

ARTIST FILE 2008

**The NACT Annual Show
of Contemporary Art**



Polixeni Papapetrou, *Dreams are like Water*, 2008, pigment ink prints

ARTIST FILE 2008 - The NACT Annual Show of Contemporary Art

2008.3/5 | WED | – 5/6 | TUE |

The National Art Center, Tokyo Special Exhibition Gallery 2E

Opening Times : 10:00 – 18:00 (10:00 – 20:00 on Fridays)

Entry up to 30 minutes before closing time

Closed on Tuesdays (except April 29 and May 6), and April 30

Organizer : The National Art Center, Tokyo

Supporter : JAPAN AIRLINES

**Elina Brotherus
Takefumi Ichikawa
Polixeni Papapetrou
Hiroe Saeki
Hiraki Sawa
Mio Shirai
Masanori Sukenari
Kei Takemura**



国立新美術館

7-22-2 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo
Japan 106-8558
Tel : (81) 3-5777-8600 (Hellodial)
URL : <http://www.nact.jp/english/index.html>

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OUTLINE

Artist File 2008 is the first exhibition in a new NACT project. The Artist File exhibition is to be held on an annual basis, with the aim of introducing current and future trends in contemporary art selected from the NACT's own distinctive viewpoint.

The exhibition intends to portray the profile of art of our time. Witnessing this lively interchange of various artistic practices, we have selected the following eight artists for the first turn of this project: Elina Brotherus, Takefumi Ichikawa, Polixeni Papapetrou, Hiroe Saeki, Hiraki Sawa, Mio Shirai, Masanori Sukenari, and Kei Takemura. Their art takes a variety of forms, including photography, drawing, video and installation, and each artist is in diligent pursuit of his or her own world as defined by a backdrop of contemporary society, culture and politics.

Presenting those works of contemporary artists, we believe that *Artist File 2008: The NACT Annual Show of Contemporary Art* should provide a great opportunity to experience the richness, vitality and potentiality of continuously diversifying artistic expression of today. As an annual project, we also believe that this series of exhibition will trace out a cross section of our time, that gradually comes to reveal and reflect the silhouette of an era.



Mio Shirai, *L'Amour*, 2007, video still, Support: BankART 1929

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PR- Related Enquiries

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Public Relations
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The NACT Annual Show of Contemporary Art

FEATURES

■ Annual event showcasing artists living through the present

An important mission of NACT is to introduce new trends in art to the public. To fulfill this mission, we are mounting a new project of annual exhibitions introducing the work of artists living through our time. In holding these exhibitions on a regular basis, our aim is to present a profile of this age.

■ Varied expression, varied themes, varied media

As the Artist File exhibitions do not have a fixed theme, it is possible to hold group shows bringing together work by gifted artists in many different fields, producing exhibitions that are rich in variety.

■ Japanese as well as foreign artists

Today's highly developed transportation and communication means that many parts of the world face the same problems.

The exhibitions will not restrict themselves to the Japanese domestic art scene but will introduce foreign artists and Japanese working abroad.

■ In-depth presentation of each artist

This exhibition puts a separate and independent space at the disposal of each of the eight artists, enabling visitors to appreciate each individual artist's work as if at a solo show.

■ Meticulously compiled catalogues

A separate catalogue will be published for each of the exhibiting artists. Each "artist's file" will contain 16 pages of color plates, as well as a brief biography, bibliography, and an explanatory essay. We also plan to publish at a later date a record of this year's Artist File exhibition including installation view at the gallery.

|Related Programs (only in Japanese)

We are planning programs and events such as artist talk, performance, workshop, and so on.
For more details, please visit our website at <http://www.nact.jp/english/index.html>

|Another Exhibition

Modigliani et le Primitivisme - 2008.3/26 [WED] - 6/9 [MON]

Admission	Adults	College Students
Same day	1,000 yen	500 yen
Advance tickets	900 yen	400 yen
Groups	800 yen	400 yen

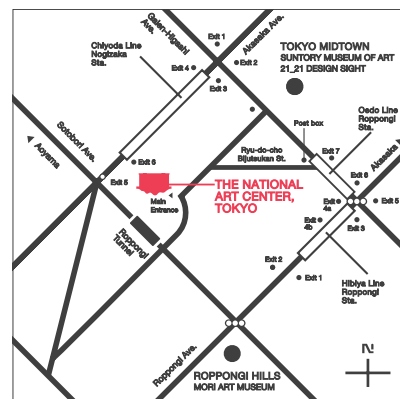
※ Entry is free for students up to high school and age 18.

※ Groups tickets can be purchased only at the Center.

※ Advance and same-day tickets may also be purchased at Ticket Pia and Lawson Ticket.

※ Entry is free for visitors with a physical disability certificate and one accompanying person.

※ Group entry charges apply for visitors who present the ticket stub of a concurrent exhibition at The National Art Center, Tokyo, Suntory Museum of Art, or Mori Art Museum.



