

IM Heungsoon

KI Seulki

KOBAYASHI Kohei

LEE Hyein

LEE Sungmi

LEE Wonho

MINAMIKAWA Shimon

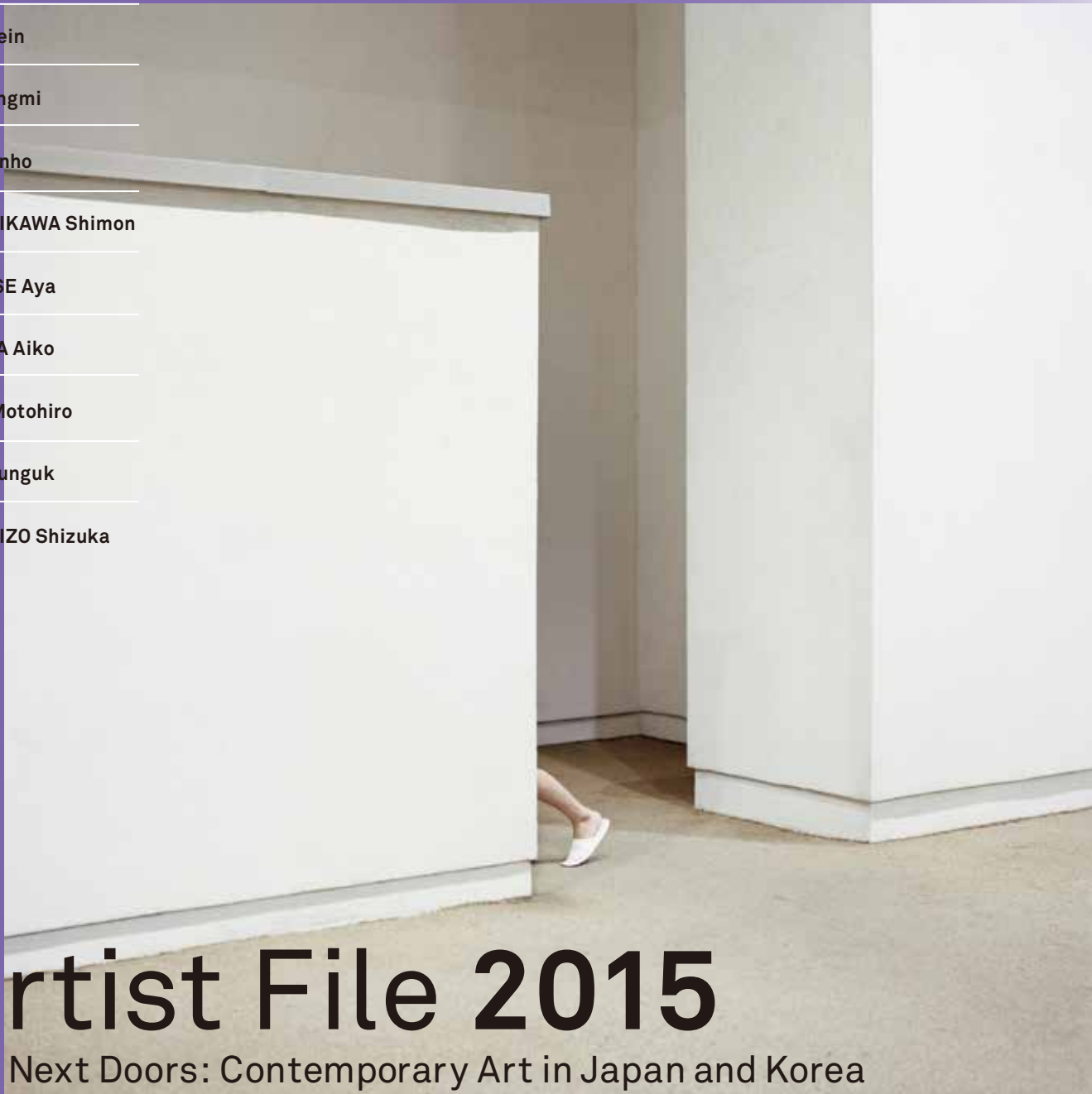
MOMOSE Aya

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TOMII Motohiro

YANG Junguk

YOKOMIZO Shizuka



Artist File 2015

Next Doors: Contemporary Art in Japan and Korea

KI Seulki | Unfamiliar Corner 02 | 2012 | Archival pigment print

Wed., July 29 — Mon., Oct. 12, 2015

Closed Tue. (except Tue., Sept. 22)

Opening hours: 10:00-18:00 *10:00-20:00 on Fridays (Last admission 30 minutes before closing)

The National Art Center, Tokyo (Kokuritsu-Shin-Bijutsukan),
Special Exhibition Gallery 2E

Organized by: The National Art Center, Tokyo, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea

Co-organized by: The Japan Foundation, The Korea Foundation

With the support of: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Korean Cultural Center Korean Embassy in Japan

The National Art Center, Tokyo receives operational support from Jun Ashida Co., Ltd. And Robert Walters Japan.



Artist File 2015

Next Doors: Contemporary Art in Japan and Korea

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The National Art Center, Tokyo

7-22-2 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 106-8558, Japan
Tel: +81 (0) 3-5405-8686 (Hello Dial)
URL: <http://www.nact.jp/>

Related Events

For the latest information and the details, please visit the
National Art Center, Tokyo website.

Exhibition held during the same period:

Manga*Anime*Games from Japan
Wed., June 24-Mon., Aug. 31, 2015

