



Exhibition venue

The Picton Reading Room
Liverpool Central Library
William Brown Street
Liverpool L3 8EW

Exhibition dates

3 July to
21 September 2014

Opening Times

Mon–Fri 9:00–20:00
Sat 9:00–17:00
Sun 10:00–17:00

White Rainbow

47 Mortimer Street
London W1W 8HJ
United Kingdom

white-rainbow.co.uk

Press and RSVP

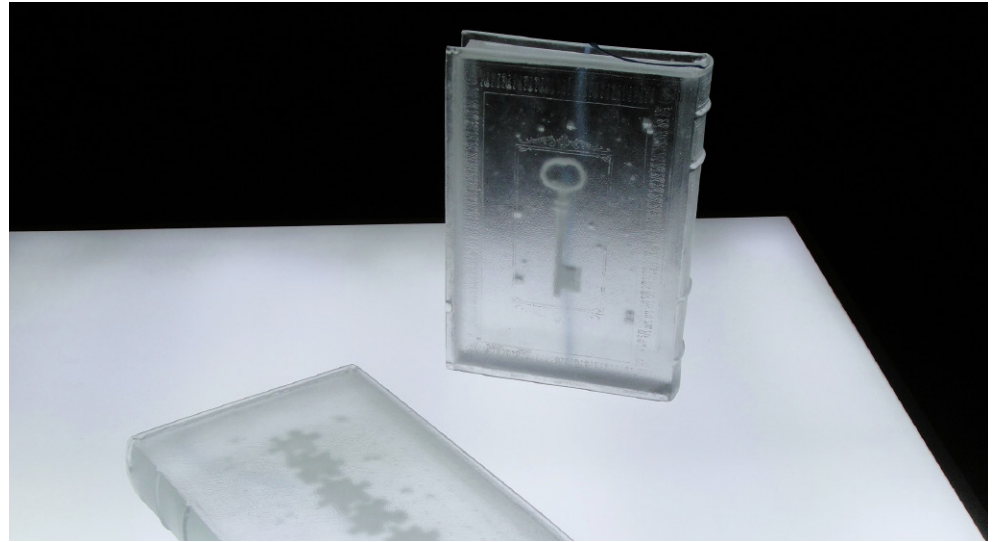
info@white-rainbow.co.uk

Image: Aiko Miyanaga
book -key- / book -puzzle-, 2013
Mixed media

© Aiko Miyanaga
Courtesy Mizuma Art Gallery

Strata: slumbering on the shore

Aiko Miyanaga



White Rainbow, a new gallery specialising in contemporary Japanese art opening this autumn in London's West End, is pleased to present its first project: an off-site exhibition of new work by Aiko Miyanaga for the Liverpool Central Library. The exhibition will open in the library's Picton Reading Room during the Liverpool Biennial 2014.

Miyanaga (born in 1974 in Kyoto) is known for her site-specific installations: using ephemeral materials such as salt and naphthalene, her practice is often concerned with the processes of transition. Miyanaga's works transform when they are exposed to the air, physically dissolving and challenging the temporality of the present. Through an array of media that may seem delicate – thin strings of crystallised salt, the sounds of ceramic glass cracking – Miyanaga contrasts material resilience with nature in flux; her work reflects on our being and surroundings.

In Liverpool, Miyanaga will produce a series of cast naphthalene objects encapsulated in resin, mostly keys and books which recur throughout her work and, for this exhibition, have been found and collected in the UK. Naphthalene is a volatile compound which sublimates and re-solidifies to release itself from the resin – its objects do not simply vanish, instead they are altered by the conditions of temperature and humidity and are ultimately replaced by the air in the library, and even the breath of the visitors. Some of the pieces will have a limited airflow, holding them in a stable state as they lie dormant for their moments to be integrated into reading, whilst some will be allowed to sublimate.

Bubbles are purposefully let into the resin, capturing the atmosphere of the space in which the object was cast: each sculptural piece incorporates layers of time. Miyanaga's perspective on the library is more than a collection of words, books or a representation of history; she values the indefinable and the traces of thoughts. Incorporating the library's historic magnifying glass, the exhibition allows the viewer to read through these strata of the present.

Miyanaga's work connects with a larger whole, a stage in the continuous cycle of the elements – it is an apparatus that asks us to pause, to look beyond the present and to wonder with serendipity.

white rainbow



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Notes to editors

Aiko Miyanaga (born in 1974 in Kyoto) graduated from Graduate School of Fine Arts, Tokyo University of the Arts in 2008 and is a Visiting Scholar at the University of Kyoto Art and Design. Her notable exhibitions include: *Sapporo International Art Festival 2014*, (Sapporo, 2014); *House*, Mizuma Art Gallery (Tokyo, 2013); *Aiko Miyanaga: Nakasora – The reason for eternity*, The National Museum of Art (Osaka, 2012); *Beginning of the landscapes*, Mizuma Art Gallery (Tokyo, 2011); *Aichi Triennale 2010*, Aichi Arts Center (Nagoya, 2010), *Mirage of Water* at Shiseido Art Egg (Tokyo, 2009). She received the grand prize of the Nissan Art Award 2013, Japan; The Gotoh Memorial Foundation Newcomer's Art Prize; and The Creative Tradition Prize by Japan Arts Foundation, Japan, 2011; winner of the Best Young Artist Award by ShContemporary 09 – Discoveries, China.

Liverpool Central Library and Archive provides a world-class service in a magnificent building located in the cultural quarter of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The historic sections of the building dating back to the 1860s have recently been extensively restored and fully opened to the public for the first time. The new-build sections include a dramatic atrium, high quality visitor facilities, access to extensive library and archive collections, free access to computers and wi-fi, a state-of-the-art repository for the archives and special collections which date back to the 13th century, and a conservation studio.

White Rainbow is a new gallery specialising in contemporary art from Japan that will open this autumn on Mortimer Street, London W1. Exhibiting artists, both established and emerging, who are recognised in Japan but often unknown in the UK, White Rainbow will act as a platform to develop the education and appreciation of Japanese art through exhibitions, events and projects.

In addition to the Liverpool Central Library show, the gallery will present new work by Aiko Miyanaga for its opening exhibition in October.