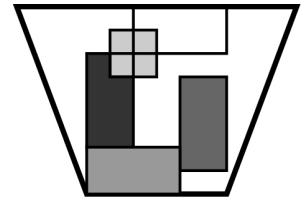


waiting for a cup of tea. - SPRING EXHIBITION -
a scene with tea by Keiko Sato



“a scene with tea”

Something has happened in a peaceful garden, glass was broken and scattered.

Yet you can see the tea inside the flasks, which creates a calm and welcome atmosphere. Violence and peace are present at the same time.

When the heat of the tea inside the flasks melts the wax and clay, it leaks onto the ground, spilling their contents. The different concepts of time claim the same space. The work shows and implies the direct and natural process of materials changing.

*The sun is shining, rain is falling, and plants are growing. Nature changes a scene with tea. Spring 2011
Keiko Sato*

“Waiting for a cup of tea.” is the contemporary art project in four seasons, located in the Japanese tea garden. The chosen Japanese artists started their career in Europe and live in the Netherlands and Germany. The theme of the project raises the issue of identity as well as transitions of how their cultural backgrounds and their experiences of living in Europe influence their art practices. And the project asks each artist to create a site specific work. The final exhibition, “a scene with tea” by Keiko Sato, will be exhibited in the garden in spring.

Drawing from her personal history, Sato makes works that are physically present, but which simultaneously describe the reality of life and society on different levels. Her works symbolize not only death and destruction, but also their opposites.

She ultimately succeeds in linking (culturally) different systems and methods, and using them alongside one another without having to reduce one to the stereotypical opposite of the other.

The results are scenes in which concrete experiences can lead to a wide range of metaphors and meanings without requiring prejudicial contrasts.

For the project [waiting for a cup of tea] she modifies one of her floor installations in the garden. The work shows us evidence of continuous flow; after ruin new life will follow in natural circulation. The work implies both destruction and creation.

Keiko Sato was born in Japan. After her experience of working as a midwife in Japan, she has studied fine art at The Gold Smith’s College in London and The Jan van Eyck Academy in Maastricht. She lives and works in the Netherlands (Nijmegen).

The recent solo exhibitions: [Gelders Balkon 10] Museum voor moderne kunst Arnhem, [reworking] Annie Gentils Gallery in Antwerp, [how to tell a story of my father] Galerie de Expeditie in Amsterdam.

The major group exhibitions: [Everyday life, another space] Kanagawa Art Foundation in Japan (Yokohama), [Because a fire was in my head] South London Gallery, De Appel art centre in Amsterdam. (www.keikosato.nl)

The Japanese tea garden is located in Oud-Charlois; a historical district in the south of Rotterdam, in the part of Japanese culture center Shofukan. The garden is designed to contain an authentic tea house. In this tradition, the design has to follow the sensitive philosophy of the tea ceremony. The tea house is not built yet and the construction will start in the summer in 2011. While we are waiting for a cup of tea, we can enjoy art!

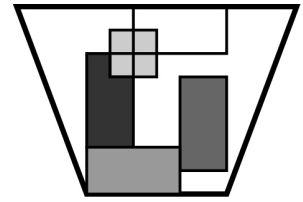
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Regarding the situation in Japan



A comment by keiko Sato

I come from Fukushima in Japan. March the 11th a disaster of unheard-of dimensions has happened in North Japan. I feel very sad about what has been going on there, and feel the urge to do something. This exhibition has been planned before this disaster, and I would like to do my best to make the installation, together with the curator, Yu Kuramoto.
To my relief my family and all close relatives are safe at the moment.
But I still feel sorrow that my homeland is damaged so much and people are suffering.
I hope the rescue will work out, the aftershock will stop and the problems with the nuclear power station will be solved as soon as possible.

15th March 2011, Nijmegen

A comment by Yu Kuramoto

This opportunity of working with the artist Keiko Sato has become very significant to me. We are facing the tragedy that happens in our homeland at the moment. A lot of emotions are surfacing in my mind, sadness, distress and even anger.
I remember I asked Keiko in February about her hometown because I knew she is from Fukushima, where also my mother was born and grew up. I loved to talk about this to Keiko and this area of Japan. Now, we are talking about a very difficult situation there. I remember there is a well-known cherry blossom tree in the area, and there are many visitors every year. Perhaps it will be quiet this year, but it will be as beautiful in full blossom as it has always been.
I want to believe the blossoms will show us hope.

At the exhibition, we would like to ask you to make a small donation for Japan; drinks will be charged at the opening and the donation box will be set up at Shofukan during the exhibition.

Organizer, curator of the exhibition Yu Kuramoto and Stichting Shofukan

18th March 2011, Rotterdam