For press-related inquiries, please contact:

Public Relations Division, The National Art Center, Tokyo
Tel: +81 (0)3-6812-9925
Fax: +81 (0)3-3405-2531
E-mail: pr@nact.jp

Admission (tax. incl.)

General: ¥1,000 (Adults) / ¥500 (College Students)

Advance: ¥800 (Adults) / ¥300 (College Students)

Group: ¥800 (Adults) / ¥300 (College Students)

*Visitors who are under 18, including high school students and disabled people with ID booklets (along with one attendant) will be admitted free.

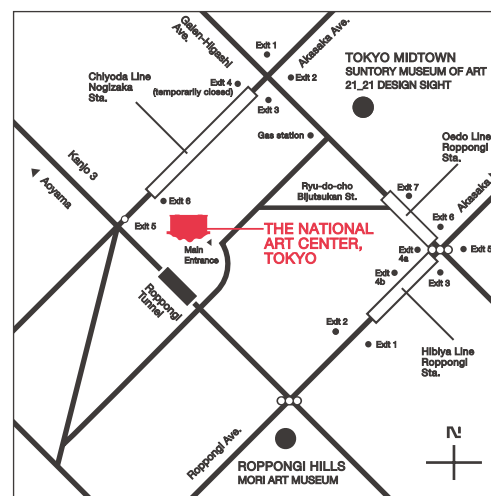
*Group tickets will only be available at the venue (discounts only applicable to groups of 20 or more).

*Tickets both Advance and General are available through Lawson Ticket (L-code: 39067), eplus, e-tix and tixee. Service charges may apply. (These services are only available in Japanese.)

*Advance tickets can be purchased through the above services and at the National Art Center, Tokyo from May 27 (Wed.), 2015 to July 28 (Tue.), 2015 (only until July 27 (Mon.) at the National Art Center, Tokyo.)

*Visitors who present a ticket or ticket stub from another exhibition currently underway at the National Art Center, Tokyo, the Suntory Museum or the Mori Art Museum (the three facilities that make up the Roppongi Art Triangle) will be eligible for the group discount.

*Visitors 65 and over (I.D. with proof of age required) who present a ticket stub from artist associations' exhibition held at the National Art Center, Tokyo during "Artist File 2015" will be admitted to the exhibition at the college student group rate.



