



RICOH ART GALLERY

## KOHEI NAWA | Focus

Venue : RICOH ART GALLERY

Dates : Tue 13 - Sat 24 December, 2022

Open : 12 : 00 - 19 : 00 ※24 December closed at 18 : 00

Closed : Monday, Sunday and national holidays

※ The business hours and the exhibition dates may change due to the policy of the government and Tokyo Metropolitan Government regarding the prevention of COVID-19 infection.

© Kohei Nawa

In December 2022 the limited time gallery space, RICOH ART GALLERY, will close. As a memorable exhibition to conclude the projects of RICOH ART GALLERY, the gallery will be holding a solo exhibition Focus by Kohei Nawa. The exhibition will feature 12 new works of 2.5D printings.

RICOH' s 2.5D printing 'StareReap' project, launched three years ago, has been exploring the future generations of art and culture with various artists, utilizing the exquisite formability and materiality of UV printing cured by ultraviolet light. This time, Nawa and RICOH have been exploring the possibilities of this printing method by creating numbers of test prints, including not only straightforward expressions but also irregular uses that had not been expected for the printer' s original function.

The finished new work became a sculptural work that seems to be three-dimension whilst it is actually a two-dimensional work. By having a delicate and rhythmic form of its tactile layer on the plane, it reveals strong visual effects and materiality. We hope you will enjoy this exhibition that captures the current state of 'StareReap' .

### — FROM RICOH ART GALLERY

We would like to thank our many customers for making collaborations with various artists possible in this place associated with the founder of RICOH Company, Ltd.

This exhibition was organized in response to the strong desire of the 'StareReap' project members. –“For our last exhibition at RICOH ART GALLERY, we must hold a solo exhibition by Kohei Nawa.”

This is because when the 'StareReap' project started and was considering an artist image who could make use of the printer' s technology, Kohai Nawa was the first name that came up. We thought that Nawa, who has worked with a wide range of materials and technologies, would be able to maximize the potential of the 'StareReap' .

Despite the tight schedule due to his several large exhibitions, Nawa expressed his willingness to collaborate with RICOH which made the project start.

How can one bring the thickness of the printing, which is 23 microns (about the thickness of one hair) per layer, into some sort of shape? Together with Nawa, we created printing works whilst constantly considering how to make the best use of this thickness.

As a result of these trials and errors, we are pleased that this exhibition had become the best for the finale of the projects by RICOH ART GALLERY that ran for 18 months. In 2023, the 'StareReap' project is expected to become even more international. In this respect, the collaboration with Kohei Nawa, the artist who constantly creates on the global stage, will be of great significance to us.

Finally, we would like to thank our customers who have been patronizing the RICOH ART GALLERY, all artists who have willingly agreed to work with us on this challenging project, and many others who have been involved in this project.

#### — ARTWORKS

Printing technology has converted various matters into information in the past years. Today, it is even possible to reconvert information into matter by using a 3D printer. Data and objects are in constant flux and exist in equivalence. On the other hand, expressions such as block prints and drawings have pursued how to express delicate impressions and concepts that are difficult to capture with human senses. Thus, technology and art move back and forth between information and material, concept and texture in their own ways. At the point where these two come together, what kind of expression will emerge?

This exhibition has become an experimental attempt with RICOH' s printing technology, to re-edit the relationships that exist behind Nawa' s work and then project them onto UV printings. While using the stars and the earth as his motifs, the works bring focus to the forces that connect them.

For Nawa, his childhood memories of astronomical observation and his interest in astronomy and physics as a consequence of it, is one of the roots of his creative work. In fact, he has quite often been using the theme "the invisible forces that form the world" , including gravity, for his works. This time, the artist expresses these themes as a boundary between information and matter by using UV printing, the medium that has a texture that is somewhat between two-dimensional and three-dimensional, block prints and sculptural work. The black ink blobs that compose the work capture numbers of aspects of forces: the light of the stars, the universal gravitation that acts between them, the perspectives of the people who observe them, and the motions of the Earth that formed the soil on which they stand.

#### Kohei Nawa



Born in 1975, and based in Kyoto, Japan, Kohei Nawa received a PhD in Fine Art/Sculpture from Kyoto City University of Arts in 2003, and established Sandwich in 2009. He is now a professor at the Kyoto University of the Arts.

