

Press Release



Tomio Koyama Gallery, ShugoArts, and Taka Ishii Gallery Reunite in complex665 to Create a
New Art Hub in the Cultural Center of Roppongi

complex665

Grand opening on Fri., Oct. 21, 2016

Press preview on Thu., Oct. 20 at 16:00

The following artists will be showing new and never-before-shown works in the galleries' inaugural exhibitions: Mika Ninagawa, Masato Kobayashi, Ei Arakawa, Nobuyoshi Araki, Thomas Demand, Elmgreen & Dragset, Luke Fowler, Mario García Torres, Tomoo Gokita, Naoya Hatakeyama, Nobuya Hoki, Zon Ito, Yuki Kimura, Shinpei Kusanagi, Yukinori Maeda, Daido Moriyama, Kyoko Murase, Silke Otto-Knapp, Sterling Ruby, Kei Takemura, Hirofumi Toyama, and Cerith Wyn Evans.

Developing Roppongi into a Major Art District

What comes to mind when you hear the name Roppongi? In the past, the area was recognized for its dazzling image as one of Tokyo's foremost nightspots. Creators from a wide array of fields, including the era's leading fashion designers, artists, and architects, would gather every night, stimulating each other and producing new ideas and culture. At one time, this brilliant urban district had also functioned as a base of cultural communications and exchange.

Times have changed, and in the 21st century, present-day Roppongi has undergone a series of transformations to become a much larger and more widely recognized base for cultural transmission. Beginning with the opening of Roppongi Hills in 2003, some of Tokyo's most noteworthy and diverse museums, including Mori Art Museum; National Art Center, Tokyo; Suntory Museum of Art; and 21_21 Design Sight, have opened their doors in the area. Also scattered around the district are important and highly unique galleries, which attract visitors from both Japan and abroad, making Roppongi an indispensable part of the Tokyo art scene.

Now, in October 2016, Tomio Koyama Gallery, ShugoArts, and Taka Ishii Gallery are opening new spaces in a newly constructed building called complex665.

In the past, our three galleries stimulated one another while maintaining distinct identities and specialties, and we expanded our activities to include both domestic and foreign art scenes. Now we hope to help Roppongi become an even greater center for cultural transmission and a vital district for art.

To commemorate our opening in October, exhibitions of new and never-before-shown works by gallery artists will be presented in all three venues. We anticipate that in addition to conveying the "present" state of these international artists, the exhibitions will spur growth in the district and its new art scene.

Logo Design by Yoshihisa Tanaka

"I wondered how a fictional artist named 665 might sign their own work. That was the concept I used to design this logo. I think it embodies the idea that three unique galleries, all at the forefront of contemporary art in Japan, have assembled in complex665, and are joining forces and moving up."

—Yoshihisa Tanaka

Tomio Koyama Gallery

Inaugural Exhibition: Mika Ninagawa — *Light of*

Until Sat., Dec. 3



Mika Ninagawa, *Light of*, 2015, C-print mounted on Plexiglas, frame ©mika ninagawa

“We reach out our hands toward a trajectory of light and the moment we ask for help in catching that light in the frighteningly deep, blue, high sky, we sense happiness.”

—Mika Ninagawa

The *Light of* series, featured in this exhibition, captures glittering light in the darkness at fireworks displays and outdoor festivals that are conveyed as if they are overflowing from the contours of the picture plane. The powerful, vivid works provide us with a glimpse of the ardor and desire people in these places receive from the momentary flashes. At the same time, the fireworks that rise up into the sky like bursts of hope, and the countless hands reaching up toward the heavens look as if they are seeking salvation in the light. It seems like the brighter the light, the more brilliant the color, and the stronger the light, the darker the shadow. Through her work, Ninagawa responds acutely to the darkness that dwells side-by-side within the realm of light. In this exhibition, a fitting opening for complex665, viewers will encounter deeply impressive works that convey the artist’s impulses and her perceptual gaze, which captures visual brilliance and momentary beauty in order to make contact with the eternal. The interior design of the space was overseen by the young architects Murayama + Kato Architecture / mtka, who in recent years have received much attention for their work.

