

VENICEPROJECTS

o, 1 and visions **personal exhibiton of Hitoshi Kuriyama**

Venice / from 18 June to 1 August 2010
Venice Projects / dorsoduro 868, 30123 Venezia

Before the summer break, the new gallery Venice Projects will close their exhibition program with *o, 1 and Visions*, a personal show of Hitoshi Kuriyama, formerly an archivist at the Japanese Aerospace Agency, and today a 31-year-old emerging artist.

His work considers and examines the paradoxical dialogue between such diametrically opposed concepts as "life vs. death", "creation vs. destruction", "presence vs. absence" and considers from an artistic and scientific point of view their affinity through the equation $0 = 1$.

His curiosity about the dynamics governing matter and the universe and about the philosophical and metaphysical aspects of existence, have led the artist to choose light as his preferred medium for artistic creations.

Light as a metaphor for life.

Light as transformation of matter from one state to another, as the sublimation of energy in life. After all, what is life, if not the transformation of the body or the soul into something else?

Whatever one's belief – religion, philosophy or science – as Lavoisier said, "Nothing is created, nothing is destroyed, but everything is transformed".

Almost certainly, Kuriyama's best known works are the poetic tracks of light caught by the surface of photographic paper, clouds of colour that remind us of the true nature that is below the surface of things. The artist finds another example of transition, reminding us that "the end is not the end", in the evolution of a supernova: the final explosion of a star does not correspond to its death, but rather to the dispersal into the universe of an immense amount of energy that will be the source of new life.

Through his work, fluorescent lights and LEDs become vital energies that bring to life the darkness of the universe in an irregular and unpredictable sequence. The darkness that seems empty and lifeless to our eyes is actually teeming with presences, as perceived by his nocturnal photographs.

Or as in the work *o = 1 vacuum*, with which Kuriyama attempted to show an absolute void, complete nothingness, introducing in the observer the dilemma of the equation, to be=not to be? $0 = 1$?

The incredible poetry of Japanese imagery, which transforms even the driest material into a romantic vision, remains however an explanation of everything. For Kuriyama, "the cherry blossoms that fall and fade in spring and the fireworks that burst into light and then vanish into the darkness of summer" are two sides of the same coin, an equivalent representation of our ephemeral existence.

Hitoshi Kuriyama was born in 1979 in Hyogo Prefecture, Japan. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Osaka and specialized in music and intermedia arts at the University of Tokyo. He worked for some time as an archivist at the Japanese Aerospace Agency.

Since 2006, he has worked with several emerging galleries in Japan and, since 2010, has been working with Venice Projects, through which he took part in the New York Armory Show, one of the most prestigious exhibitions of contemporary art.

Venice Projects promotes internationally recognized contemporary artists as well as young emerging ones, who share an interest in experimenting with materials and using them in innovative and unexplored contexts. In particular, it is interested in those who either occasionally or regularly use glass as a medium of contemporary expression. Venice Projects develops initiatives with a high cultural content and broad international scope by working together with public and private institutions. Through cultural programs and site-specific projects, it creates interesting opportunities for dialogue and experimentation related to the use of glass in contemporary art. The gallery opened officially in Switzerland in 2007 but moved permanently to Venice in 2010.

INFORMATION:

Exhibition: o, 1 and Visions / **Artist:** Hitoshi Kuriyama

Location: Venice Projects, Dorsoduro 868, 30123 Venice / **Duration:** 18 June – 1 August 2010

Opening by invitation only: 18 June, 6 p.m. **Opening hours:** Daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.