

# IKON

Ikon Gallery  
1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS  
0121 248 0708 / ikon-gallery.org  
Open Tuesday-Sunday & Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am-5pm / free entry  
Registered charity no. 528892

## Rie Nakajima

### *Cyclic*

21 March – 3 June 2018



Rie Nakajima, photo by Greg Pope

Rie Nakajima is one of the most experimental artists working in the UK. Fusing sculpture and sound, her artistic practice is open to chance and the influence of others, raising important questions about the definition of art. Nakajima makes pieces often in direct response to architectural space, using a combination of kinetic devices, musical instruments and found objects. Ikon's exhibition consists entirely of new work and includes a number of performances in collaboration with other artists.

*"I work/communicate with architectural environments, and there is always something new to discover with sounds and objects. I would like to make the exhibition at Ikon flexible and open, with the potential to change and transform at any moment."*

Born in Yokohama in 1976, Nakajima studied art history and aesthetics at Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music (BA), sculpture at Chelsea College of Art and Design (BA) and Slade School of Fine art (MFA). Nakajima lives and works in London, and is very active especially in the area of sound art, for instance she often features in the programme for Cafe OTO, Dalston, where she has worked alongside other artists including Steve Beresford, David Cunningham, Anghrad Davies, Guy De Bièvre, Ute Kanngiesser, David Toop and Keiko Yamamoto.

Rie Nakajima's 2014 exhibition at noshowspace, London, saw her work with a bric-a-brac assortment that might be found at a car boot sale: food tins, a disco ball, porcelain bowls, a whistle, ball bearings and a large yellow sponge. She attached electrical devices and motors to animate them, so they performed cycles of whirring, drumming or vibrating, or simply of slight shifts between movement and stillness.

In a similar vein, the artist has made a number of visits to Birmingham in preparation for her exhibition – short residencies at Ikon saw her gather found objects from the surrounding Brindleyplace estate whilst familiarising herself with the gallery architecture. She combined the objects, largely made from concrete and metal, to make new kinetic assemblages, vehicles for a sonic adventure, one with an unknown destination.

Improvisation is integral to Nakajima's artistic practice: "starting from where I know, ending up somewhere else". Likewise, performance and collaboration are key and often take the form of experiments with small objects spread out on the floor, whereby she accumulates or subtracts sound by setting the objects in motion, picking them up and moving them around. In this way a material modesty is counterbalanced by a refreshingly free artistic proposition:

*"I would like to try to think/find a way to exhibit experiences I have had from music activities and rebuild/interpret the situation at the gallery space and reactivate the happenings applying kinetic movements and objects and with performances."*

For Ikon, Nakajima has curated a series of free performances including her music project O YAMA O with Keiko Yamamoto which explores music with no genre. Nakajima will participate in all events, collaborating with artists such as Pierre Berthet, David Cunningham, Max Eastley, Akira Sakata, David Toop and Keiko Yamamoto.

## Live performances:

### **Rie Nakajima**

Wednesday 21 March, 6.30-7pm – FREE, drop in

Rie Nakajima makes a special performance at the opening of her new exhibition *Cyclic*.

## **David Cunningham and Rie Nakajima**

Wednesday 11 April, 5pm-late - FREE, drop in

David Cunningham plays electric guitar, through a delay system which allows the notes played to recycle infinitely, overlapping in different rhythms and integrated within the similar process of Rie Nakajima's installation. This event is a durational performance and visitors can drop in at any time.

## **O YAMA O**

Saturday 21 April

1-2pm – live performance – FREE, drop in

3-4.30pm – film screening – FREE, drop in

Centrala and *Slow Boat*, Minerva Works, 158 Fazeley Street, Birmingham, Digbeth B5 5RS

Rie Nakajima and Keiko Yamamoto, vocalist, artist and co-founder of Cafe OTO, perform as O YAMA O. While Yamamoto sings, whispers, roars, walks and dances, Nakajima makes a soundscape of objects arranged by hand. The screening includes films selected by O YAMA O. Part of Flatpack Film Festival *Optical Sound* programme.

## **Akira Sakata and Rie Nakajima**

Tuesday 1 May, 7-8pm – FREE, booking essential

'Living in a bubble' is Japanese saxophonist Akira Sakata's statement for his activity. Rie Nakajima performs with him for the first time outside Japan.

*I think this installation could be a very newly experienced sound world.* - Akira Sakata

## **David Toop and Rie Nakajima**

Tuesday 22 May, 6-8pm - FREE, booking essential

David Toop and Rie Nakajima work collaboratively in the fields of time, cooking and flower arranging but there are no clocks, no food to eat, no flowers, only the assemblage of temporary architecture, the sculpting of materials and the awakening of hibernating beings.

