

TEZUKAYAMA GALLERY | 2022.9.16Fri.-10.15Sat.
Viewing Room



タツヒコ | Tatsuhiko, 2022

タムラサトル | Tamura Satoru | ワニがまわる理由は、聞かないでほしい | Don't Ask Why the Crocodiles Spin

We are pleased to announce that we are co-hosting the solo exhibition Spinning Crocodiles by Satoru Tamura, who is based in Tochigi Prefecture with MAKI Gallery.

At this exhibition, continuing from his solo exhibition at The National Art Center Tokyo this June, we will focus on the Spin Crocodile series that he has been creating for almost 30 years. More than 1,000 crocodiles are going to spin at two venues, Minamihorie, Osaka and Omotesando, Tokyo, and an explosion of colors and movements will wrap up the audience with unrealistic dynamism. Despite the fact that Tamura's crocodiles are electronic machines, they have their own unique warmth and characteristic that come from him making these works by his own hands, one by one, and have unique names.

This will be the opportunity that will bring together the Tamura's crocodile from old works to his newest works that could have been said to be his origin as an artist who has been creating works with the concept that diminish the meaning and purpose of the work itself.

{Artist Statement}

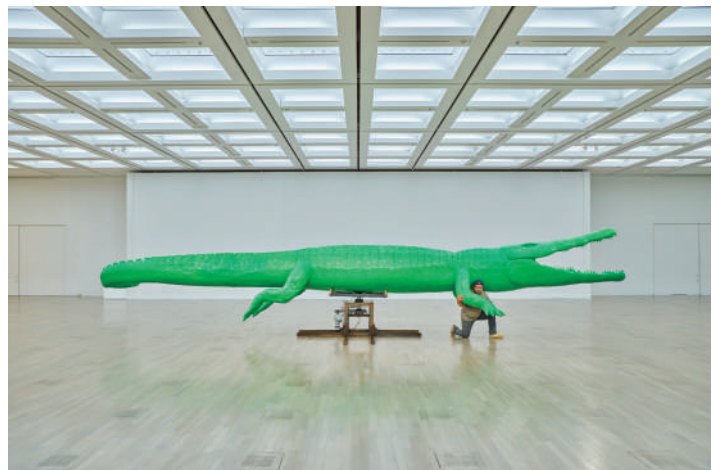
Don't ask why crocodiles spin.

In the fall of my third year at university, I had the assignment to create "art equipment using electricity." Unfamiliar with electricity and no experience in the field, I was at a loss. The night before I was supposed to announce my plan, I decided to go to bed thinking whatever I envision first thing in the morning would be what I was going to make. The next morning, for some reason, it was an image of spinning crocodiles that popped up in my head. I didn't know why but I decided that was it. I made a 4.5-meter crocodile spinning at 30 rpm (in 1994), and it was so beyond my comprehension that I was intensely excited, as if I had encountered something completely alien, although it was me that created it. It was then that I first became really conscious about becoming a creator.

After that, I continued my creative activity for several years, thinking about the meaning of why "crocodiles spin," until I finally realized that it was not the "spinning crocodiles" that was meaningful, but that this mysterious situation where "crocodiles are spinning, and I don't know why" is the essence of the work.

There is no answer to the question, "Why do crocodiles spin?" I would like you to take this big question home with you.

Satoru Tamura



*1"Spinning Crocodiles," The National Art Center viewing Photo by Koza Kaneda

□ Biography

Tamura Satoru

1972 Born in Tochigi Prefecture

1995 Graduated from University of Tsukuba, School of Art and Design Mixed Media and Plastic Arts

2011 Nihon University College of Art Department of Design Part-time Lecturer (to the present)

2015 Utsunomiya Media-Arts College Department of Visual Design Part-time Lecturer (to the present)

Main Solo Exhibitions

2022 "Spinning Crocodiles," | The National Art Center, Tokyo

2021 "Tamura Satoru TOKYO machine," | GINZA TSUTAYA BOOKS, Tokyo

2019 "Artist In School 2019 Tamura Satoru meets Kawaguchi Municipal Maekawahigashi Elementary School,
<We Are Spinning Crocodiles> / Lecturer's Exhibition <KAWAGUCHI Machine>," | ATLIA, Kawaguchi Art Gallery, Saitama

