

Sayoko Suwabe  
諏訪部 佐代子

【Bio】

Born in Chiba in 1995. Graduated from Oil painting BFA program, Tokyo University of the Arts in 2019. She won "Ataka award" in 2017 and held solo exhibition "hogehegefugafuga". She won "Salon de Plantin Prize" in her Graduation Exhibition. She mainly create installation works and also broad media such as performance and sculpture. The focus of her artistic practice is interpretation of contemporary phenomena/preconceptions through the construction of models. Recent theme of her works are the globalization of Japanese modern society. She conduct research of the structure of the changes of the fixed notions of time in the situation of globalization and create artwork that respond to her observations. She recently studies in the Global Art Practice MFA program at TUA.

【Statement】

The focus of my artistic practice is seeking the interpretation of contemporary phenomena through the construction of models. I have a strong interest in how the value of qualitative time is changing in Japanese society due to rapid globalization. I observe changes to identity that accompany such trends, and create artwork that respond to my observations. Today, areas of the world controlled by human is spreading day by day, and cultures are trying to surpass nature. Amidst such circumstances, how can humans interpret the concept of irreversible time, which is beyond human control? In order to try to answer such questions, I conduct research into the world-view of Australian indigenous people and structures within contemporary society, moving back and forth between theory and creative approaches.

【Works】

The generating unit  
2019

Installation cement, video, 2'31, loop, resin, parametric speaker  
4218 × 4311 × 8024mm

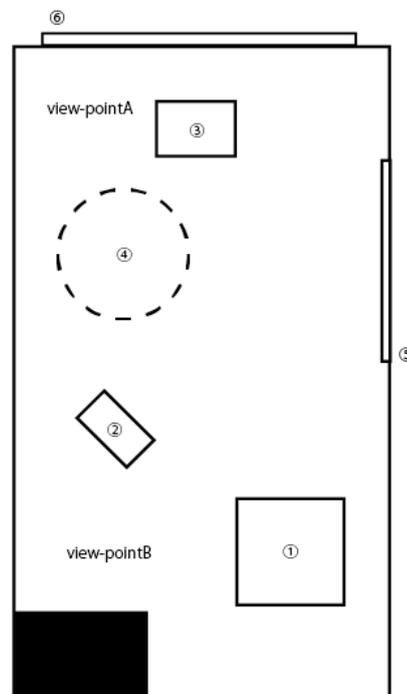


installation view from the view-pointA on the map

Photographer : Ujin Matsuo

In this work I attempt to create a space that naturally encourages the viewer to consider fixed notions of time in the modern age through models that remind us of human scale. The stratum I made are metaphors for the limits of our understanding of the past. The model of cement stratum shows stratification. Civilization has been built on ground that has been formed from countless layers. The landscape seen from the window of this gallery represents just one layer of the present, but it is not immutable; it is in a process

of constant change. In order to express the notion of a layer as a concept, I traced out the contours of the cement stratum I created using an ink jet printer. Using timestamps, the video work convey the concept of time as a record. Without it, we cannot define what time it is. We believe that time as something like "Blockchain". A timely message of time is flowing from the parametric speaker mounted on the top. This room exists to question accepted notions of time.



- ① print on paper, 4000 × 900 × 900mm
- ② plaster, resin, 1000 × 200 × 500mm
- ③ cement, asphalt, 900 × 300 × 400mm
- ④ sound, 0' 10, loop(time signal of 12:41:10), parametric speaker
- ⑤ movie, 2' 31, loop
- ⑥ window



installation view from the view-pointB on the map

“Artificial erosion”  
2019  
Marble, Vinegar, Wood  
900 × 900 × 100mm



installation view  
Photographer : Ryusuke Kido

Through this process the marble will keep eroding over the duration of the show and the liquid makes an artificial topography. In this pond, the marble continues to wait to be eroded by the acid in 31 hours. This is an allegories of contemporary remains of architecture scattered over the world today, eroded in every moment.

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“It is said that this star was dominated by monkeys with no hair”  
2020  
Glass, sand stone, concrete  
450 × 600 × 900



installation view  
Photographer : Hyunjoo Choo, Sayoko Suwabe

Mankind has been filled the land with concrete to get safe. Centuries later, humans will become extinct and unnamed life forms will have begun to dominate this planet. What will this geological era be misinterpreted by the later organisms? We, humans, imagined the past by analyzing the layered ground. An installation that imagines us the time after the Anthropocene, which is layered on top of our cognition. Ants flock to this structure and cochlea crawls. This work was soaked in a swamp and is now progressively weathered, forming a bizarre creature environment newly.

“Reality and imagination of surface / Exploring Saruhashi”  
2019  
A workshop held in Saruhashi area



workshop view  
Photographer : Ujin Matsuo

At the workshop, the participants picked up and recorded characteristic stones unique to this area. On the south side of the Katsuragawa river is a cliff area made of lava that flowed out of Mt. Fuji 6000 years ago, and the stones that can be collected around this area are affected by the lava, lapilli, volcanic ash, and the pressure caused by it.

Suwabe reveals the history of the stone by bringing it back, cutting it out, and polishing it. She defined this workshop as an experiment where one can experience the pictorial cross-section and the eternal time flowing there.

Questions asked while picking up stones:  
-Write today's nickname using the alphabet  
-Write the weight of your imagination  
Condition: Express using measuring units other from grams, pounds, or tons  
-Write the time of discovery  
Condition: Express using units other from year, month, day, or minute



An archive of the workshop

【further information】  
<https://sayokosuwabes.com>

*Sayoko Suwabe*