Access

Nogizaka Station, Tokyo Metro Chiyoda Line, Exit 6 (direct access)
Roppongi Station, Tokyo Metro Hibiya Line, Exit 4a (about 5-minute walk)
Roppongi Station, Toei Oedo Subway Line, Exit 7 (about 4-minute walk)

Artist File 2015

Next Doors: Contemporary Art in Japan and Korea

Exhibition Overview

Artist File, organized by the National Art Center, Tokyo (NACT) since 2008, is a group exhibition consisting of a collection of solo shows by contemporary artists who are producing some of the freshest and most substantial work today. This year, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Korea, we present *Artist File 2015 Next Doors: Contemporary Art in Japan and Korea* in cooperation with the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea (MMCA), one of Asia's foremost museums.

This exhibition, featuring Japanese and Korean artists, is scheduled to begin at NACT before traveling to MMCA, Gwacheon. The subtitle of the exhibition, *Next Doors: Contemporary Art in Japan and Korea*, is intended to suggest the continuing use of the solo show format, one of *Artist File*'s trademarks as well as the geographical proximity between Japan and Korea, and the loose-knit way in which the aesthetics and styles of the two countries' artists are linked.

Exhibition Highlights

What is *Artist File*?

Art File is an ongoing series of exhibitions showcasing a group of contemporary artists which has been organized by the National Art Center, Tokyo five times in the past: 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2013. By making effective use of the facility's expansive floor space, the exhibition introduces work by a number of dynamic artists as a collection of solo exhibitions. This exhibition, the first time since the exhibition has been held in two years, consists of Japanese and Korean artists who were selected on the basis of rigorous surveys conducted by curators from the National Art Center, Tokyo and the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea.

The National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea

In addition to branches in Gwacheon and Deoksugung, the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea opened a new branch in central Seoul in 2013. This facility promises to make the museum an even more important presence in Korea and in Asia as a whole. After first being shown at the National Art Center, Tokyo, the *Artist File 2015* exhibition is scheduled to travel to the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea, Gwacheon.

Japanese and Korean Artists

The exhibition consists of a total of 12 contemporary artists, six from Japan and six from Korea, who are engaged in outstanding

activities in their respective countries. The artists make use of a diverse range of expressive forms including painting, sculpture, photography, video, and installation. Moreover, the exhibition has no age restrictions, and as suggested by its neutral title, *Artist File* encompasses everyone from artists who are already highly regarded internationally to those who are in the process of distinguishing themselves.

Next Doors

Artist File 2015 bears the subtitle *Next Doors: Contemporary Art in Japan and Korea*. This is intended to suggest the geographical proximity between Japan and Korea as well as the way in which the aesthetics of the artists (who were not previously aware of each other's existence) resonate with each other. In fact, this exhibition marks the first time that many of the artists will be showing their work in each other's country.

Exhibition Catalogue and Artist Archive

In addition to showing art works, one of the most important objectives of *Artist File* is to assemble information about the artists that can literally be filed. Containing a detailed career history and bibliography, the exhibition catalogue will be published in a trilingual edition (Japanese, Korean, and English). And even after the exhibition finishes, efforts to collect information about the artists will continue and added to an archive of 40 artists who participated in past exhibitions in the series.

Artist File 2015

Next Doors: Contemporary Art in Japan and Korea

Participating Artists

IM Heungsoon (b. 1969-)

Born and currently residing in Seoul

Im Heungsoon uses video to express aspects of Korean history from the perspective of individual lives. In the 'Public Art Project', He formed a project team with local residents, and dealt with social problems such as migration and urban life. Another work, *Sung Si* (2011), set on Jeju (which despite having once been the scene of many tragic events in contemporary Korean history, has now been transformed into a tourist destination), consists of interviews with survivors relating their painful memories and shots of the island's beautiful scenery. In *Jeju Prayer and Apartments* (2007-2010), Im branched out into the documentary genre and tried to engage with the general public in a more active manner. Im is currently working on *Reincarnation* (2015), a more expansive work concerned with Asia, in which he searches for links between individual lives in the modern and contemporary history of Korea, Japan, and Vietnam.



