globalising world. This collaboration aims to take on the themes of documentation, disappearance, and regeneration.

Satoru Aoyama’s series, *Map of the World (Dedicated to unknown embroiderers)*, evokes the now-classic “Mappa” embroidered world maps by Alighiero Boetti. Yet with a twist: the nations of the planet now appear only when fluorescent in the dark, underlining how the light of recognition for the work of the anonymous women craftworkers who made the original work is always merely intermittent. As ever, Aoyama demonstrates a combination of exquisite technique and sharp conceptualism, in a profound work which raises questions about the fine line between authorship and unacknowledged labour, or between skilled craft and high art. In this, he treads an audacious path, linking the struggles of his own generation to pursue vernacular and technical work in a globalising art world. Alongside Aoyama’s embroidery, the works of musician Ken Ikeda use the action of producing sound to suggest the theme of regeneration. Presented through a primitive way of creation, Ikeda’s work comes to life through elastic bands stretched taut across pieces of wood boards, resulting in the creation of instrumental drawings made with luminous paint. Ken Ikeda will perform a series of musical pieces alongside a live video performance by Satoru Aoyama on the opening night.

**Satoru Aoyama (b. 1973, Japan)** graduated from Goldsmiths College in London in 1998, and completed a master's program at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2001. He has been using an old industrial sewing machine right from when he first started making art. For those who deal with industrial machinery – of all sorts, not just sewing machines – acquiring the proper techniques truly does mean becoming at one with the machine, the better to overcome the difficulties and dilemmas of the work. Andy Warhol once famously declared his wish to be a machine. The process of transforming machine into live, warm body encompasses a number of issues, the constantly transmuting – thanks to modernization – nature of what it means to be human, and the value of labor among them. These are issues he ponders to this very day, always with the history of fine art, and of industrial art, in mind. Some of Aoyama's major exhibits include "*Map of the World (Dedicated to Unknown Embroiderers)*", Mizuma Art Gallery, Tokyo, 2015, "*STORY TELLER, Units of Recognition*", Aomori Contemporary Art Centre, Aomori, 2012, "*Meguro Address*", Meguro Museum of Art, Tokyo, 2012, "*Roppongi Crossing 2010: Is Art Possible?*", Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, 2010, and the upcoming Yokohama Triennale 2017. Satoru Aoyama currently lives and works in Tokyo, Japan.

**Ken Ikeda (b. 1964, Japan)** is a composer and performer, born in Tokyo. After studying at Berklee College of Music, he has exhibited sound art and visual installations around the world, and has worked with John Russell, Eddie Prevost, David Toop, Simon Scott, Toshimaru Nakamura, Tetsuji Akiyama and many other improvising musicians; He has collaborated with, amongst others, artist Mariko Mori, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Tadanori Yokoo; and composed and recorded for film maker David Lynch. He released CD albums from Touch, Spekk, Baskaru, White Paddy Mountain and Home Normal. Ken Ikeda currently lives and works in London, UK.

### ***Performance***

by Satoru Aoyama and Ken Ikeda

Saturday, 1 July 2017, 4:30 – 5 pm & 6 – 6:30 pm

(Caution: Contains flashing images)

Video trailer for the performance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hWeSdbZszhc>

### ***Opening Reception***

Saturday, 1 July 2017, 4 – 7 pm

### ***Exhibition Dates***

Saturday, 1 July 2017 – Sunday, 6 August 2017

## Gallery Profile

Mizuma Gallery was established in 1994 in Tokyo, and since its opening in Gillman Barracks, Singapore in 2012, it aims for the promotion of Japanese artists in the region as well as the introduction of new and promising young talents from South East Asia to the international art scene. The gallery creates a new vector of dialogue within Asia, by exchanging art projects between East Asia and South East Asia. Mizuma Gallery has featured the works of Japanese artists including Aida Makoto, Amano Yoshitaka, Tenmyouya Hisashi, Ikeda Manabu, Aiko Miyanaga, and Yamaguchi Akira. Moreover, it has showcased the work of renown East Asian artists such as Ken + Julia Yonetani, Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba, Ai Weiwei, and Du Kun. The gallery also organises exhibitions featuring Indonesia's forerunner artists including Heri Dono, Nasirun, Made Wianta, indieguerillas, Albert Yonathan Setyawan, Agung "Agugn" Prabowo, Agan Harahap, and Angki Purbandono. Mizuma Gallery also participates yearly in Art Stage Singapore, and Art Basel Hong Kong.

## About Gillman Barracks

Set in a former military barracks dating back to 1936 and surrounded by lush tropical greenery, the Gillman Barracks visual arts cluster was launched in September 2012. Gillman Barracks' vision is to be Asia's destination for the presentation and discussion of international and Southeast Asian art. Gillman Barracks is now home to leading international and home-grown galleries, national research centre NTU Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA) Singapore, and art organisations Art Outreach and Playeum's Children's Centre for Creativity. The art businesses and organisations are complemented by design retailer Supermama, and an array of cafes, bars and restaurants. For more information: [www.gillmanbarracks.com](http://www.gillmanbarracks.com)

## Contact

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Hours: Tue-Sat 11-7 Sun 11-6, Closed on Mondays & PH



**Satoru Aoyama**



*Map of Europe*  
2016

embroidery (polyester and luminous thread) on polyester  
56 x 75 x 6.5 cm

© AOYAMA Satoru,  
courtesy of Mizuma Art Gallery

Satoru Aoyama



*Map of the World (Dedicated to unknown embroiderers)*  
2013  
embroidery (polyester and luminous thread) on polyester  
63 x 78 cm

© AOYAMA Satoru,  
courtesy of Mizuma Art Gallery

Ken Ikeda



*Instrumental Drawing*  
2017  
oil and luminous paint on wood board  
dimensions variable

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