

For Immediate Release

10 June 2024

KATSUNOBU YAGUCHI “AOTENJO-SAJIKI” AT THE WASHINGTON SITE

From 19 July to 24 August 2024, Katsunobu Yaguchi (b.1978, Japan) will be holding *Aotenjo-Sajiki*, a solo show at The Washington Site in Mito City, Japan. This is a three-part event comprising: an art show that explores Yaguchi’s expansive body of work produced over the past 16 years at The Washington Site, a video screening, and a never-before-presented theatrical piece titled *Nonsense People*. The art show features a selection of works ranging from sculpture, drawing and photography, including pieces exhibited at Paris Photo in 2017 and LISTE Art Fair Basel in 2018, which will be displayed in Japan for the first time.

Launched by Yaguchi in 2008, The Washington Site has achieved several remarkable transformations. At the beginning it was an old abandoned wooden house, scheduled for demolition. Yaguchi converted the house into a café, calling it Café Washington, where he created a series of community events such as the Washington Festival, and produced and distributed *The Washington Newspaper*, while also running the café. The house finally had to be pulled down in 2013, when Yaguchi took on the entire demolition work himself. He was able to preserve the ground floor exterior walls, setting up an alternative outdoor space for presenting a series of experimental theatre pieces and video works. He also renovated and refurbished a house next door to the demolition site, and in 2018 opened Café New Washington and his own atelier.

In 2024 the Washington Site is now undergoing a further and final transformation, and facing closure. This is the context for the forthcoming show, which celebrates Yaguchi’s creation of this space and the ideas it has generated. The broad range of works included in the show represent the culmination of the artist’s long-term endeavour, dedication and commitment. His video work *Savage Construction* is a documentary that chronicles the demolition process of Café Washington and the reconstruction of the outdoor space and Café New Washington. The theatre piece *Nonsense People* is scheduled to play for two days – Friday, 16 August and Saturday, 17, at 7.10 p.m. The art show and the screening of *Savage Construction* are on Thursdays to Saturdays, from 5 to 9 p.m., and the screening starts at 7.10 p.m. Admission prices are listed below.

Nonsense People (Doors open 6.30 p.m.)

¥1800 pre-sale at Ticket Pia (P-Code: 527363)

¥2000 cash only at the door

Art show and video screening

¥1000 multiple-entries pass, cash only at the door

For more information about *Aotenjo-Sajiki*, email aotenjo@washingtown.jp or visit online at <https://washingtown.jp>

On X (formerly Twitter) follow @washingtown_jp and Instagram [@the_washingtown_site](https://www.instagram.com/the_washingtown_site)

About Katsunobu Yaguchi

Yaguchi graduated with an MA in Drawing at Camberwell College of Arts, London, UK in 2004. He has been inspired by the interaction between body and space, often incorporating humour in his works. He has worked across a broad range of disciplines and media, including social practice, site-specific installation, performance, sculpture, film and video. From 2004 to 2008, he lived in Europe, presenting a number of improvised performance pieces in abandoned buildings and public spaces. After returning to Japan in 2008, he opened Café Washington in an old abandoned house in Mito City. Although the house was pulled down in 2013, it continued to serve as the wellspring of Yaguchi’s creativity. He had a solo exhibition at Paris Photo in 2017 and LISTE Art Fair Basel in 2018. Since 2023, he has expanded his practice by opening Michinoku Café Washington in Mizusawa City, Iwate.

To view his artworks, visit the website at www.katsunobuyaguchi.com



【Images】

1. Nonsense People (theatrical piece)



Keiko Ogane, 2010, photo: Hiroya Ichikawa



Katsunobu Yaguchi, 2016 photo: Kozo Kaneda



The Washingtowntown Site (West side), 2024

2. Savage Construction (video screening)



The Washingtowntown Site (East side), 2024



Savage Construction (still images), 2013-2024

3. WASHINGTON DOCUMENTARIES 2008-2024 (Art Exhibition)



WASHINGTON DOCUMENTARIES, 2017
installation view at Prism sector, Paris Photo, Grand Palais, Paris, France



Remnants' Replay, 2018
colloptype print on Washi paper



Untitled (Beautiful Mountain), 2017-2024
wood chips and nails

【Inquiries regarding interviews and press】

The Washingtowntown Site / Keiko Ogane Gallery

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