IM Heungsoon | *Nameless Scenery 2* | 2011 | Inkjet print

KI Seulki (b. 1983-)

Born and currently residing in Seoul

Ki Seulki is fascinated with identifying internal events such as emotions and perceptions, and other phenomena that are not visible to the eye. Using a diverse range of media, including photography, video, and installation, Ki visualizes amorphous entities like water, color, and light, and subtle feelings that are aroused in particular spaces. Imbued with a sense of tension, her works are rooted in contrasts such as planes and solids, the parts and the whole, and intimacy and alienation, and radiate a unique charm. In addition, the artist's own fragmented body parts and the sudden intervention of traces of action trigger movements in the space, arousing the viewer's imagination.



KI Seulki | *Unfamiliar Corner 02* | 2012 | Archival pigment print

KOBAYASHI Kohei (b. 1974-)

Born in Tokyo, currently residing in Saitama

Kobayashi Kohei is best known for his video pieces. In his recent works, the artist himself makes frequent appearances along with readymade articles purchased at a home improvement center. Then, by subtly changing the places where these articles should be, Kobayashi engages in what initially seem to be unrelated actions. In this way, he urges us to experience deeper realities, which we tend to overlook in everyday life, such as the context that surrounds an object and the intentions that lie behind it. Kobayashi also makes videos using a script based on a text that he asks someone else to write, which he then develops in a dialogue with a group of performers, and stages performances that are created in collaboration with dancers and choreographers.



KOBAYASHI Kohei | *L-shapes and Earthworms* | 2014 | Mixed media | Installation view, "1974 part 1 - 6 Artists Born in 1974", The Museum of Modern Art, Gunma, 2014 | Photo: Masakazu Onishi | Courtesy: YAMAMOTO GENDAI

Artist File 2015

Next Doors: Contemporary Art in Japan and Korea

LEE Hyein (b. 1981-)

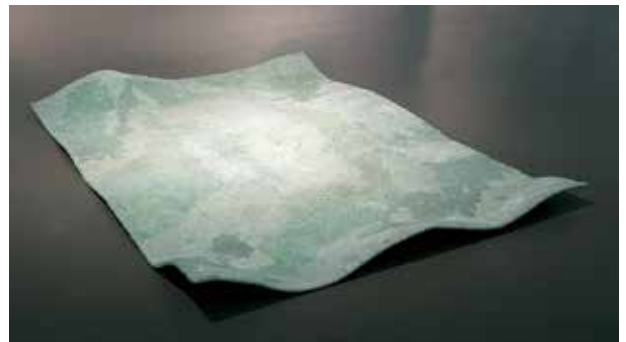
Born and currently residing in Goyang, Gyeonggi-do
Lee Hyein makes her work while living in various different places. She draws on the experiences and emotions from each place and expresses them in three dimensions using diverse media, including paintings based on outdoor sketches, drawings, video, and installations. Painting has long remained at the heart of Lee's work as a means of observing and documenting the world. Her sensitivity to real life and natural spaces is manifested through unusual methods such as painting in a corner of a dark room, or depicting an outdoor landscape from inside a tent. And by installing her works on small walls or in nooks and crannies around a space, Lee invites us into a world of sketches that reverberates deeply within us despite the fact that we are unfamiliar with the pieces.



