

Satoru Tamura

TOKYO MACHINE

Artist | Satoru Tamura

Exhibition Title | TOKYO MACHINE

Dates | September 18 (Sat.) – September 23 (Thu.), 2021

Location | GINZA TSUTAYA BOOKS / GINZA ATRIUM



Satoru Tamura, *TOKYO machine*, 2021, glass, steel, chain, bearing, motor, cable, 102.0 x 390.0 x 60.0 cm

MAKI Gallery is pleased to announce *TOKYO MACHINE*, a solo exhibition by Satoru Tamura, an artist who creates cynical and humorous three-dimensional works using electricity, at GINZA TSUTAYA BOOKS GINZA ATRIUM from September 18th (Sat.) to September 23rd (Thu.).

Satoru Tamura makes use of electricity, a need that is indispensable in our daily lives, to create large-scale works or rather devices without any practicality. An incandescent lamp that repeatedly turns on and off while emitting sparks, a cloth that spins while making a flapping sound, a crocodile that spins—we find ourselves staring at the works, wondering what the purpose is and perhaps falling into the trap of the artist who says "I want to be free from the meanings, settings, and functions that materials and forms possess".

This exhibition will feature the *Machine Series*, a series of endlessly rotating chains shaped like numbers, letters, and symbols. More than 20 works will be moving simultaneously, including a machine that spells the word 'ART', another in the shape of an '!' (exclamation point), and for the first time 'TOKYO' machine will be unveiled. We hope you take this opportunity to enjoy the space created by Satoru Tamura who mixes cynical humor in his works treating electricity which is essential to society as something useless that produces nothing and has no practical use.



Satoru Tamura

Born in Tochigi Prefecture in 1972, Satoru Tamura began his career as an artist after graduating from the University of Tsukuba in 1995. His works utilize electricity, essential to modern civilization and a key part of the social infrastructure. At times, electricity powers a rotating alligator, at others, it transforms into a measuring device that quantifies beauty, and at still others, it lights a lamp through the placement of positive and negative electrodes within a hair's breadth of each other. His works, large-scale 'devices' that are reminiscent of amusement parks, overflow with an irony that might make us want to murmur "So what?", in spite of ourselves. They embody and express what the artist elucidates as his "desire to be free from the meanings, settings and functions that materials and forms possess".

Electricity has become so deeply embedded in our daily lives and in industry that we now see it as a given. Should a blackout occur, we finally recognize how reliant we have become on electricity. Out of this most essential of resources to modern society, with touches of cynical humor, the artist creates artworks that are completely useless and unproductive as objects. His works are the epitome of fine art, which admits of no other purpose except its being viewed. Through this, they present a warning to a society in which utility is the sole priority.

Tamura's solo exhibitions include *Domain of Art 22 Satoru Tamura Exhibition: Wall to Wall (Plaza North 10th Anniversary Exhibition)*, Plaza North, North Gallery (Saitama, 2019); *Point of Contact #6*, LAGE EGAL RAUM FÜR AKTUELLE KUNST (Berlin, 2015); and *Wonderland in Mid-Summer*, Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Fine Arts (Tochigi, 2014).

He has participated in numerous group exhibitions in Japan and overseas, including *The Method of Breathing World*, Kawamura Memorial DIC Museum of Art (Chiba, 2005) / Sakura City Museum of Art (Chiba, 2005); *I am a Curator*, Chisenhale Gallery (London, 2003); *First Steps: Emerging Artists from Japan*, P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center (New York, 2003); and *NEO-TOKYO – Japanese Art Now*, Museum of Contemporary Art Australia (Sydney, 2001). Tamura has also received many awards including the International Light Art Award: First Prize (2017), The 12th Taro Okamoto Award for Contemporary Art Special Prize (2009), Philip Morris K.K. Art Award 2002: The First Move P.S.1 Art Award Special Prize (2002), and KIRIN CONTEMPORARY AWARD Encouragement Prize (1999).

Exhibition Details

Satoru Tamura

TOKYO MACHINE

September 18(Sat.) - September 23(Thu.) 2021

Place: GINZA TSUTAYA BOOKS / GINZA ATRIUM

Admission: Free

Hosting by: GINZA TSUTAYA BOOKS

Support by: MAKI Gallery, TEZUKAYAMA GALLERY

Inquiry: 03-3575-7755 (During business hours)

info.ginza@ccc.co.jp

Featured Homepage: <https://store.tsuite.jp/ginza/blog/art/22199-1523140908.html>