

## Yutaka Matsuzawa

### Overview

Yutaka Matsuzawa was born February 2, 1922 and grew up in Shimosuwa, Nagano in mountainous central Japan. He studied architecture from 1943–1946 at Waseda University in Tokyo, but gave it up to return home and focus on poetry and art. From 1955 to 1957, he stayed in the United States on a Fulbright Fellowship as well as a Japan Society fellowship, where he studied philosophy and religion at Columbia University in New York.

Matsuzawa developed his own eclectic philosophy of “*conceptualism*” (what would eventually be known as conceptual art). In its first phase, from 1957–1964, Matsuzawa created surrealist works based on his “*Theory of Psi*” based on his interpretation of parapsychology. In his second phase from 1964 onward, Matsuzawa reacted against the materialism of his earlier works and installations, and created a new anti-materialist art - art that existed with few or no objects as part of it. Matsuzawa's idea was to encourage viewers to imagine art in their own mind's eye. His new form of art often consisted of absences - for example, a photo with part of it cut out or blanked. He also created “*emissions*” to be placed in a landscape, such as during his 1964 exhibition “*Independent '64 in the Wilderness*”.

Matsuzawa died on October 15, 2006.

### Selected Exhibitions and Performances

- 2020 *Yutaka Matsuzawa: Towards Quantum Art*, John Young Museum of Art, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, USA
- 2019 *Yutaka Matsuzawa*, Midway Contemporary Art, Minneapolis, USA  
*Yutaka Matsuzawa: Co-curated by Alan Longino and Reiko Tomii Originated by Yale Union*, Portland, Oregon, Nonaka-Hill, Los Angeles, USA  
*Yutaka Matsuzawa*, Yale Union, Oregon, USA
- 2017 *From Nirvana to Catastrophe: Matsuzawa Yutaka and his 'Commune in Imaginary Space*, OTA FINE ARTS, Tokyo, Japan
- 2016 *Aru Hyogen*, Chino City Museum of Art, Nagano, Japan
- 2015 *Under Seabed Mandala*, Brigitte March International Contemporary Art, Stuttgart, Germa
- 2014 *Yokohama Triennale*, Yokohama Museum of Art, Kanagawa, Japan  
*Begin with Vanishment*, MISA SHIN GALLERY, Tokyo, Japan
- 2013 *Anti-Academy*, John Hansard Gallery, Southampton, UK  
*Rereading Yutaka Matsuzawa*, Museum Haus Kasuya, Yokosuka, Japan  
*Antigravity*, Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, Toyota, Japan  
*Beyond Corrupted Eye Akumulatory 2 Gallery, 1972-1990*, Museum of Contemporary Art in Krakow, Krakow, Poland
- 2012 *Capturing time*, Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Hiroshima, Japan
- 2011 *The Concept Sublime: 35 Years Brigitte March Gallery*, Brigitte March International Contemporary Art, Stuttgart, Germany  
*Sculpture In So Many Words: Text Pieces 1960-75*, ZieherSmith, New York, USA

## Yutaka Matsuzawa

Selected Exhibitions  
and Performances

- 2010 *Tracks of Art*, Chino City Museum of Art, Chino, Japan  
*Der erste Impuls – Skizzen – Zeichnungen – 1958 – 2010*, Brigitte March International Contemporary Art, Stuttgart, Germany
- 2009 *Silent*, Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Hiroshima, Japan  
*Hommage à Yutaka Matsuzawa – Installation / Joseph Kosuth – Installation*, Brigitte March International Contemporary Art, Stuttgart, Germany
- 2008 *PERFORMING THE CITY – Kunst Aktionismus im Stadt Raum 60er und 70er Jahre – Lothringer13*, Städtische Kunsthalle München, Munich, Germany  
*Into the Atomic Sunshine – Post War Art under Japanese Peace*, The Puffin Room, New York, USA
- 2004 *IN BED, Images from a Vital Stage*, Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, Toyota, Japan  
*Vanishment and Future : Works of Yutaka Matsuzawa and other works selected by him*, Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Hiroshima, Japan
- 2003 *Yu Mist Ho*, Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, Toyota, Japan
- 2002 *Slanting House/Statements by artists in Japan since 9.11*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan  
*Eighty Years Problem - Genmei Kouan*, Museum haus Kasuya, Yokosuka, Japan
- 2001 *Century City*, Tate Modern, London, England
- 1999 *Global Conceptualisme : Points of Origin, 1950s-1980s*, Queens Museum of Art, New York, USA
- 1998 *Yutaka Matsuzawa*, Komagane Kogen Art Museum, Komagane, Japan
- 1997 *To spiritualism Yutaka Matsuzawa 1954-1997*, Saito Memorial Kawaguchi Museum of Contemporary Art, Kawaguchi, Japan
- 1995 *Quantum Art Manifesto*, Museum Haus Kasuya, Yokosuka, Japan
- 1994 *Yutaka Matsuzawa memento mori*, Yamaguchi Prefectural Art Museum, Yamaguchi, Japan
- 1993 *Yutaka Matsuzawa : Under Seabed Mandala in BRIGHT LIGHT*, Temporary Contemporary-Zeitgenössische Kunst an einem Ort auf Zeit, Schloss Presteneck, Stein am Kocher, Stadt Neuenstadt, opening Manfred Schneckenburger (director of documenta 6 and 8 Kassel, curated and realized by Brigitte March Gallery, Stuttgart, Germany
- 1992 *Yutaka Matsuzawa : Eshiki-Ron Kasaya in FORCE SIGHT*, Temporary Contemporary-Zeitgenössische Kunst an einem Ort auf Zeit, Schloss Presteneck, Stein am Kocher, Stadt Neuenstadt, opening Jean-Baptiste Joly, Akademie Schloss Solitude, curated and realized by Brigitte March Gallery, Stuttgart, Germany
- 1991 *Yutaka Matsuzawa : Nothing Streamer, (Psi Pilgrim II)*, No Places
- 1990 *Yutaka Matsuzawa : New Pieces, in Art Meets Science and Spirituality in a Changing Economy (A.M.S.S.)*, Fodor-Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
*Yutaka Matsuzawa : Vanishing Streamer, Nine Places, (Psi Pilgrim II)*, San Fransisco, U.S.A.
- 1989 *Concept Art curated and organized by Brigitte March Gallery (Eshiki-Ron Kasaya)*, Stuttgart, Germany, in cooperation with Stalke Gallery,  
*Yutaka Matsuzawa : Vanishing Streamer, (Psi Pilgrim)*, Nine Places, Akademie Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart

