



Taka Ishii

Gallery

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Wilfredo Prieto & Ignacio Uriarte "I Am Making Art"

Taka Ishii Gallery, Kyoto: July 31 – September 5

Opening reception: Friday, July 31, 18:00 - 20:00

Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo: August 1 – 29, 2009

Opening reception: Saturday, August 1, 18:00 - 20:00

Taka Ishii Gallery is pleased to announce the debut exhibition in Japan of the conceptual artists Wilfredo Prieto and Ignacio Uriarte. The show is entitled "I Am Making Art" referring to John Baldessari's 1971 film piece.

With irony and humour Prieto moves from words into "reality" using simple elements from daily life ultimately presenting a quiet yet strong message full of impact. His works often take the form of site-specific installations. For example, "Optical Art", 1999 in which he painted ripened mangoes green so that they remained in a state of perpetuity. "Untitled (White library)", 2004-2006, in which Prieto substituted blank white paper for books suggesting that silence is worth as much if not more than a thousand words. "Scale of values", 2001 in which Prieto used plastic cups filled with rum, beer, wine, softdrink and water to visually literalize a scale of value. And "Yes/No", 2002 in which the simple movement of portable fans, up-and-down, side-to-side functions as an understated yet understandable language.

Wilfredo Prieto was born in 1978 in Sancti-Spiritus, Cuba and is based in Barcelona, Spain. He has exhibited in many solo exhibitions, including the S.M.A.K. Ghent (2008), Kadist Art Foundation, Paris (2006), MUSAC, Leon (2005) and group shows, P.S.1 MOMA, New York (2008), Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin (2008), 52nd Venice Biennale Italo-Latinamerican Pavillion, Venice (2007), Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (2005) among others. He was the recipient of the Cartier Award at the Frieze Art Fair (2008).

My starting point is the little creative moments within office-routines, which mostly have ridiculously small 'artistic' aspect to them

Ignacio Uriarte

Some of Uriarte's representative works include "Envelope", 2003 in which an inside out envelope is installed on the wall, "A line up and down and a A-4 sheet", 2004 in which 21 A-4 sheets are folded at increasing heights, each one 1.2 cm higher than the previous and 21 A-4 sheets are folded at decreasing heights, each one 1.2 cm lower than the previous. Each group is fixed onto an opposing wall as a sequence

with a central line made of folds crossing all pages. "vorwärts rückwärts", 2005 is a video piece in which the words typed by a typewriter which appear on the screen mean 'forward' (vorwärts) and 'backwards' (rückwärts), and "From 6h to 8b", 2007, a monochrome drawing made with each of the Castell 9000 series pencils, fifteen in total, covering a full greyscale with every possible pencil lead hardness from 6h to 8b.

Ignacio Uriarte born (1972) and raised in Krefeld, Germany. From 1992 to 1995 he studied Business Administration in Madrid and Mannheim and subsequently worked for corporations such as Siemens, Canon, Interlub and Agilent Technologies in Germany, Spain and Mexico. He studied audiovisual arts in Guadalajara, Mexico (1998 to 2001) and quit his last serious job in November 2003, dedicating himself since then to what he calls "office art". From 2004 to 2006 he took part in an artist residency program at Hangar Barcelona. Since 2007 he lives and works in Berlin. Selection of recent museum solo exhibitions include CGAC, Santiago de Compostela (2007), Laboratorio 987, MUSAC, Leon (2008) and Centro Huarte deArte Contemporáneo, Pamplona (2008).

For their joint exhibitions in Tokyo and Kyoto, Prieto and Uriarte will present a selection of new and past works in a variety of media.



Wilfredo Prieto

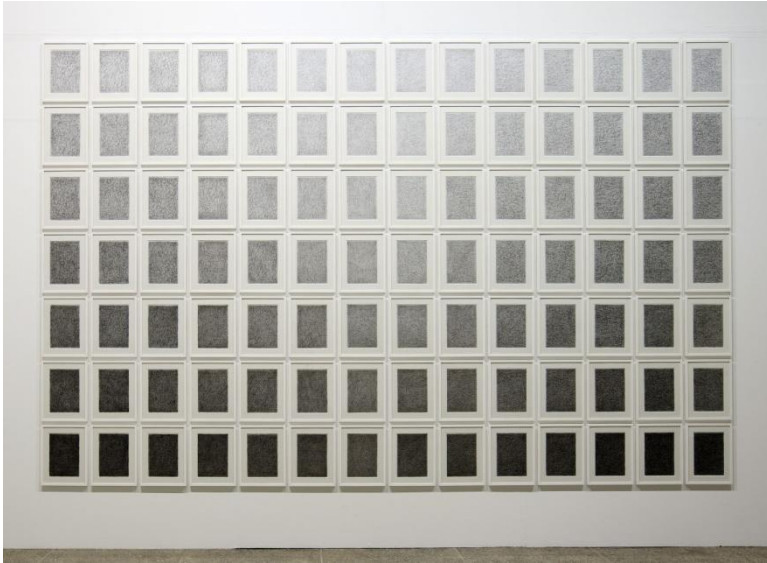
"Untitled (White library)", 2004-2006

White books, shelves, tables and chairs.

View of the installation at 1st Singapore Biennale

Courtesy NoguerasBlanchard, Barcelona and Taka Ishii Gallery

Collection of Museum of Old and New, Tasmania



Ignacio Uriarte

“Xonox scribbling”, 2008

Technical fibre-tip pen on paper, 98 pieces

40 x 30 cm each

Courtesy NoguerasBlanchard, Barcelona and Taka Ishii Gallery

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