

Exhibition commemorating 10 years of the residency programme

**“Tokyo A La Carte –The Backers Foundation and AIT Residence Programme (The Bar) Memories of 10 years”**

**August 24<sup>th</sup>, Friday – September 1<sup>st</sup>, Saturday, 2018**

**TOMIO KOYAMA GALLERY / ShugoArts / Taka Ishii Gallery (Roppongi)**



<Exhibition image visual>

Photo: Miti Ruangkritya (2017 resident artist, Thailand)

Design: Yasutaka Fukuoka

## — Visioning Tokyo by 20 Artists for the past 10 years

The Backers Foundation and Arts Initiative Tokyo is pleased to announce the coming exhibition, “Tokyo A La Carte –The Backers Foundation and AIT Residence Programme (The BAR) Memories of 10 years” from August 24<sup>th</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup> at three venues, TOMIO KOYAMA GALLERY / ShugoArts / Taka Ishii Gallery in the complex 665 building centrally located in Roppongi, Tokyo.

Since 2007, The Backers Foundation and Arts Initiative Tokyo (AIT) have been collaborating on the Artist-in-Residence Programme (The BAR) and invited a total of 20 emerging artists from 15 countries across Americas, Europe, Africa and Southeast Asia to support their artistic research and production in Japan. In 2012, to commemorate 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the programme, we have showcased the exhibition “Home Again – 10 Artists who have experienced Japan” at Hara Museum in Shinagawa to include all artists who stayed in Tokyo for the previous five years. The installation was curated to organically nurture the exhibition space of Hara Museum.

The key characteristic of The BAR is that it is collaboratively organized between members of The Backers Foundation, business experts, and AIT, a non-profit organization specialized in contemporary art. With support from art galleries in Tokyo, the programme created opportunities for each of the artists to present new works produced during their stay along with previous works. The works have been partially collected by The Backers Foundation.

In its 12th year, to commemorate the completion of the programme, the exhibition “Tokyo A La Carte” –The Backers Foundation and AIT Residence Programme (The Bar) Memories of 10 years showcases various works by 20 artists in multiple venues and with generous support from TOMIO KOYAMA GALLERY, ShugoArts and Taka Ishii Gallery.

Through their works and artistic viewpoints, The BAR has learned about the complex histories of the artists’ countries and the various trajectories that extend to the current state in today’s diverse landscapes where these artists live and work. Originally from Afghanistan, Khadim Ali came to Japan in 2007 from the Hazara ethnic group who are native to Central Asia. His home country remains in a state of tension and the landscape of Bamiyan Valley remains as testimony to the tragic destruction of the two standing Buddha statues. Duto Hardono and Syagini Ratnawulan came over from Indonesia in 2011, after the disastrous earthquakes and the aftermaths from the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant, in response to the situation with their own memory from the earthquakes Indonesia previously suffered. A Guatemalan artist Alberto Rodríguez Collía from 2013 and a Kenyan artist Gor Soudan from 2014, both have undergone oppression and struggles in their artistic expressions and they joined the programme to pursue a sense of freedom in order to expand their passion towards research activities back in their countries. In 2016, Krishnapriya Tharmakrishnar from Sri Lanka took her very first journey outside of her country. She has had an extraordinary life experience in which she lost her mother during the civil war that continued until 2009 in her hometown, Jaffna.

These artists all lived and witnessed history being made and their artistic interpretations through unique experiences in Japanese society and interactions here were interwoven into their art production. Exhibiting these artworks and their practices widely again today will uncover diverse realities that are globally shared today.

Utilizing the space of three galleries, the exhibition embodies and observes through three keywords: “Urban Space” (TOMIO KOYAMA GALLERY), “Inhabitants” (ShugoArts) and “Imaginative Memory” (Taka Ishii Gallery), while each artwork from the different years come together in a space where cultural dialogues and its fruition in the current landscape of Tokyo through their eyes will be evoked.

We hope you enjoy a la carte of Tokyo served by 20 artists at the exhibition.

On this occasion, the exhibition is also offering guided tours a small and limitedly published catalogue, comprising installation views from the past residency exhibitions and comments expressed by the people involved.

## [ Exhibition Overview ]

### “Tokyo A La Carte –The Backers Foundation and AIT Residence Programme (The Bar) Memories of 10 years”

Date: August 24<sup>th</sup>, Friday – September 1<sup>st</sup>, Saturday, 2018 \*Closed on August 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

Venues: Tomio Koyama Gallery / ShugoArts / Taka Ishii Gallery

6-5-24, complex665 2F/3F, Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo

Hours: 11:00 – 19:00

Organized by Arts Initiative Tokyo

Co-organized by The Backers Foundation

Collaborated by TOMIO KOYAMA GALLERY / ShugoArts / Taka Ishii Gallery

Opening reception: August 24<sup>th</sup>, Friday, 18:00 – 20:00

Guided Tour: August 25<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, 15:00 – 16:00 and 31<sup>st</sup>, Friday, 16:00 – 17:00

\*Admission Free / No booking required / Please meet at the entrance on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

\*Inquiries for the exhibition and the press images

TOMIO KOYAMA GALLERY      Tel. 03-6434-7225      [press@tomiokoyamagallery.com](mailto:press@tomiokoyamagallery.com)

ShugoArts      Tel. 03-6447-2234      [info@shugoarts.com](mailto:info@shugoarts.com)

Taka Ishii Gallery      Tel. 03-6434-7010      [tig@takaishiiigallery.com](mailto:tig@takaishiiigallery.com)

