

Oct. 8, 2021

***Reversible Destiny******Australian and Japanese contemporary photography*****Related Events****International Online Symposium on Contemporary Photography****Date 15, 16, 17, October 2021 18:00- (AEST) / 17:00- (JST) daily****What does photography mean now in a time of global uncertainty?**

Reversible Destiny Australian and Japanese contemporary photography, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, co-curated by Natalie King, 2021

(c) Kenji Takahashi

Tokyo Photographic Art Museum is delighted to present an International Online Symposium in collaboration with University of Melbourne and Tokyo University of the Arts as an event associated with the exhibition *Reversible Destiny: Australian and Japanese contemporary photography*. Australian curator, writer and art researcher, Professor Natalie King OAM leads the symposium with Tokyo Photographic Art Museum. This international symposium will consider the role and significance of contemporary photography in an increasingly fragile world.

The Symposium, to be held online on 15, 16, 17, October 2021 will complement a major photographic exhibition in Tokyo, co-curated by Professor King, featuring the works of 8 contemporary photographers from Australia and Japan.

Titled ***Reversible Destiny***, the exhibition is part of the Tokyo Tokyo Festival for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics Cultural Olympiad, and includes work by Maree Clarke, Rosemary Laing, Polixeni Papapetrou, Val Wens, Ishiuchi Miyako, Katayama Mari, Hatakeyama Naoya and Yokomizo Shizuka.

Photography goes back and forth between the past, present, future. Photography links yesterday, today, tomorrow, allowing us to review the past and imagine collective futures.

“It will be an important occasion when global thinkers in the field can convene to consider the questions facing contemporary photography, and an international audience can gain insight into the issues of time, memories and storytelling in an increasingly precarious world,” Professor King said.

The online symposium will be doubly important now that travel options are so limited. Just like the Tokyo Olympics, the **Reversible Destiny** exhibition was supposed to take place in 2020 but had to be rescheduled because of COVID-19. In a world fraught by issues such as pandemic, climate changing and growing inequality, it's vital to consider what an art form such as contemporary photography has to say about the human condition. Artists in **Reversible Destiny** look at what it means to make photography now, in a time of global upheaval, human fragility and uncertain future - what are our shared destinies across nations and how can we work better together? These are the issues that will be discussed in the symposium with in-depth interviews with each artist, mini lectures and panel discussion.



This activity received grant funding from the Australia-Japan Foundation of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Symposium will be recorded and broadcasted. Please click YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpU5Bu05yquLTbBCdZ3pdmq/videos>

\*All programs are English/Japanese subtitled and free.

## Symposium outline |

### **© Program 1** (60 minutes)

**Date and time: 15, October 2021 18:00- (AEST) / 17:00-(JST)**

#### **Speakers**

**Interviews: Ishiuchi Miyako, Maree Clarke, Katayama Mari** (Exhibiting artists) and **Olympia Nelson** (Daughter of Polixeni Papapetrou)

**Natalie King**, OAM (Curator, writer and art researcher, Professor of Visual Arts, Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne)

### **© Program 2** (60 minutes)

**Date and time: 16, October 2021 18:00- (AEST) / 17:00-(JST)**

#### **Speakers:**

**Interviews: Val Wens, Yokomizo Shizuka, Hatakeyama Naoya and Rosemary Laing** (Exhibiting artists)

**Natalie King**, OAM (Curator, writer and art researcher, Professor of Visual Arts, Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne)

### **© Program 3** (90 minutes)

**Date and time: 17, October 2021 18:00- (AEST) / 17:00-(JST)**

#### **Speakers**

##### **Mini lectures and panel discussion:**

**Kataoka Mami** (Director of Mori Art Museum and Artistic Director, Aichi Triennial 2022)

**Natalie King**, OAM (Curator, writer and art researcher, Professor of Visual Arts, Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne)

## Speakers Profile |

### © Program 1

#### Ishiuchi Miyako

b. 1947



©Maki Ishii

Born in Gunma, Japan, and raised in Kanagawa. Ishiuchi commenced the series ひろしま/hiroshima for which she took image records of belongings left behind by victims of the atomic bomb since 2007, and she visits Hiroshima every year to photograph these items. Exploring the intersection of social history and more personal individual histories, her works have been highly acclaimed in both Japan and internationally.

#### Maree Clarke

b. 1961



©Eugene Hyland

Born in Swan Hill, Victoria, Australia. Clarke is a Yorta Yorta, Mutti Mutti, BoonWurrung, Wemba Wemba woman from northwest Victoria in Australia. Clarke has been a practising artist living and working in Melbourne for the last three decades with her work focused on regenerating cultural practices and awareness, identity and knowledge.

#### Katayama Mari

b. 1987



©Mari Katayama courtesy of Akio Nagasawa Gallery

Born in Saitama, Japan, and raised in Ota, Gunma. Through photography, sculpture and textile works, Katayama provokes an alternative narrative around the body by depicting her own physicality in intimate settings and elaborate scenographies. Katayama's practice is shaped by her direct experience of her condition and society's obsession and anxieties about bodily appearance.

#### Olympia Nelson



©Eugene Hyland

The daughter of the exhibiting artist Polixeni Papapetrou, Olympia Nelson has appeared as the main subject of Papapetrou's works and part of her mother's creative process. Her mother, Polixeni Papapetrou (1960-2018) was born in Melbourne in 1960. Papapetrou explores the relationship between history, contemporary culture, identity and being by creating scenic backdrops, landscapes, costumes and masks that were brought together to evoke poetic, surreal and dreamlike worlds between childhood and adolescence.

