

SCHOENI PROJECTS

presents

de/re CONSTRUCT

An exploration of the past re-imagined for the future



With

**TANABE CHIKUUNSAI IV x SAWAKO KAIJIMA
and KENSUKE KOIKE**

Wing Gallery, Cromwell Place, London

Opening Preview: **20 October 2022**

Exhibition Duration: **21 October - 6 November 2022**

In Collaboration with Wamono Art and Open Doors Gallery

LONDON - Schoeni Projects is pleased to present de/re CONSTRUCT, their inaugural exhibition at Cromwell Place, which features the work of Tanabe Chikuunsai IV x Sawako Kajima and Kesuke Koike who explore themes of deconstructing the past, and the use of technology to reconstruct them into contemporary visual artworks. It celebrates the artists craftsmanship and multidisciplinary art forms with the goal to inspire dialogue and creative exchange.

Tanabe Chikuunsai IV (b.1973), a gifted and versatile fourth-generation bamboo artist, has carried on his family's legacy and drawn on inspiration from his heritage to elevate a long line of bamboo craftsmanship into modern art. By collaborating with Sawako Kajima (b.1976, Tokyo), a computational specialist and Assistant Professor at Harvard University Graduate School of Design, the duo used software and 3D-printed moulds to aid the design of mathematically complex structures which Tanabe then masterfully translated into the medium of bamboo.



Left: Tanabe Chikuunsai IV, 'Disappear V', 2022, Bamboo *madake* and rattan, Geometric design by Sawako Kaijima, 63 × 20.5 × 18 cm

Right: Tanabe Chikuunsai IV, 'Disappear V', 2022. Artwork details

Photo credit: © Tanabe Chikuunsai IV, courtesy of Schoeni Projects and Wamono Art,
Photo by Tadayuki Minamoto

Tanabe Chikuunsai IV said: *"To keep traditions alive is a challenge, but equally tradition is not built up by repeating the same; it can only be created through constant challenge. This work was created by using bamboo to bring a computer rendered image to life. This humble and ancient material bamboo, an abundant plant that has sustained the lives of the Japanese people since ancient times, now appears as if it were a newly born material."*

"When I first met Sawako Kaijima and saw her work, I was shocked. I saw a new world beyond my imagination. I felt something urging me toward the future - something guiding me toward a collaboration with her. A fusion of traditional art and technology - I feel that is the new potential for passing down traditional art while continuing to develop it."

Sawako Kaijima commented: *" 'Stubborn' is the first word that comes to my mind when I imagine a successor of traditional craft family. To my surprise, Mr. Tanabe is one of the most fun and flexible people I've ever met and his artworks reflect his personality that is loved by many around the world. I hope to keep our collaboration a ground for testing new ideas to reach a special mode of expression that can only be achieved by the cross-fertilisation of traditional craft and computational design."*

For Venice and Tokyo-based artist Kensuke Koike (b.1980), his vision to bring history to the future is by deconstructing and reconfiguring vintage photographs to create sculptural works with a surrealist playfulness. His practice is centred around a philosophy of 'no more, no less' exploring the possibilities of creating a new image made up only of itself. This involves using only the existing assets found within an image to create a contemporary visual with a new narrative - a process he has coined as 'single image processing'. Using found objects in this way creates a more dynamic way of working, as although he experiments with many prototypes initially, there is only one chance to work with the original photograph.



Left: Kensuke Koike, 'Conscience', 2022, Switched vintage photo, Work-in-progress
Right: Kensuke Koike, 'Conscience', 2022, Switched vintage photo, 64 × 54 cm (left) and 4.8 × 4 cm (right) unframed
Photo credit: © Kensuke Koike, courtesy of Schoeni Projects and Open Doors Gallery

"Before I used archival images, I was shooting photographs on my own and altering them. But because I had the negatives and originals, I could make mistakes in the cutting and altering of them – I could just print another copy of an image and start all over again. I began to use archival images because I wanted to try something more challenging and to delve deeper into the meaning of an image. More risk means that I have to think twice before cutting the originals, and that is important," explains Kensuke Koike.

The cut is Koike's medium. Slicing, collaging, and weaving are his methods. Scissors, scalpels, and even a pasta maker are his tools. Some works in his other ongoing series, "Today's Curiosity," are less restrictive, often cut, torn, and rebuilt into three-dimensional objects, while others become videos that record the process of the image's transformation.

Nicole Schoeni, founder of Schoeni Projects said: *"Our latest exhibition is a true reflection of our core beliefs that centre around heritage, dialogue and collaboration. Not only are we celebrating collaborations and the creation of multi disciplined artistic expression rooted in cultural heritage, but we are adapting contemporary interpretations within unique environments, such as Cromwell Place. We hope to provide a spring board for artistic ideas and encourage dialogue."*

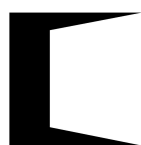
In Conversation: Artists' Talk with Tanabe Chikuunsai IV x Sawako Kaijima and Kensuke Koike and moderated by Dr. Lena Fristch will be held at the Wing Gallery, Cromwell Place on 22 October (Saturday) 11.00-12.30.

Schoeni Projects is also delighted to share their participation in the milestone **25th edition of Asian Art in London**; their East Asia Evening will be held on 27 October (Thursday) 17:00 to 20:00. de/re CONSTRUCT will be open at Wing Gallery, Cromwell Place during that time.

A catalogue will be published in conjunction with the exhibition.
Tanabe Chikuunsai IV x Sawako Kaijima and Kensuke Koike will be present at the opening preview
20 October 2022, Thursday 17.00-20.00.

END

The exhibition is in collaboration with:



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ASIAN ART
IN LONDON

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

C R O M W E L L
P L A C E

Opening Hours

21 October - 6 November 2022

Mon: closed
Tue: by appointment only
Wed-Sat: 10.00-18.00
Sun: 10.00-16.00

Venue

Wing Gallery 2/F Cromwell Place
4 Cromwell Place
South Kensington SW7 2JE
London

Media information online and press enquiries

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