## Yutaka Matsuzawa

### Selected Exhibitions and Performances

- 1989 *Yutaka Matsuzawa : Vanishing Streamer, (Psi Pilgrim II)*, Old Student House, Helsinki, Finland  
*Yutaka Matsuzawa : Vanishing Streamer, (Psi Pilgrim II)*, Konsthogskolan, Stockholm, Sweden  
*Yutaka Matsuzawa : Vanishing Streamer, (Psi Pilgrim II)*, Nine Places, San Fransisco, U.S.A.
- 1988 *Yutaka Matsuzawa : Eshiki-Ron On „Kasaya“ IIIIX*, in Gabelung with Kazuo Katase, Kunstverein Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg, Germany  
*Yutaka Matsuzawa : Under Water ; Under Fire and After Man, (Psi Pilgrim II)*, Nine Places, Berlin, Germany  
*Yutaka Matsuzawa : Quantum Art Manifesto, Berlin-Tokyo-Exchange*, Wewerka Gallery, Berlin  
*Yutaka Matsuzawa : Vanishing Streamer, (Psi Pilgrim II)*, Nine Places, Copenhagen, Denmark  
 in Concept Art curated and organized by Brigitt March Gallery, Stuttgart (catalogue)
- 1987 *Solitude Echos-Realisierte Projekte von Schloss Solitude-Pläne und Projekt von 1986* (Solitude Echos-Realized Projects of Solitude Castle 1986) curated and organized by Brigitte March Gallery, Stuttgart in the Space of Kunstverein Ludwigsburg e.v., Germany  
*Yutaka Matsuzawa : After Man, (Psi Pilgrim I)*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Fransisco, U.S.A.  
*Yutaka Matsuzawa : Under Water and Under Fire, (Psi Pilgrim II)*, Museo Arte Contemporaneo, Madrid, Spain
- 1986 *Yutaka Matsuzawa : Water & Fire, in Apocalypse in Contemporary Art - From The Death of Saoul*, Yokohama Civic Art Gallery, Yokohama, Japan  
*Yutaka Matsuzawa : After Man, in Apocalypse in Contemporary Art, 22nd Artists Today, exhibition*, Yokohama Shimin Gallery, Yokohama Schloss Solitude-Pläne und Projekte (Castle of Solitude-Plans and Projects), Brigitte March Gallery, Stuttgart, Germany, (catalog)  
 Solo exhibition Brigitte March Gallery, Stuttgart, Under Seabed Mandala (Performance) Civic Art Gallery, Yokohama, Japan  
*Yutaka Matsuzawa : Vanishing Streamer, (Psi Pilgrim I)*, in Japon des Avant- Gardes, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France  
*Yutaka Matsuzawa : Under Water, (Psi Pilgrim I)*, Art Com, San Francisco, U.S.A.
- 1985 *Yutaka Matsuzawa : Under Water, (Psi Pilgrim I)*, performance, Königsplatz, show in Prozess und Konstruktion 1985 in München, Künstlerwerkstätten, Lothringenstraße 13 (Process and Construction 1985 in Munich, Artist Workshop, Lothringerstraße 13), Munich, International Workshop Project organized by ‚Archives of Contemporary Thought Lodz‘ and Brigitte March Gallery, Stuttgart, in cooperation with Landeshauptstadt München Kulturreferat, Germany - Opening Manfred Schneckenburger (Former Director of Documenta Kassel 6 and 8 ; All Artworks were donated by the Artists to the City of Munich care of Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus, Munich, (dokumentation Dr. Barbara Wörwag, Stuttgart) Art for Peace, Hamburg  
*Japan Ushimado International Art Festival*  
*The Japanese Avant-Garde 1945-1965*, Oxford  
*Yutaka Matsuzawa, Nine Mandalas*, Brigitte March Gallery, Stuttgart, Germany