Focusing on the surface "skin" of sculpture as an interface connecting to the senses, Nawa began his PixCell series in 2002 based on the concept of the cell, symbolizing the information age. Adopting a flexible interpretation of the meaning of sculpture, he produces perceptual experiences that reveal the physical properties of materials to the viewer through works addressing themes related to life and the cosmos and to artistic sensibility and technology, including Direction, in which he produces paintings using gravity, Force, in which silicone oil pours down through a space, Biomatrix, in which bubbles and grids emerge on a liquid surface, and Foam, in which bubbles form enormous volumes.

Recently, Nawa has also worked on architectural projects, including the art pavilion Kohtei. VESSEL, a performance work produced in conjunction with Belgo-French choreographer and dancer Damian Jalet, has been presented around the world since its premiere in 2015. In 2018, his sculpture Throne was exhibited under the Pyramid at the Musée du Louvre in Paris, France.



RICOH ART GALLERY



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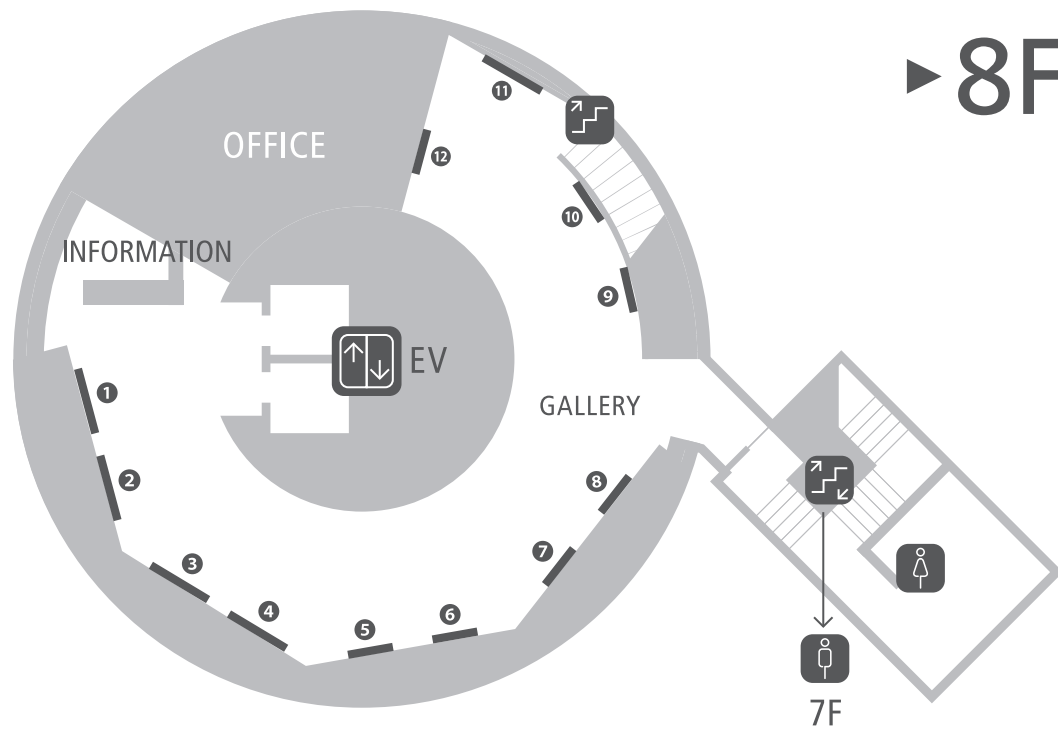
#### RICOH ART GALLERY

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Artworks layout / Kohei Nawa



No.	Title	Size(cm)	Year	Material
1	Ray (2022:11:09 01:27)	61.8 × 110 × 2 cm	2022	UV inkjet print on acrylic panel
2	Ray (2022:11:09 01:27_inverse)	61.8 × 110 × 2 cm		
3	Ray (2022:11:09 01:26)	61.8 × 110 × 2 cm		
4	Ray (2022:11:09 01:26_inverse)	61.8 × 110 × 2 cm		
5	Ray (2022:11:09 01:25)	110 × 61.8 × 2 cm		
6	Ray (2022:11:09 01:25_inverse)	110 × 61.8 × 2 cm		
7	Ray (2022:11:09 00:44)	110 × 61.8 × 2 cm		
8	Ray (2022:11:09 00:44_inverse)	110 × 61.8 × 2 cm		
9	Ray (2022:11:10 19:48)	110 × 61.8 × 2 cm		
10	Ray (2022:11:10 19:48_inverse)	110 × 61.8 × 2 cm		
11	Field	130 × 105.1 × 2 cm		
12	Lens	110 × 61.8 × 2 cm		