

## **Title of Exhibition : Linguistic Atlas**

The Exhibition of “Linguistic Atlas” is composed of works related to language and my works involve the participation of others. In many cases, participants are left to their own creations, which become part of my own work’s source.

The participants mainly make use of language as a means of expressing their intention, emotion, and perception.

In recent years, I have been employing onomatopoeia, the linguistic expression that imitates sound, as the central theme of works in my practice. The French word onomatopée comes from the ancient Greek word ὀνοματοποιία, connoting “the creation of words” and I believe that anyone can participate in such a creation process. The purpose of my activities is to bring out the latent potential within participants to create “sounds” with their own language, and in order to get the maximum result, I often leave the process of imitating sounds to the participants. Through my practice, working collectively with people from different linguistic backgrounds, I attempt to make sounds into palpable forms. I hope that my practice will create a field where people realize that the perceptions of sound can differ based on their personal experiences and cultural backgrounds.

In this exhibition, along with the works about onomatopoeia mentioned above, other works will focus also on “written” and/or “spoken” words extracted from everyday conversation and printed matter. With these words, I seek to develop new works that evoke the historical context or social phenomena reflective of our present.

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The title “Linguistic Atlas” refers to a linguistic distribution table of the world. It will also be a clue towards understanding the world situation.

An ethnic group or ethnicity is defined as a category of people who identify with each other based on cultural features. Language is one such feature; we can glimpse the course of our history till now by the present usage of the language in each region or country.

The current world situation is chaotic, due to the complex relationship between countries, and ethnic and religious differences. It is important for us to consider and share languages and cultures that others and we have cultivated.

Through the concept of multilingual and multicultural coexistence as an exhibition theme, I wish to create a new relationship among us. It is one where regardless of minorities, social superiority or inferiority, there is an acceptance of cultural differences and value for each other.

## **The dubbing happenings –Mirror–**

2015 / Illustration of magazine, acrylic sheets, one-way mirror sheet, glass, acrylic mirror sheets, frame

The writings are the primary feature of the work, and are based on fictional sounds produced by the illustrations beneath the mirror. The sounds are produced by leaving the “creation of words,” said to be the origin of the word onomatopoeia to speakers of various languages, and are represented by writings. The differences among the individual perspectives and linguistic sensitivities are present within these sounds, offering an expansive and diverse range of expressions rich in nuances, and sound effects bringing situations to life. The appearance of the work intertwines the notion of the mirror, which brings virtual images to mind, and the actual scenery reflected on the mirror’s surface, emphasizing the invisibility of sound that inherently, cannot be seen.

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## **Storyteller**

2015 / Mirror glass, magnifying mirrors, frame

The work refers to folklore and children’s stories passed down in writing or orally, and have been collected from various countries for folklore and linguistics research. By leaving the “creation of words,” said to be the origin of the word onomatopoeia, to speakers of various languages, the silent stories are dramatized by their sounds. The illusionary appearance of the mirrors are layered with the notion of the mirror, which brings to mind virtual images, emphasizing the invisible nature of sound that cannot be seen in reality.

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## **Statistical Machine Translation**

2015 / Book cover of “Rolf Torrings Abenteuer” , adhesive decorative foil, acrylic sheet, silver cardboard, frame

The primary feature of the work is the words, which are translations of titles of German novels, done by a free multilingual statistical machine translation service. By standardizing different linguistic systems into a “readable” phonetic display of Latin words, viewers can recognize the nuances of various languages. Furthermore, the blurring of the covers of adventure novels from the period of German colonialism implies that all languages are equal, regardless of the perceived superiority or inferiority of civilizations and cultures.

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## **Marvelous Catchphrase**

2016 / Textured acrylic sheet, cutting sheet, aluminum board, frame

Covered by a textured surface, “Marvelous Catchphrase” is a work that questions the authenticity of words in contemporary society.

## Title of Exhibition：言語地図

展覧会「Linguistic Atlas」は、他者の「参与」と「言葉」に関連した作品で構成しています。それらの作品は、多くの場合、他人に創作することを委ねています。そして、個々の意思・感情・知覚をアウトプットするための手段として言葉を引用したり、第三者の日常生活や慣習に焦点を当てたりしています。

近年の私の活動では、音を模倣した言葉の表現であるオノマトペを主体とし、その語源とも言われる「言葉を創造する」という誰にでも創作可能な表現を制作に携わる参加者に一任することで、彼ら自身の声や文字で「音」を創造するという自発的な潜在能力を引き出しています。そして、多角的な「音」の具体化を各言語話者と共同で試み、異なる音感覚を認識していくことを試みてきました。

今回の展示では、上記の作品と共に、日常会話の音声や印刷物から抽出した文字で、私たちの「今」を映し出している社会現象や歴史的なコンテキストを想起させる新たな作品展開も試みます。

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展覧会タイトルの「言語地図/Linguistic Atlas」とは、世界の言語分布表であると同時に、世界情勢を理解する手がかりにもなります。民族はいくつかの文化的特徴を基準として他と区別される共同体と定義されています。その基準のひとつに言葉があり、今日の各地域や国での使用状況から今までの歴史の経過が垣間みることができます。

民族や宗教の違い、国同士の複雑な関係によって混沌とする今日の世界状況の中、他者または自身の今まで培われてきた言葉や文化背景などを考察・共有することが重要です。そしてマイノリティや社会的優劣に関係なく、互いの文化的違いや価値を受け入れ、新たな関係性を創造することを目指す多言語（文化）共生の考え方を展覧会のテーマに掲げています。