## Yutaka Matsuzawa

Selected Exhibitions  
and Performances

- 1984 Performances at NSW Art Museum in Sidney, on the ice at Lake Suwa, Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy  
Christian Snow ABCD Gallery, Paris  
*Yutaka Matsuzawa, FURK ' ART 84 : Under Water and Vanishing Streamer, (Psi Pilgrim I)*, curated by Marc Hostettler, Neuchâtel, Switzerland  
*Directions in Contemporary Art - The 1970's and After* at Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Art, Tokyo  
*Japan International Art Festival* at Ushimado in Ushimado, Okayama Prefecture  
*Yutaka Matsuzawa : Under Water and Vanishing Streamer, (Psi Pilgrim I)*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia  
*Yutaka Matsuzawa, Swan Song Mandala, (Psi Pilgrim I)*, Artestudio, Ponte Nosa (B.G.)  
*Yutaka Matsuzawa : Eshiki-Ron On „Kasaya" I, Paris-Tokyo-Exchange*, ABCD Gallery
- 1983 *Yutaka Matsuzawa's Psi Box, limited Edition*, nine different media from Zokeisha - in *Directions in Contemporary Art - The 1960's* at the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan
- 1982 *Yutaka Matsuzawa, Vanishing Mandala, (Psi Pilgrim I)*, peace art action and performance, Lake Ikeda in Kyushu, Lake Suwa in Nagano, and the Atomic Bomb Dome in Hiroshima  
*Solo exhibition* at Okazaki Tamako Gallery, repeated annually in 1983, 1984, 1985, and 1986
- 1981 *Yutaka Matsuzawa, Vanishing Mandala, (Psi Pilgrim I)*, Katia Pissalo, Gallery, Paris, France
- 1979 Permanent member of Academia Tiberina in Rome in recognition of pioneering role in conceptual art Inscription of *vanishing* message on *World Foundation Stone for Art* in Mittelburg, the Netherlands the following year 1980
- 1977 *Yutaka Matsuzawa : The Chamber of Nine Meditations*, Sao Paulo Biennale, award winner, prize in Catastrophe Art, Sao Paulo, Brazil
- 1976 *Venice Biennale*, Venice, Italy  
*Seven Italian Artists and Seven Japanese Artists*, Italy Culture Center, Tokyo
- 1974 *Catastrophe Art*, Centro de Arte y Comunicación, CAYA, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
*Concept of Art Insurrection* to the world
- 1972 Nagano Prefecture Shinano Art Museum, Nagano, Japan  
*Documenta 5*, Kassel
- 1971 *Sonsbeek '71*, Arnhem, NL (with Carl André, Joseph Beuys, Daniel Buren, Christo and Jeanne Claude, Walter de Maria, Dan Graham, Donald Judd, On Kawara,, Sol LeWitt etc.) Travel to England, the Netherlands  
Announced concept of *World Revolt* to the world  
Built tree house *Meditation Platform*
- 1970 *Exhibition of My Death by invitation of Mainichi*, Japan International Art Exhibition Concept Art Exhibit, Im Tachispiet Gallery, Innsbruck  
*1970 Summer Exhibition*, Art and Project Gallery, Amsterdam

## Yutaka Matsuzawa

### Selected Exhibitions and Performances

- 1970 *Contemporary Japanese Artists*, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York City, NY  
*Participation in international exhibitions expands greatly from this year on 10th Tokyo Biennale, Between Man and Matter*, Tokyo, Japan  
*Nirvana For The Final Art*, Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art, Kyoto, Japan
- 1966 Yutaka Matsuzawa, *Vanishing of Matter 1966*, at Modern Art Center of Japan Naiqua Gallery, Tokyo, Japan  
Contemporary Art Festival Saikai, Osaka, Japan
- 1965 *Gifu Indépendant Art Festival*, Gifu, Japan
- 1964 In June 4, revelation to *get rid of objects !* - start of conceptual art
- 1963 *Yutaka Matsuzawa, Solo Exhibition with Psi*, Aoki Gallery, Tokyo
- 1960 Participation in *Development of Surreal Painting* exhibition and, in 1961, the *Experiments in Modern Art* exhibition at the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
- 1958 Exhibition of *Psi* series at Yomiuri Independent Exhibition, Tokyo
- 1953 *5th Yomiuri Independent Exhibition*, Tokyo, Japan  
*13th Bijyutsu Bunka Art Association Exhibition*, Japan
- 1952 *4th Yomiuri Independent Exhibition*, Tokyo, Japan  
*12th Bijyutsu Bunka Art Association Exhibition*, Japan