
White Rainbow

47 Mortimer Street
London W1W 8HR
United Kingdom

white-rainbow.co.uk

Exhibition dates

11 February to
11 April 2014

Opening Times

Mon–Fri 12:00–18:00
Saturday 12:00–17:00

Private view

Tuesday 10 February
18:00–20:00

Artist's Talk

18:30, Monday 9 February
Banqueting Hall,
Chelsea College of Art

Talk organised in partnership
with the Japan Foundation and
Chelsea College of Art,
chaired by Simon Grant

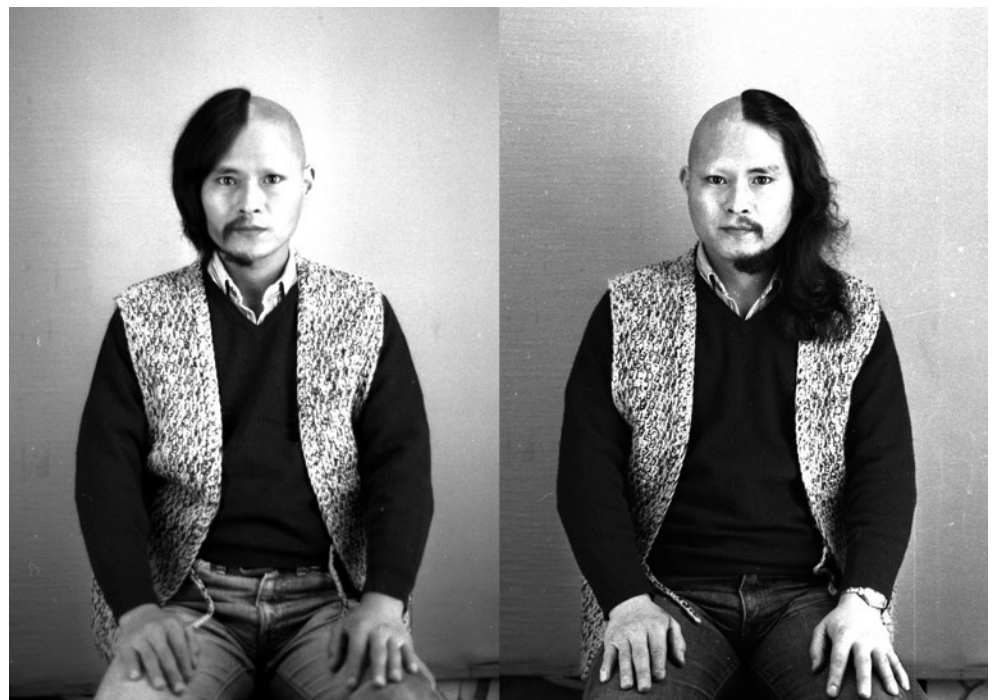
Booking is essential:
event@jpf.org.uk

Press

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Curated by Kodama Kanazawa,
independent curator

Chu Enoki : Enoki Chu



White Rainbow is pleased to present Chu Enoki's first solo show in Europe. A seminal figure in contemporary Japanese art, Enoki's work has influenced younger artists such as Takashi Murakami and Keiji Uematsu. Since the millennium, Enoki has received increasing acclaim and is now considered one of the most significant artists working in Japan, yet he is still not widely recognised internationally. This exhibition will show the variety of his practice from pioneering performance pieces of the 1970s, which react to the societal upheavals of post-war Japan, to the later sculptural works made with deactivated guns and cannons.

Chu Enoki (b.1944) began his artistic career in the 1960s with no formal art education. Just after the war, when he was still a child, Enoki would go to the forest and find used gun cartridges to melt, and would re-shape the metal. When he left school at the age of 16 he began using skills learnt working for his relatives' factory in Kobe. In his twenties he formed Japan Kobe Zero, a collective that staged happenings and interventions in public spaces, which he remained in until 1976.

A highlight of this exhibition will be a photographic record of the pioneering performance piece *Going to Hungary with HANGARI* (1977). Inspired by Marcel Duchamp's act of shaving a star shape into the hair of his head, Enoki made this piece when he travelled to Hungary after his departure from the Japan Kobe Zero group. A play on words (in Japanese the word *hangari* means 'half-shaved'), Enoki shaved all hair from the right side of his body, and was stopped by police numerous times due to his appearance. Enoki returned to Hungary four years later with the left half of his body shaved. The exhibition also presents Chu Enoki's exquisite, previously unseen drawings.



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White Rainbow will present two examples of Chu Enoki's work with de-activated weapons. *AK-47/AR-15* (2000–03) is a series of sculptures of Kalashnikov and Colt guns. The individual elements are more than twice the weight of the real guns and by uniting American Colts with Russian Kalashnikovs the work inevitably references the Cold War. Once envisaged as an ongoing series, Enoki abandoned creating the objects on the commencement of the Iraq War in 2003. Following the constant reminders of the fear of war, and the justification for it in the media, Enoki commented 'the actual event transcended my work'.

In addition, *Salute C2H2* (2009) will be on display, one of a series of life-size cannon replicas that the artist has created throughout his career. Attracting attention in the media and from the police, Enoki had to endure an official investigation, after which he received a permit from the Tokyo police agency allowing him to use the cannons as an art project. Today he still uses the works for performances at exhibitions, art events and even wedding ceremonies, where he has been known to fire flowers from them.

After the millennium and his retirement from the metal factory, Enoki received increasing recognition for his work. Although his reputation was already established, several major shows since 2004 have brought him to a wider audience, with the major Japanese survey show *Roppongi Crossing* (Mori Art Museum, 2007), the dialogue show, *Gyu and Chu*, (Toyota Municipal Museum, 2007) and *Enoki Chu: Unleashing the Museum*, (Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art, 2011) consolidating his presence as a significant figure in contemporary Japanese art.

For more information or press images please contact:
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Notes to editors

Kodama Kanazawa is an independent curator currently based in London. Notable exhibitions include *Being-in-the-Wired-World* (2013), a retrospective show of Yuichi Yokoyama, and *I am depicting time: Complete records of Neo Manga* (2010), among others. She has previously worked for Contemporary Art Museum, Kumamoto (2001–6) and Kawasaki City Museum (2006–13), and published the book *Manga to myujiamu ga deau toki* [When manga meets at a museum] (2009). She was awarded the Fellowship of Overseas Programme, the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan (2011). Kanazawa's professional career has developed alongside a reconsideration by Japanese art, education and cultural institutions of existing models of practice. Recently her research has expanded to re-reading contemporary Japanese art, developed in reaction to the discordant modernisation of the twentieth century and the geopolitical relationship with East Asian contemporary art.