Interior design: Murayama + Kato Architecture / mtka

ShugoArts

Inaugural Exhibition: Masato Kobayashi — *Thrice Upon A Time*

Until Sun., Dec. 4



Masato Kobayashi, *Unnamed #27*, 2002, oil, canvas, wooden frame

photo by Shizuka Kobayashi, ©Masato Kobayashi

ShugoArts has constantly engaged in a search for the most unique achievements in Japanese art since the mid-'80s. In this new space at complex665, we hope to embrace the challenge to create even more exciting programs for the future with the theme of "galleristic adventure," using ways that are unrestrained by past conventions and standards. In this "empty-lot"-style gallery, designed by the architect Jun Aoki, ShugoArts will continue to evolve as a true place of creativity by producing completely new spaces with the artist for each exhibition. As the first installment, we present a new show by Masato Kobayashi, a highly acclaimed artist and great adventurer in painting. In addition to being open from Tue. to Sat., the gallery will be open on Sundays. We hope that as many people as possible will have the opportunity to enjoy the new art district in Roppongi.

Interior design: Jun Aoki & Associates

Taka Ishii Gallery

Inaugural Exhibition: *MOVED*

Participating artists: Ei Arakawa, Nobuyoshi Araki, Thomas Demand, Elmgreen & Dragset, Luke Fowler, Mario García Torres, Tomoo Gokita, Naoya Hatakeyama, Nobuya Hoki, Zon Ito, Yuki Kimura, Shinpei Kusanagi, Yukinori Maeda, Daido Moriyama, Kyoko Murase, Silke Otto-Knapp, Sterling Ruby, Kei Takemura, Hirofumi Toyama, and Cerith Wyn Evans

Until Sat., Nov. 19



Left: Sterling Ruby, *VERT. RED.*, 2016, photo by Robert Wedemeyer, courtesy of Sterling Ruby Studio

Right: Ei Arakawa in collaboration with Dan Poston, Stefan Tcherepnin, *How to DISappear in America*, 2016, photo by Gayla Fierman

As our opening exhibition, we present *MOVED*, a group show featuring 20 artists. Viewers will encounter the latest works by a collection of Japanese and foreign artists represented by the gallery, ranging from masters of Japanese photography to leading Western figures in the recent contemporary art scene and a performance artist who continues to inherit and communicate the avant-garde spirit of the '50s through his work. Along with the new 108-square-meter gallery space (3F) overlooking the terrace, a viewing room was created on the ground floor. The interior was designed by broadbean and the selection and arrangement of plants on the terrace was overseen by Sequoia Works. It is a great pleasure to open a gallery in a building that is once again shared by Tomio Koyama Gallery and ShugoArts, and we look forward to welcoming visitors to this new space.

Interior design: broadbean / Terrace plants: Sequoia Works

Overview of complex665

6-5-24 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 106-0032

3F: Taka Ishii Gallery (+81 3 6434 7010 / takaishiigallery.com)

2F: Tomio Koyama Gallery (+81 3 6434 7225 / tomiokoyamagallery.com)

2F: ShugoArts (+81 3 6447 2234 / shugoarts.com)

1F: Taka Ishii Gallery Office and broadbean (+81 3 3263 8990 / broadbean.jp)

Type of building: Commercial facility

Total floor space: Approx. 943 square meters

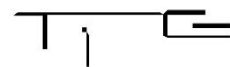
Interior ceiling height: 3.5 meters (3F & 2F), 2.5 meters (1F)

Hours: Tue. to Sat. 11:00-19:00 (ShugoArts is also open on Sun. 12:00-18:00)



TOMIO
KOYAMA
GALLERY

ShugoArts



Taka Ishii
Gallery

Roppongi Art Night

Tomio Koyama Gallery, ShugoArts, and Taka Ishii Gallery will be taking part in Roppongi Art Night. On Fri., Oct. 21 and Sat., Oct. 22, all three galleries will extend their hours until 21:00. At Tomio Koyama Gallery, the first 50 visitors to the exhibition will have the opportunity to purchase a signed copy of Mika Ninagawa's photo book *Light of*. On the 21st, ShugoArts will present a talk event featuring a dialogue between the architect Jun Aoki and the artist Masato Kobayashi. For further information, please visit the website.

TAKA ISHII GALLERY

SHUGOARTS

TOMIO KOYAMA GALLERY

BROADBEAN

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