"Domain of Art 22 Tamura Satoru Exhibition Wall to Wall," Saitama-city Plaza North (North Gallery), Saitama

2017 "0-9," TEZUKAYAMA GALLERY, Osaka

2014 "LOVE MACHINE," TEZUKAYAMA GALLERY, Osaka

"Satoru Tamura Wonderful in Mid-Summer," Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Fine Arts, Tochigi

2010 "Catch and Release," Art Center Ongoing, Tokyo

"OYAMA Machine," Kurumaya Museum of Art, Oyama, Tochigi

Main Group Exhibitions

2021 "Connect #1," MAKI Gallery / Tennoz, Tokyo

2019 "Machines with a Heart again," BankART Station+BankART SILK, Kanagawa

2017 "Thunder and Arts: Light / Electricity / God," Gunma Museum of Art, Gunma

"Non-traditional Imagination," DYNASTY GALLERY, Taipei

"INTERNATIONAL LIGHT ART AWARD 2017," Centre for International Light Art, Unna, Germany

2016 "Busan Biennale 2016," Busan Museum of Art / Kiswire Factory, Busan, Korea

2014 "The Artists of the Taro Award II," Taro Okamoto Museum of Art, Kawasaki, Kanagawa

"THE MIRROR: Hold the Mirror up to nature," Nagoya Chamber of Commerce, Tokyo

2013 "Aichi Triennale 2013 Curatorial Competition," Choja-machi Site, Aichi

"Museum of Children+Adults+Summer with Arts," Museum of Modern Art, Gunma

2012 "HOOLS," ZACHETA NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, Warsaw, Poland

"Excessive expressions," Sapporo Odori 500-m Underground Walkway Gallery, Hokkaido

"Children's museum in summer vacation - Connect with Todoroki," Kawasaki City Museum, Kanagawa

"THE QUEST FOR LIGHT AND DARKNESS," Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Fine Arts, Tochigi

"Roppongi Art Night," Roppongi Hills and more, Tokyo

2008 "Liverpool Biennial 2008 'Pop Up' Curated and commission by Jump Ship Rat,"
| Huskisson Monument, St James' Gardens, Liverpool, U.K.

2007 "CONSTRUCTIONS OF NATURE," Upplands Museum, Upplands, Sweden

2005 "The Art of Breathing in the World: Art and Respiration,"
Kawamura Memorial DIC Museum of Art / Sakura City Museum of Art, Chiba

2003 "First Steps: Emerging Artists from Japan," P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, New York, U.S.A.

Exhibition Information

“Don't ask why crocodiles spin.”

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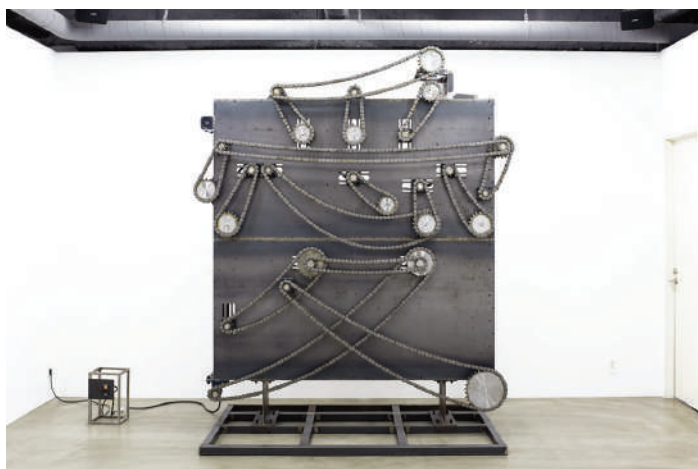
Tamura Satoru

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• TEZUKAYAMA GALLERY - VIEWING ROOM
OPEN: Tue. - Sat. | 12:00 - 19:00
CLOSED: Sun • Mon • Holiday

• MAKI Gallery / Omotesando, Tokyo
OPEN: Tue. - Sat. | 11:30 - 19:00
CLOSED: Sun • Mon

※Please note that MAKI Gallery will be held at a different date.



Contact

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