LEE Hyein | Right: *The Sculpture Made in Thinking of a Tree* | 2012 |
Recycled paper, staple, acrylic, wood
Left: *I Don't Have a Dog. I Don't Have a Gun. I'll Have Your 30min. Sorry!* | 2012 |
Felt, wood, wheel, carbon frame | Photo: Jun Jiwon

LEE Sungmi (b. 1977-)

Born and currently residing in Seoul
Using shards of glass from cars that were smashed up in accidents and strewn over the road, and transparent mutable objects, Lee Sungmi turns our ordinary sense of anxiety into profound phenomena. Through the artist's manual labor, carefully repeated like some kind of ascetic practice, these materials, containing traces of misfortune, are reborn as beautiful limpid objects. Lee seems to handle his materials in an extremely mechanical and artificial way, but the repetitive acts used in the production process are actually a means of exposing the materials' unique qualities. By making these miserable materials into art, Lee touches us somewhere deep inside and realizes a unique visual expression.



LEE Sungmi | *Glass Blanket* | 2014 | Collected broken automobile glass, mixed media

LEE Wonho (b. 1972-)

Born in Suncheon, Jeonnam.; currently resides in Seoul
Using ordinary notions about objects and spaces as a foundation, Lee Wonho dismantles the concepts we associate with these things, and creates work that presents them in a completely different dimension. In one work, Lee removed all of the white lines from a playground and created a "white field" made up solely of white lines. In another, he sent letters to non-existent recipients, and documented the process in which the item was returned ("addressee unknown") using a recording device contained in the envelope. Through these approaches, which subvert social rules and conventional wisdom, Lee presents us with a new way of looking at the things around us and a different perspective on superficial elements in the world.



LEE Wonho | *Story I* | 2013 | Beggars' money and tools acquired through bargaining with the beggars

Artist File 2015

Next Doors: Contemporary Art in Japan and Korea

MINAMIKAWA Shimon (b. 1972-)

Born in Tokyo; currently residing in New York and Berlin
Since the beginning of his career, Minamikawa Shimon has made work that deviates from conventional painting and other formats. From portraits made with pale tones to abstract paintings using brilliant fluorescent colors, and a series called Sign Boards, in which he applies paint directly to an easel, Minamikawa's works assume a variety of forms. And by showing a number of works with different qualities alongside each other, the artist rearranges the meaning of each individual piece, and turns the space into a work of art. In recent years, Minamikawa has collaborated with performance artists and others, and produced works that traverse artistic genres.



MINAMIKAWA Shimon | *Play* | 2014 | Acrylic on canvas, paper collage | Courtesy: MISA KO & ROSEN

MOMOSE Aya (b. 1988-)

Born and currently residing in Tokyo
Against a backdrop of contemporary society, flooded as it is with digital video, Momose Aya asks what these images really are and urges us to reconsider the act and experience of watching them. In her works, which begin by documenting a performance on video, the body and voice are important elements. In her works, which unfold in wholly unexpected ways, people's mouths are peculiarly out of sync with their voices, and their utterances are divorced from the original context. This disrupts their relationships and communication with others, exposing the violence and immorality contained in the act of shooting. Not only do Momose's subtle manipulations surprise and disturb us, they reveal the ominous power of the video medium.



MOMOSE Aya | *Fixed Point Observation (With My Father)* | 2013-14 | Video and text

TEZUKA Aiko (b. 1976-)

Born in Tokyo; currently residing in Berlin
Known for works in which she unravels preexisting textiles, Tezuka's art frequently gives rise to a sublime sensation. Her approach dates back to university when she embroidered a piece of canvas that also served as the support medium for painting. This marked the beginning of a shift from oil painting to sculptural objects made with textiles. The original structure of a textile can be seen in both two- and three-dimensional terms, and this versatility makes it possible to freely alter its form. While continuing to expand the potential of textiles as a material, in recent years Tezuka has attempted to add a new layer of images by incorporating symbolic marks.