## © Program 2

### Val Wens

b. 1974



©Val Wens

Born in Jakarta, Indonesia. Wens now lives and works in Sydney, Australia. Val Wens' multidisciplinary practice is focussed on self-portraiture and spans photography, video and performance. He creates photographic narratives, poems and metaphors that engage both myth and reality, as well as the broader human struggle.

### Yokomizo Shizuka

b. 1966



© Shizuka Yokomizo, courtesy WAKO WORKS OF ART

Born in Tokyo, Japan and currently living in London. Yokomizo explores the documentary and fictional aspect of photographic representation through a focus on the moment of exchange between photographer and subject. In addition to works that are rooted in a cultural anthropological perspective, and based on the history of humankind creating images while acknowledging otherness, Yokomizo has developed work that centers on her own individual experiences.

### Hatakeyama Naoya

b. 1958



Born in Rikuzentakata, Iwate, Japan. Hatakeyama is renowned for his epic, large-scale photographic works that revel in the heightened tension that exists today between human culture and nature. Since the Great East Japan Earthquake, he has been photographing the landscape of his hometown, Rikuzentakata, and written about the disaster, as well as about photography and art.

### Rosemary Laing

b. 1959



©Cecilia Boote

Born in Brisbane, Queensland Australia. Laing's creative practice is conceptually-driven and flawlessly rendered with her *works* capturing physical or choreographed interventions undertaken in situ, and in relation to cultural and historically resonant locations throughout Australia.

### © Program 3

#### Kataoka Mami



©Ito Akinori

Mami Kataoka joined the Mori Art Museum in 2003, taking on the role of director in 2020. In her time at the museum she has curated a number of major solo exhibitions of work by Asian artists, among them Ai Weiwei (in 2009; 2012–14 for international touring), Makoto Aida (2012) and Chiharu Shiota (in 2019; 2019-2022 for international touring); other recent projects include a group exhibition *Another Energy* focusing on 16 women artists in their 70s or older (2021). Beyond Tokyo, Kataoka has held positions at the Hayward Gallery in London, where from 2007–09 she was the institution’s first international curator; she has also acted as co-artistic director for the 9th Gwangju Biennale (2012), artistic director for the 21st Biennale of Sydney (2018) and is currently artistic director for the Aichi Triennale 2022. Kataoka has been serving as a Board Member of CIMAM [International Committee for Museums and Collections of Modern Art] (2014-) and currently the President of CIMAM.

#### Natalie King Profile |



©Alli Oughtred

Natalie King is a leading Australian curator, writer and senior researcher engaged with artists and institutions across the Asia-Pacific region. Current projects include Curator of Yuki Kihara, Aotearoa New Zealand at the 59th Venice Biennale 2022 and Series Editor of Mini Monographs with Thames & Hudson.

Through her unique curatorial approach, King has a depth of experience across creative collaborations, partnerships, research and award-winning publications. In 2017, King was Curator of *Tracey Moffatt: My Horizon*, Australian Pavilion, the 57<sup>th</sup> Venice Art Biennale. She has curated exhibitions for the Singapore Art Museum; the National Museum of Art, Osaka; National Gallery of Indonesia, Jakarta; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney; Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, Taiwan, amongst others. King has realised projects in

India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Italy, Thailand, Bangladesh, New Zealand, New Caledonia and Vietnam.

King is an Enterprise Professor of Visual Arts, Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne. In 2020, King was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for "service to the contemporary visual arts". She is President of AICA-Australia (International Association of Art Critics, Paris); a member of CIMAM (International Committee for Museums and Collections of Modern Art) and Metro Tunnel Arts Advisory Panel; and a mentor for Mentor Walks. In 2021, she was awarded a University of Melbourne Excellence Award: The Patricia Grimshaw Award for Mentor Excellence.

[www.natalieking.com.au](http://www.natalieking.com.au)

#### **For Press |**

If you have any press inquiries about this symposium, please contact our Department of Public Relations. [press-info@topmuseum.jp](mailto:press-info@topmuseum.jp)    [www.topmuseum.jp](http://www.topmuseum.jp)

#### **Exhibition Information |**

##### ***Reversible Destiny Australian and Japanese contemporary photography***

[Participating artists]

**Maree Clarke / Rosemary Laing / Polixeni Papapetrou / Val Wens**

**Ishiuchi Miyako / Katayama Mari / Hatakeyama Naoya / Yokomizo Shizuka**

#### **Co-curated by Natalie King**

Dates: 24 August – 31 October 2021

Closed: Monday

\*Except when Monday falls on a holiday, in which case the museum is open and closed the following day.

Open Hours: 10:00–18:00 \*final admission 30 minutes before closing.

Admission: Adults 700 JPY

Venue: 3F Exhibition Gallery, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum

Yebisu Garden Place, 1-13-3 Mita Meguro-ku Tokyo 153-0062

Tel: +81-3-3280-0099

[www.topmuseum.jp](http://www.topmuseum.jp)

\*The website of the exhibition is as follows, and information will be updated as needed.

<https://topmuseum.jp/e/contents/exhibition/index-4028.html>

\*The museum's opening hours and exhibitions are subject to change. Please check our website for the latest information and exhibition details.

**Organisers |**

This exhibition and symposium has been organised by the Tokyo Photographic Art Museum (operated by Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture), the Tokyo Shimbun, in special collaboration with University of Melbourne.

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With Cooperation of Tokyo University of the Arts