## **Pierre Berthet and Rie Nakajima, *Dead Plants & Living Objects***

Sunday 3 June, 3-4pm – FREE, drop in

Pierre Berthet and Rie Nakajima create various ways to vibrate things so that their acoustic shadows dance around: invisible air volumes that reshape constantly, move in the space, enter in the most secret places and inside ourselves.

## **Cafe OTO at Ikon**

Sunday 3 June, 7-9pm, £5, booking essential

Yorks Cafe at Ikon

Café OTO, the acclaimed home for creative new music based in Dalston, London, comes to Ikon for an evening of music to mark the end of Rie Nakajima's exhibition.

Book online at [ikon-gallery.org](http://ikon-gallery.org) or call the gallery on 0121 248 0708. All events take place at Ikon unless otherwise stated.

The exhibition is accompanied by a limited edition box, curated by Rie Nakajima. The edition includes contributions of writing, drawing and photography from participating artists: Pierre Berthet, Max Eastley, Akira Sakata, David Toop and Keiko Yamamoto.

The exhibition is supported by the Japan Foundation and The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation.

## Social Media Handles:

Instagram, Twitter and Facebook: @ikongallery #IkonGallery

## Note to Editors:

1. Ikon exhibition opening: Wednesday 21 March 2018
2. Rie Nakajima's recent solo exhibitions include *Wind Touch*, Le Bruit De La Musique, Saint-Silvain-sous-Toulx (2016); *Throw*, Borealis Music Festival, Lydgalleriet, Bergen (2016); and *becoming sounds*, ShugoArts Gallery, Tokyo (2015). Past performances include Lydgalleriet, Bergen (2016), Camden Arts Centre (2015), White Cube Bermondsey (2015) Queen Elizabeth Hall (2014) and De La Warr Pavilion (2014). For further details visit [www.rienakajima.com](http://www.rienakajima.com)
3. Ikon is an internationally acclaimed contemporary art venue situated in central Birmingham. Established in 1964 by a group of artists, Ikon is an educational charity and works to encourage public engagement with contemporary art through exhibiting new work in a context of debate and participation. The gallery programme features artists from around the world and a variety of media is represented, including sound, film, mixed media, photography, painting, sculpture and installation. Ikon's off-site programme develops dynamic relationships between art, artists and audiences outside the gallery. Projects vary enormously in scale, duration and location, challenging expectations of where art can be seen and by whom. Education is at the heart of Ikon's activities, stimulating public interest in and understanding of contemporary visual art. Through a variety of talks, tours, workshops and seminars, Ikon's Learning Team aims to build dynamic relationships with audiences, enabling visitors to engage with, discuss and reflect on contemporary art. [ikon-gallery.org](http://ikon-gallery.org)
4. Ikon is open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am - 5pm. Admission is free. Ikon Gallery is supported using public funding from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council. For the latest news and events follow @ikongallery on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).
5. For more information or high-res images please contact Rebecca Small, Head of Communications or Emily Luxford, Communications Manager at Ikon on 0121 248 0708 or email [r.small@ikon-gallery.org](mailto:r.small@ikon-gallery.org) or [e.luxford@ikon-gallery.org](mailto:e.luxford@ikon-gallery.org)



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David Toop and Rie Nakajima photo by Metod Blejec

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O YAMA O, Keiko Yamamoto and Rie Nakajima. Photo by Mike Cameron.