TEZUKA Aiko | *Lessons for Restoration (mirror)* | 2013 | Untied fabric (souvenir from Florence) | Photo: Ute Klein | Courtesy: Galerie Michael Janssen Berlin-Singapore

Artist File 2015

Next Doors: Contemporary Art in Japan and Korea

TOMII Motohiro (b. 1973-)

Born in Niigata; currently residing in Tokyo and New York
Tomii Motohiro, who majored in sculpture in graduate school, began by making small plaster works based on familiar motifs like stairs, houses, books, and people, and sculptural works in which he transformed the shape of small people with putty. In these works, he reexamined the relationship between place, pedestal, and sculpture, and developed a strong interest in the environments that surround art works. He frequently makes use of readymade objects like thumbtacks, Super Balls, pencils, files, and balloons. What is essential about these everyday items is not their function but their form. In recent years, Tomii has also continued to produce sculptures using written instructions and to extract sculptures from ordinary landscapes using photography.



TOMII Motohiro | board band board #2 | 2014 | Polypropylene band, acrylic sheet |
Photo: Masaru Yanagiba | Courtesy: Yumiko Chiba Associates

YANG Junguk (b. 1982-)

Born and currently residing in Seoul
Using observation and experience, Yang Junguk expresses certain a variety of fragmented thoughts using texts and moving sculptures. Yang starts by finding trivial emotions and intuitions in daily life, and then develops them into short poems, texts or short stories. Next, he creates moving structures that provide a sympathetic response to the texts. His sculptures, made with a wholly handicraft-like approach, are presented according to a simple organic working principle, and stimulate a poetic sensibility through light and shadow, sound, and repetitive mechanisms.



YANG Junguk | Fatigue is always with the dream | 2013 | Wood, motor, thread |
Photo: Kim Namhee

YOKOMIZO Shizuka (b. 1966-)

Born in Tokyo; currently residing in London
By making use of photography's special properties, Yokomizo Shizuka questions various relationships between the medium and human beings as subject matter. There is a stark contrast between the intimacy of *Sleeping*, depicting a sleeping friend in a dark bedroom, and the brusque encounter in *Stranger*, showing someone writing a letter to a seemingly unknown person without exchanging a word. Yokomizo selects her medium based on the theme of the work. This is apparent from *Forever (and again)*, a video work focusing on the performance of an aged pianist, which deals with the theme of "time." Recently, all, a series of photographs depicting a pregnant woman's body in which fantastic images intersect with reality, gave Yokomizo the opportunity to think more deeply about the cultural-anthropological issue of what images really are.



YOKOMIZO Shizuka | all (Cc) | 2008 | C-type print | Courtesy: WAKO WORKS OF ART

Artist File 2015

Next Doors: Contemporary Art in Japan and Korea

List of Image Data for Press Use 01

We are pleased to offer a number of different images of the works on display to help promote the exhibition. If you would like to receive one (or more), please fill out the attached form and return it to us by fax (e-mail requests will also be honored).

*Please refrain from using the images included in the press release without prior permission.

*Images for press use may differ from the works on display.



01 [IM Heungsoon](#) | *Nameless Scenery 2* | 2011 | Inkjet print



02 [KI Seulki](#) | *Unfamiliar Corner 02* | 2012 | Archival pigment print



03 [KOBAYASHI Kohei](#) | *L-shapes and Earthworms* | 2014 | Mixed media
Installation view, "1974 part 1-6 Artists Born in 1974", The Museum of Modern Art, Gunma, 2014
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List of Image Data for Press Use 02



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09 [TEZUKA Aiko](#) | *Lessons for Restoration (mirror)* | 2013 | Untied fabric (souvenir from Florence) | Photo: Ute Klein | Courtesy: Galerie Michael Janssen Berlin-Singapore



10 [TOMII Motohiro](#) | *board band board #2* | 2014 | Polypropylene band, acrylic sheet | Photo: Masaru Yanagiba | Courtesy: Yumiko Chiba Associates



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12 [YOKOMIZO Shizuka](#) | *all (Cc)* | 2008 | C-type print | Courtesy: WAKO WORKS OF ART

Artist File 2015

Next Doors: Contemporary Art in Japan and Korea

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and Ticket Giveaway for Press Use

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