

3rd Year Anniversary of Karuizawa New Art Museum

Jean-Michel Othoniel

Ai no Idenshi Ten

“DNA of Love”

Jean-Michel Othoniel is a contemporary artist born in Saint-Étienne, France. Since 1993, Othoniel has been mainly producing sculptures. Using Murano glass became one of his trademarks.

In the 2011 retrospective show “My Way” at the Centre Pompidou (Paris, France), there were over 200,000 visitors within 3 months after the opening. It then moved to Seoul, Tokyo, Macau, and New York, gathering attention of the world. As part of the revival of the Water Theater grove of the Palace of Versailles, there will be a permanent installation of his fountain sculptures, *The Beautiful Dances*, in the fall of 2014.

2014 also celebrates the 90th anniversary of the cultural partnership between Japan and France. At the same time of the Palace of Versailles launch, Karuizawa New Art Museum will have the honor to exhibit the artist’s latest 5 pieces using Murano glass beads, 1 piece outdoors in the gardens, as well as 15 drawings.

Othoniel really likes to create for particular spaces, such as in historical places or gardens. His glass works playing with lights and reflexions, harmonize with the environment and the poetic extravagance around.

Both the sensitivity and dynamism of Jean-Michel Othoniel’s artworks can be experienced through his works displayed in the nature of Karuizawa. The *Kokoro no mon*, which will be permanently shown outdoors and the *Collier autoporté bleu dégradé miroir* that will be exhibited on the 1st floor free space of the museum, will provide an opportunity for many to discover some contemporary art pieces. It will also surely become a symbol of Arts and Culture in Karuizawa, a place to meet.

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About the artist

◇Jean-Michel Othoniel [1964-]



Jean-Michel Othoniel in his studio in Paris, 2014. Photo: Othoniel studio

Jean-Michel Othoniel, a contemporary sculptor from France, has worked with a consistent theme of “metamorphoses” in materials, by using sulfur, wax and lead, materials with reversible properties.

Since 1993, Othoniel has been using glass, which is a traditional Venetian material. Glass allows him to change forms and shape freely with broad chromogenic possibilities. Creating artworks using glass has become Othoniel’s trademark.

He creates pieces such as large size hearts or monumental necklaces by connecting round shaped glass beads. Each of the glass beads express different shapes and sizes, with additional twisting in the overall piece. It is also carefully thought out with the surrounding space, therefore a harmony of the piece itself and the surrounding is created.

Biography

- 1964 Born in Saint-Étienne, France
- 1970 Major impact on art from exhibition of Robert Morris
- 1988 Graduated from the École Nationale Supérieure d'Arts, Cergy-Pontoise, France
- 1992 Exhibits sulfur and wax sculptures at Documenta IX (Kassel, Germany)
- 1993 Begins using glass and working on the themes of transmutations, metamorphosis, sublimations
- 1996 Stays in Rome as a resident of Villa Medici
- 2000 For the 100th anniversary of Paris Metro Line 1, he redesigns the Palais-Royal - Musée du Louvre metro entrance and creates the *Kiosque des Noctambules*
- 2003 First solo exhibition, "Crystal Palace" at the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris
- 2004 Creates *Le Petit Théâtre de Peau d'Âne* for the Theatre du Chatelet in Paris
- 2005 Shows for the 1st time *Rivière blanche* for the exhibition "Contrepoint" at the Musée du Louvre, in the museum's Mesopotamian rooms
- Produces and exhibits *Le Bateau de larmes* as a political message, based on the boat that carried Cuban refugees, which was abandoned on a Miami beach
- 2006 Exhibits large necklace with blue glass beads, *Peggy's Necklace* at the entrance of the Collection Peggy Guggenheim in Venice, Italy
- 2008 Faces a turning point as an artist at Galerie Karsten Greve in Koln (Germany). Since this time, he officially works on abstract expression and movement
- 2009 Creates *Kokoro* for the 20th anniversary of the Hara Museum Arc (Gunma, Japan)
- 2011 First retrospective, "My Way", at the Centre Pompidou, Paris, which travelled then around the world (Leeum Samsung Museum/ Seoul, Hara Museum/Tokyo, Macau Museum of art, Macau)
- 2012 His retrospective ends in New York Brooklyn Museum
- Exhibits at the Musée Eugène Delacroix a dialogue of his sculptures and flowers diary
- 2013 Installs a large heart shaped artwork in Mohri Garden, *Kin no Kokoro* commissioned for the Mori Art Museum 10th anniversary
- 2014 Jean-Michel and Louis Benech are selected for the revival of the Water Theater grove in the Palace of Versailles. The fountain sculptures made by Jean-Michel Othoniel will be presented to the press in fall of 2014, and the garden will be open in spring of 2015. Othoniel's *Beautiful Dances* will be the first permanent installation since Louis XIV

Public Art

① *Le Kiosque des Noctambules*

(夢遊病者のキオスク)

2000 / 560 x 600 x 200 cm

Murano glass, steel, aluminum, ceramic

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Metropolitan Line 1 in Paris, and also the start of a new millennium, Palais-Royal – Musée du Louvre station was transformed into an artwork with Murano glass elements and aluminum.

