



SHOP@CAFE Christo / Hitomi Uchikura

Café d'Art at Hara Museum ARC

August 21 (Friday) – November 3 (Tuesday/national holiday), 2020

10:00 am – 4:30 pm



SHOP@CAFE is a continuing series of small exhibits that showcase art and specialty goods that embellish daily life under the catchphrase "Living with Art." For this 10th installment, we are featuring signed offset lithographs by the art world giant Christo who passed away at the age of 84 on May 31, and various small pieces on the theme of light, beautifully created by Hitomi Uchikura, an artist previously based in Paris and Berlin. Visitors will find 10 artworks by Christo from the Hara Museum Collection in the exhibition *The Look of Hope -- Selections from the Hara Museum Collection* now on display in the contemporary galleries, and work by Uchikura in the exhibition *A Trio of Masters — Eitoku, Tan'yu and Okyo* on view in the Kankai Pavilion.

Christo

Christo was born in Bulgaria in 1935. In 1958, he met Jeanne-Claude, who was born in Paris on the same day as Christo. Pursuing every project from then on together, she would be an irreplaceable partner in all things public and private. Early in his career, he wrapped sundry items like bottles and cans, and began attracting attention for work consisting of stacked oil barrels. After moving to New York in 1964, Christo began making wrapped art with things on a much larger scale like buildings and nature, as well as large-scale works made with materials other than fabric. He went on to complete such projects as *Running Fence* (California, 1976), *Surrounded Islands* (Florida, 1983), *The Umbrellas, Japan-USA* (California and Ibaraki, 1991), *Wrapped Reichstag* (Berlin, 1995), *The Gates* (New York, 2005) and other massive projects that involved local people, governments and the natural environment. Christo and Jeanne-Claude claimed their one and only goal was "joy and beauty" in the projects that they pursued, all of which existed for only a limited time, from a few days to a few weeks, before disappearing. In 1983, Christo held *Christo: Wrapped Walk Ways* and gave several lectures at the Hara Museum. In 1990, he held *Christo: Surrounded Islands* at Hara Museum ARC. Christo passed away on May 31, 2020.

Hitomi Uchikura

Born in Kagoshima prefecture in 1956, Hitomi Uchikura studied Japanese painting at Tama Art University, receiving her MFA there in 1982. In 1985, she was selected as a participant in the *Hara Annual V* exhibition (at the Hara Museum), then considered a gateway to success for contemporary artists, and in 2003-2004 was dispatched to France by the Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs as part of its Program of Overseas Study for Upcoming Artists. She continued her art activities afterwards while dividing her time between Japan and Europe. Her major solo exhibitions include *LUMIÈRE* (Space Culture Bertin Poirée, Paris, 2006), *LUMIÈRE* (Japanese-German Center Berlin, 2012), *Hitomi Uchikura* (Galerie DUTKO, Paris, 2013), *LUMIÈRE* (Semjon Contemporary, Berlin, 2018) and *LUMIÈRE* (Shun Art Gallery, Shanghai, 2015). Her major group exhibitions include *Quest for Light and Darkness* (Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Art, 2012), *Art for Connection* (Kirishima Open-Air Museum, Kagoshima, 2013) and *Licht und Schatten* (Wasser Gallery, Berlin, 2017). Her work appeared in *Kankai Pavilion Opening Exhibition – Beyond Time, Beyond Space* at Hara Museum ARC in 2008 and in *The Hara Museum Collection at 35* at the Hara Museum in 2014. She lives in Nasu, Tochigi prefecture.



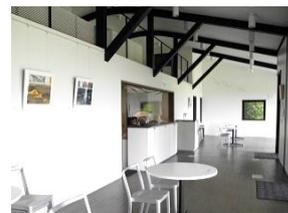
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1, 2 Works by Hitomi Uchikura 3 Lithograph by Christo 4 SHOP@CAFE inside the Cafe d'Art