\*Inquiries for the residency programme and The Backers Foundation

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TOMIO KOYAMA GALLERY

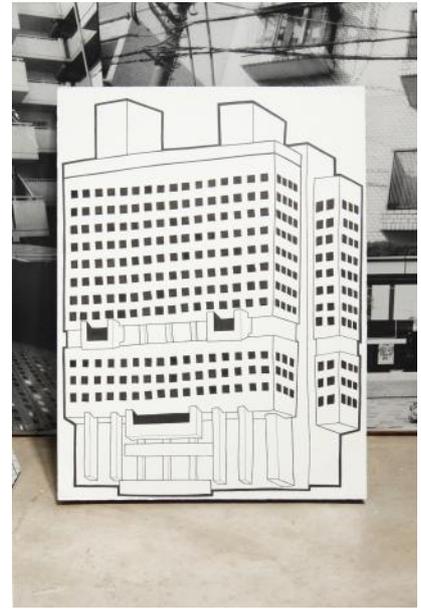
ShugoArts



Taka Ishii  
Gallery

## TOMIO KOYAMA GALLERY (2F) – Urban Space

- Thiago Rocha Pitta (b.1980 Brazil)
- Allegra Pacheco (b.1986 Costa Rica)
- Pradeep Mishra (b.1977 India)
- Rattana Vandy (b.1980 Cambodia)
- Kanitha Tith (b.1987 Cambodia)
- Miti Ruangkritya (b.1981 Thailand)



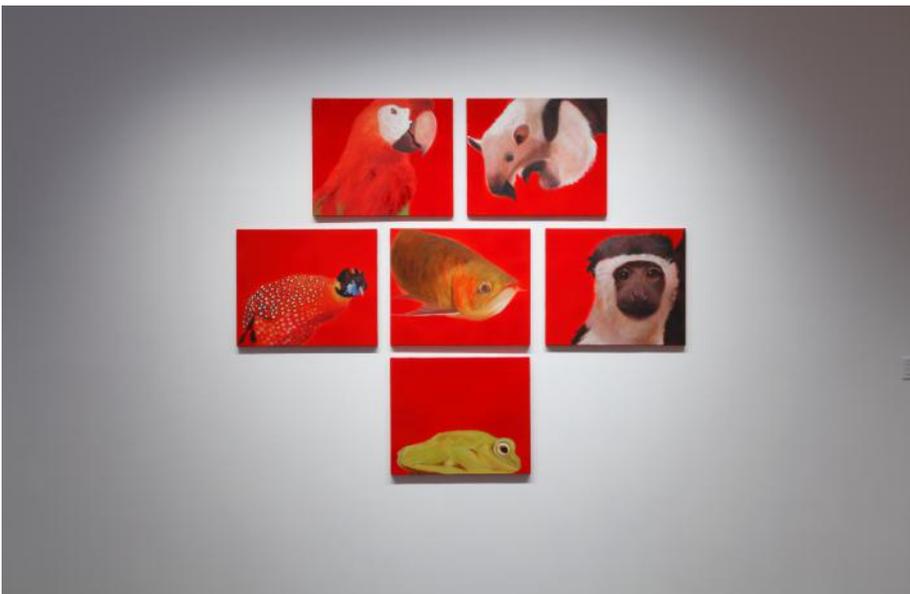
(Top left) \*2  
Rattana Vandy  
*Shadow in the Dark*, 2015  
92.5 x 182.5 x 5.5cm  
Wood, nails, text

(Top right) \*1  
Allegra Pacheco  
*Untitled*, 2013  
72.5 x 53cm  
Ink on paper

(Bottom) \*1  
Pradeep Mishra  
Installation view from *warmth of togetherness*  
45.5 x 53cm / each.  
Oil paint, canvas

\*1 Photo by Keizo Kioku

\*2 Photo by Yukiko Koshima



## ShugoArts (2F) – Inhabitants

- Khadim Ali (b.1978 Afghanistan)
- Erika Verzutti (b.1971 Brazil)
- Alberto Rodríguez Collía (b.1985 Guatemala)
- Albert Samreth (b.1987 U.S.A.)
- Krishnapriya Tharmakrishnar (b.1987 Sri Lanka)
- Chaw Ei Thein (b.1969 Myanmar)



(Top left) \*1  
Kadhim Ali  
*KOISANKA*, 2007  
DVD data

(Top right) \*2  
Albert Samreth  
*Perfect Strangers*, 2014  
45.5 x 33.5cm  
Pigment on primed linen

(Bottom) \*2  
Alberto Rodríguez Collía  
*Non-place*, 2013  
32 x 38cm/each  
Drypoint, paper

\*Referential image

\*1 Photo by Keizo Kioku  
\*2 Photo by Yukiko Koshima

## Taka Ishii Gallery (3F) – Imaginative Memory

- Mary-Elizabeth Yarbrough (b.1974 U.S.A.)
- Donna Ong (b.1978 Singapore)
- Florencia Rodríguez Giles (b.1978 Argentine)
- Minam Apang (b.1980 India)
- Syagini Ratnawulan (b.1979 Indonesia)
- Duto Hardono (b.1985 Indonesia)
- Gor Soudan (b.1983 Kenya)
- Sarah Abu Abudallah (b.1990 Saudi Arabia)



(Top left) \*1  
Syagini Ratnawulan  
*Family portrait*, 2011  
77 x 57cm  
Technical pen drawing on paper



(Top right) \*2  
Gor Soudan  
*minimal tension 1/6*, 2014  
36 x 36cm  
Protest wire



(Bottom) \*2  
Duto Hardono  
*Memory Spy*, 2011  
Dimensions variable  
Blank cassette tapes

\*1 Photo by Keizo Kioku | \*2 Photo by Yukiko Koshima