Jean-Michel Othoniel interpreted the Metro entrance as a “passage way, place to gather, space of desire”, and created an interactive art piece in harmony with reality and ideal utopia.



Le Kiosque des Noctambules 2000. Copyright Jean-Michel Othoniel/ADAGP, Paris, 2014. Photo: Jean-François Mauboussin



② *Le Confident* (S 字型ベンチ)

2007 / 300 x 400 x 122 cm

Murano glass, steel, aluminum

Le Confident, 2007. Copyright Jean-Michel Othoniel/ADAGP, Paris, 2014. Photo: Othoniel Studio

For Nice's tramway, located in the “French Riviera”, Southern France, Jean-Michel Othoniel uses continuous aluminum and glass beads as a poetic bench in the city.

The tramway, symbol of a constant flow of people coming and going, has now a place for people to stop for a time and speak to each other. The piece is designed for 2 persons to sit in it, talk to each other and completely forget the crowd of the street.

Past Exhibitions



③ “My Way” exhibition view
Centre Pompidou (Paris)
2011

Samsung Museum (Seoul)
Hara Museum (Tokyo)
Macau Museum (Macau)
Brooklyn Museum (Brooklyn)
Retrospective

View of the exhibition “My Way” Paris, 2011. Copyright Jean-Michel Othoniel/ADAGP, Paris, 2014. Photo: Guillaume Zicarelli

“My Way”, the artist’s retrospective at the Centre Pompidou, was reuniting for the 1st time over 80 pieces showing the artist’s evolution in 20 years of life.

From the very first pieces using wax and sulfur in the 80s, along the modern day glass pieces, were shown in order of appearance in his work.

Exhibition pieces



④ *Kokoro no mon* 心の門 simulation image

2014 / 365 x 355 x 320 cm

Kokoro no mon is a double heart shaped artwork. The shape of the piece changes depending on the angle you admire it. The artwork invites the spectator to go through it, as a monumental gate in the gardens.

On the left is the 3D image, but in the summer it will appear in the gardens of the museum as a 3.65m tall art piece.

Kokoro no mon, 2014. Copyright Jean-Michel Othoniel/ADAGP, Paris, 2014. Courtesy Galerie Perrotin

⑤ *Untitled*

Watercolor of a giant necklace with blue gradation

2014 / 36 x 26 cm

Watercolor, paper, frame

On the right is a drawing of the 2 lines necklace, which will be placed in the hallway of the 1st floor of the museum. Each glass bead has its own shade of blue. This large necklace series has become representative of Jean-Michel Othoniel's work since the 2004 Louvre exhibition and the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Italy in 2006.



Untitled, 2014. Copyright Jean-Michel Othoniel/ADAGP, Paris, 2014



⑥ *The Knot of The Imaginary*

(想像の結び目)

2012 / 180 x 165 x 135 cm

Mirrored glass, stainless steel

The Knot of the Imaginary brings to life the theory of the psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan by materializing it in geometric forms. A three colors base gradation is seen from orange glass beads, yellow green, and silver, and stand as a knot of the mind, an intellectual movement translated into an abstract sculpture.

The Knot of The Imaginary, 2012. Copyright Jean-Michel Othoniel/ADAGP, Paris, 2014. Courtesy Galerie Perrotin. Photo: Guillaume Zicarelli

⑦ *Nœud alessandrita miroir*

(青紫色の結び目 [鏡張り])

2014 / 70 x 65 x 35cm

Mirrored glass, stainless steel

This artwork which hangs from the ceiling is part of the knot series of 2009. Its form is based on the theory of borromean rings, three topological circles which are linked and form a Brunnian link. Psychoanalysts refer to this theory to build a three dimensional world in which our lives are in a careful balance with the real world, the symbolic world, and the imaginary world. There is an emptiness in all of us that cannot be described in words by human beings, but which can be expressed in the space. Jean-Michel Othoniel tried to reveal that empty space by locking it up in a three knot shaped sculpture, symbolizing both the real world, the symbolic and the imaginary one.



