



PRESS RELEASE



INTERMEDIATHEQUE
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August 2018

Special Exhibition

“The Quarries of Imagination — Stones between Art and Artifact”



Main Features of the Exhibition

An experimental exhibition on the formal beauty and functions of stones, in the form of an installation combining compelling contemporary artworks with scientific specimens from the University of Tokyo collections.

- With the importance of stones in contemporary art as a point of departure, this experimental exhibition focusing on the formal beauty and functions of stones gathers 50 artworks and confronts them with scientific specimens from various disciplines including Mineralogy, Paleoanthropology and Archaeology.
- This exhibition co-curated with French artist Hugues Reip presents, in addition to scientific specimens from the University of Tokyo collections, artworks rarely seen in Japan from several contemporary collections in Japan and abroad, starting with the agnès b. collection.
- While elucidating how humans transform natural stones, attributing forms and functions to them in order to incorporate them as artifacts into their own living, this exhibition provides the opportunity to focus on how contemporary art includes natural stones in its own realm through such devices as *readymades* and *trompe-l'œil*, in a more global reflection on the aesthetic processes that characterize contemporary art today.

Key Information

[Title] Special Exhibition “The Quarries of Imagination — Stones between Art and Artifact”

[Dates] September 26, 2018 – January 27, 2019

[Opening Hours] 11:00–18:00 (open until 20:00 on Friday and Saturday) *Opening hours may change.

[Closed on] Mondays (or the following Tuesday if Monday is a National Holiday) and year-end holidays. May close irregularly.

[Venue] Intermediatheque 2F [GREY CUBE]

[Organizers] The University Museum, the University of Tokyo (UMUT)

[Cooperation] agnès b. endowment fund + Shigeru Yokota Gallery

[Patronage] Van Cleef & Arpels + Embassy of France in Japan / Institut français

[Admission] Free of charge

[Address] KITTE 2-3F, 2-7-2 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN

[Access] JR lines and Tokyo Metro Marunouchi line Tokyo Station. Direct access from the Marunouchi Underground Pathway.



Publications

- Exhibition catalogue *The Quarries of Imagination — Stones between Art and Artifact*
- Card leaflet
- Poster

Exhibited Artists

Apollo Project [NASA] / Abdelkader BENCHAMMA (1975-) / Michel BLAZY (1966-) / Brassai (1899-1984) / Frédéric BRULY BOUABRÉ (1923-2014) / Melanie COUNSELL (1964-) / François CURLET (1967-) / Daniel DEWAR (1976-) & Grégory GICQUEL (1975-) / Mimosa ECHARD (1986-) / Roland FLEXNER (1944-) / Michel FRANÇOIS (1956-) / Piero GILARDI (1942-) / Mona HATOUM (1952-) / IZUMI Masatoshi (1938-) / Valérie JOUVE (1964-) / Jacques JULIEN (1967-) / André KERTÉSZ (1894-1985) / Helen LEVITT (1913-2009) / Robert MALAVAL (1937-1980) / Didier MARCEL (1961-) / Ryan MCGINLEY (1977-) / Mathieu MERCIER (1970-) / Marcel MIRACLE (1957-) / Charlotte MOTH (1978-) / Jean-Luc MOULÈNE (1955-) / Gabriel OROZCO (1962-) / Sigmar POLKE (1941-2010) / Hugues REIP (1964-) / Évariste RICHER (1969-) / Jean-Michel SANEJOUAND (1934-) / Franck SCURTI (1965-) / Sigurdur Arni SIGURDSSON (1963-) / Fabio VISCOGLIOSI (1965-)

Exhibited Collections

The University Museum, the University of Tokyo [Mineralogy / Paleoanthropology / Archaeology]
agnès b. collection [contemporary art] / various private collections [contemporary art]

Main Exhibits

1.

Mineralogical installation – *Index of Stones* [The University Museum, the University of Tokyo]

Microscope specimens prepared to identify the structure of each mineral. In this conceptual installation of several hundred microscope specimens, the immense variety of stones is visible at a glance.

2.

Piero Gilardi, *Rocce* [Courtesy Galerie Sémiose, Paris]

An artwork in polyurethane in the form of a *trompe-l'œil*, the image of an extremely light stone examining the distinction between nature and artifact

3.

Double-Edged Stone Club with a Handle from the Final Jomon Period [The University Museum, the University of Tokyo]

A ritual tool with two intentionally engraved lines distinguishing the hilt from the rest, with an aesthetic perfection proper to the beauty of archetypal forms.

4.

Abdelkader Benchamma, *Untitled (Slates in a Quarry)* [Courtesy agnès b. Collection, Paris]

The complex forms of inorganic stones appearing in this precise ink drawing open up new possibilities for abstract modes of expression. One of the contemporary artworks of the exhibition focusing on the formal possibilities of stones.

5.

Birdstone Collection [Private Collection]

A polished prehistoric artefact found in the northeastern regions of the actual United States of America. These items with a flat base and two diagonal perforations representing birds and animals in a rather abstract manner do not have a clearly identified function. Its minimalist aesthetics deeply resonates with the sculptural principles embodied by such modern artists as Jean Arp.

6.

Charlotte Moth, *Thinking Work, Working Thought* [Courtesy Galerie Marcelle Alix, Paris]

The memory of traditional stone sculpture recorded in images then developed using the traditional stone-printing technique of lithography, in a re-interpretation of the times when stone was used as a material in art.