ACCESS:

Tokyo Metro Chiyoda Line, Nogizaka Station,
Exit 6 is directly linked to the Center
Tokyo Metro Hibiya Line, Roppongi Station,
5-minute walk from Exit 4a
Toei Oedo Subway Line, Roppongi Station,
4-minute walk from Exit 7

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ARTISTS

Elina BROTHERUS (b. 1972)

Elina Brotherus is a Finnish artist based in Finland and France working in the fields of photography and video. Her motifs are mostly landscapes and self-portraits. Her early work was autobiographical in character, reflecting the personal circumstances of her divorce and move to France. In recent years she has been producing works based on the compositions and motifs of such artists as Friedrich, Cézanne, Bonnard. The present exhibition especially features works from her series “The New Painting” and “The Model Study”.

Elina Brotherus, *Le Printemps*, 2001, from the series “The New Painting”, C-print



Takefumi ICHIKAWA (b. 1971)



Takefumi Ichikawa's oeuvre has many facets—his *Fuyu* (Floating) series consists of helium-filled balloons made of a special transparent film; other works use smoke or milk; and he also presents performance art featuring sound. But what they have in common is a certain “ephemeral” character. They are not characterized by a sense of physical existence; they do not exhibit a definite form or location, but shift with the passage of time. At the same time as being a challenge to preexisting artistic forms, his work may be described as an attempt to fix our perceptions in another form.

Takefumi Ichikawa, *Fuyu'06*, 2006, installation, particular film, helium gas, air
(Support: Kuraray Co.Ltd.)

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Polixeni PAPAPETROU (b. 1960)

Polixeni Papapetrou is an Australian photographer. With the birth of her daughter Olympia in 1996, Papapetrou started to concentrate on images representing children in social and historical contexts. The exhibition features two series by Papapetrou: "Haunted Country" (2006), which takes as its subject children who have wandered into the bush and got lost, and "Games of Consequence" (2008), with Papapetrou's childhood experience of playing outdoors as its theme.

Polixeni Papapetrou, *Hanging Rock 1900 #3*, 2006, pigment ink print

Hiroe SAEKI (b. 1978)

The principal materials used by Hiroe Saeki in her works are brilliant white Kent paper and a propelling pencil with a very sharp lead sharpened with sandpaper. Her drawings leave ample white space. The motifs she draws range from such plant and animal subjects as flowers, butterflies, and mushrooms, to fashion accessories and shoes, drinking glasses and other small objects, and even sea scenes and landscapes featuring castles. Saeki draws her subjects in all their ever-changing forms with a meticulously delicate touch. Her work is reminiscent of traditional Japanese *kacho-fugetsu ga* (paintings of birds, flowers, and other natural motifs), but her drawings give equal weight to the overall image and the details, creating a sense of space not seen hitherto.

Hiroe Saeki, *Untitled*, 2006, pencil and acrylic on paper
(Courtesy of Taka Ishii Gallery)



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Hiraki SAWA (b. 1977)

Having studied at an art school in London, Sawa attracted international attention in 2002 with his video work *Dwelling*, which he produced when he acquired a computer graphics program. The video shows a miniature airplane taking off and landing repeatedly in his room. In this exhibition Sawa presents *Hako (box)* — a six-channel video installation on a scale he has not previously attempted. It is a work of mysterious symbolism, suggestive of a journey to and return from the depths of unconscious memory.



Hiraki Sawa, image from *Hako*, 2007, 6 channel video installation

Mio SHIRAI (b. 1962)



Mio Shirai started her artistic activity in the latter half of the 1980s and soon attracted attention with her work. Her conceptual installations, in which she puts together manufactured articles, achieve a sense of the absurd, a feeling of being “out of step.” They were a declaration of objection to our everyday perceptions. Her work in this exhibition is a video installation titled “Three-Part Work about Art”, and consists of three rooms: *The Creative Act*, *Restaurant Wild Cat House*, and *L’Amour*. The various dimensions of the act of creation, along with its comical aspects, are illuminated as the work progresses.

Mio Shirai, image from *The Creative Act*, 2007, video installation
(Support: BankART1929)

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Masanori SUKENARI (b.1960)

Masanori Sukenari works in the field of site-specific installation. His works are composed and executed taking into account and reflecting the unique characteristics of the particular exhibition space. Distinctive characteristics of his work are his bright “pop” colors and the bold use of a wide range of materials and objects, including balloons. The installations shown in the present exhibition were originally created for spaces in Kitakyushu (1999), Sakura (2001), and New Delhi (2007). Sukenari invests these works with a new meaning by placing them in a site different both in time and place from those for which they were originally produced.

Masanori Sukenari, *a King and I #1*, 2001, nylon, ventilator
(Photo: Tadasu Yamamoto)

Kei TAKEMURA (b.1975)

Kei Takemura currently lives in Berlin. Working in the medium of embroidery on fine organdy, she is internationally known for her unique style combining subtlety and boldness. In her large-scale works Takemura depicts recollections of herself and people close to her, or reproduces rooms and other spaces in her thoughts. Another of her themes is broken objects such as vessels that have been restored. For the present exhibition a range of diverse works has been chosen including a photographic series and a large three-dimensional work composed of beds and other objects. Takemura is also scheduled to exhibit some works of performance art.



Kei Takemura, detail of *A.N.'s living room in Tokyo, premonition of earthquake*, 2005,
(Courtesy of the artist and Taka Ishii Gallery)