Nœud alessandrita miroir, 2014. Copyright Jean-Michel Othoniel/ADAGP, Paris, 2014. Courtesy Galerie Perrotin. Photo: Claire Dorn

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Exhibition Information

◇Name of exhibition	Karuizawa New Art Museum 3 rd Year Anniversary
◇Dates	Jean-Michel Othoniel <i>Ai no Idenshi Ten “DNA of Love”</i> July 11 2014 (Friday) ~ June 29 2015 (Monday) Solo show of Jean Michel Othoniel as special invited artist “Six solo-exhibitions –the bond between us-” exhibition running at the same period
◇Venue	Karuizawa New Art Museum Fourth Exhibition Room (2 nd Floor) , 1 st Floor Hallway Space, Outdoor 1151-5 Karuizawa, Karuizawa-machi, Kitasaku-gun, Nagano Prefecture 389-0102, Japan
◇Opening Hours:	July - September 10:00 - 18:00 October – March 11:00 – 17:00 (Closed on Tuesdays) April - June 10:00 - 17:00 (Closed on Tuesdays)
※Enter by 30 minutes before close	
◇Closed: Every Tuesday (If Tuesday is a Holiday, following day as Holiday. No Holidays in August)	
◇Entrance Fees:	General admission: ¥1500 (TBD), Visitors over the age of 65, high school and university students: ¥1200 (TBD), Primary and secondary students: ¥700 (TBD) ※¥200 discount from above fees for groups over 20 people ※Preschool children: Free, discount for disabled (half of above fees)
◇Supervisor	Junji Ito
◇Planning /Organizer	Karuizawa New Art Museum
◇Support	La France au Japon, Nagano Prefecture, Nagano Prefectural Board of Education, Town of Karuizawa, Shinano Mainichi Newspaper, Jomo Newspaper, Shin-Etsu Broadcasting, Nagano Broadcasting Systems, TV Shinshu Broadcasting, abn Nagano Asahi Broadcasting, Karuizawa Newspaper, Karuizawa News, Tokyo University of the Arts Social Center, Promotional Council for Karuizawa, International City of Arts and Culture (KIAC)

Related Info

【Related Events and Programs】

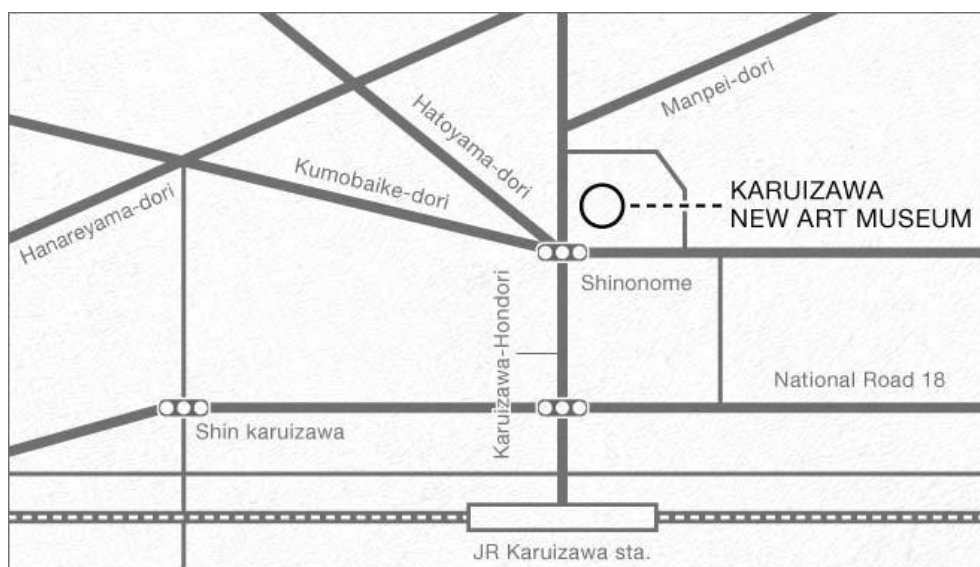
◇Work Shop

◇Gallery Talk by museum curators

※There are other events and programs. Please check the homepage for details.

【Access】

7 minutes walk from “Karuizawa Station” (JR East, Shinano Railway)



※Parking (cars 25, buses 4)

【Press Images 】

We have prepared 9 images of the art pieces as PR material from this exhibition.

For any requests, please fill out the FAX sheet and write your requested image number.

【For Inquiries】

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