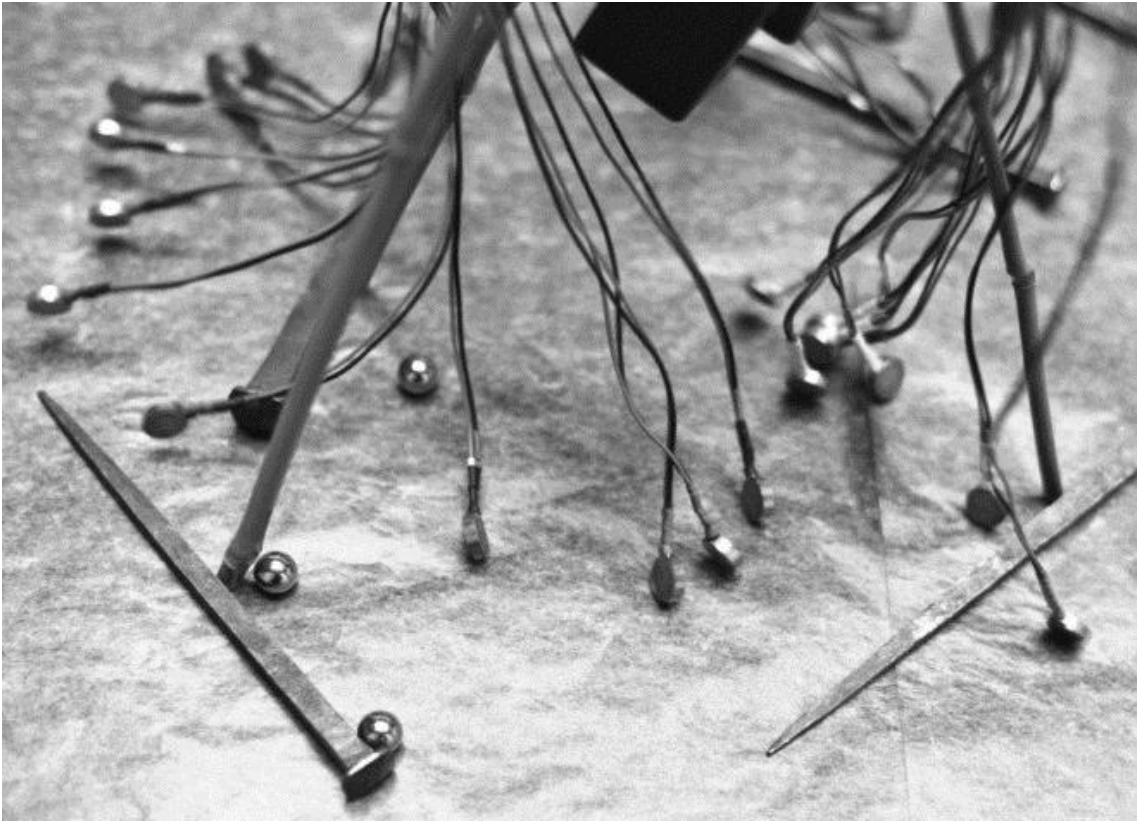


Rie Nakajima (2016). Photograph by Marie Roux

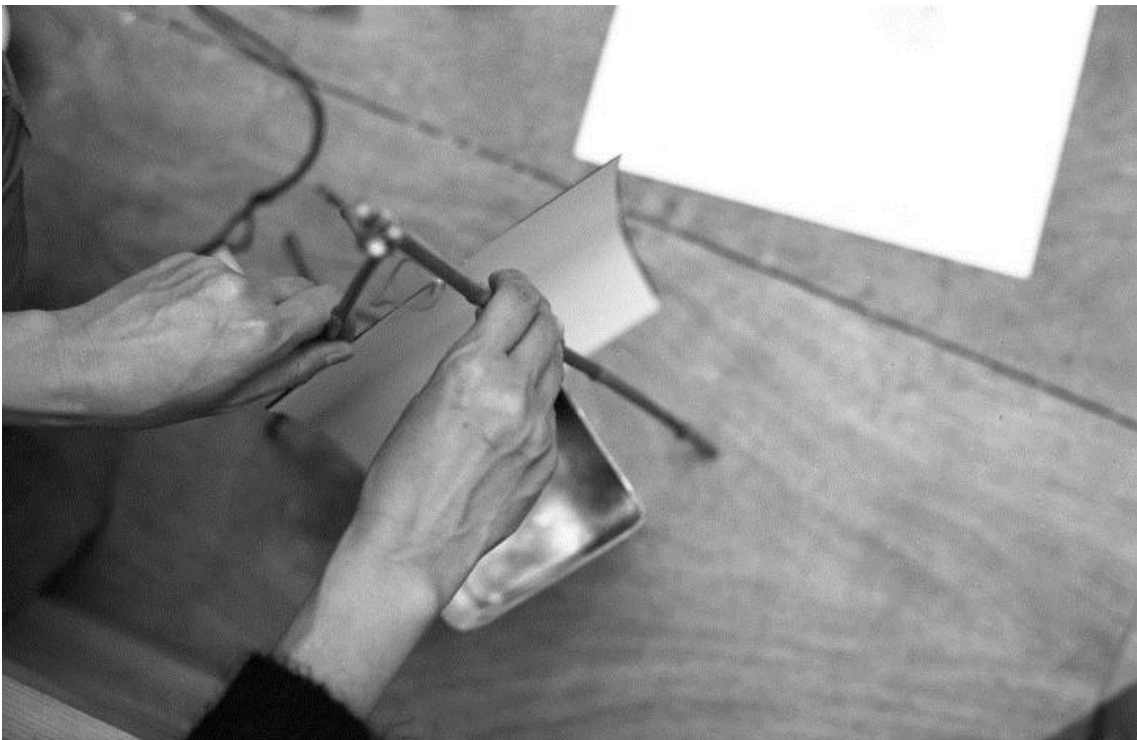


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