

HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE

4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
COLLECTORS'  
CONTEMPORARY  
COLLABORATION



INTIMATE  
CURIOSITY  
-  
INVITATION TO  
JAPANESE  
COLLECTORS OF  
CONTEMPORARY  
ART



# Daisuke Miyatsu

宮津大輔

Featuring Artists

Cao Fei & Ou Ning

Chim ↑ Pom

Kwan Sheung Chi

Lu Yang

Daido Moriyama

Sutthirat Supaparinya

Keiichi Tanaami

Boonsri Tangtrongsin

Yang Fudong

Yu Cheng-Ta



Born in Tokyo, Daisuke Miyatsu is a typical office worker and well known as the "salaryman-collector". He had an opportunity when he was young to see an Andy Warhol exhibition, and that experience immediately changed his views on art. In college, artworks by Yayoi Kusama also spurred his passion for contemporary art, which led to his devotion to art collecting. When he first saw Kusama's work, he felt as if he had been an astronaut first encountering the space. Understandably, the first artwork that Miyatsu collected in 1994 was one created by Kusama.

To date, with twenty years of experience in the arts, Miyatsu has collected about 400 contemporary artworks, and the collection spans works created in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the 1950s, and recent years. Miyatsu has been collecting a wide range of artwork. The genres of his collection are quite diverse, including drawings, oil paintings, videos, installations, and performance and conceptual artworks. His collection is a reflection of the developmental pattern in contemporary art for the past half a century. Focusing on collecting videos and new media art works, especially those from Asian regions, Miyatsu thinks that some of the "invisible" things are quite important and it will become "visible" if we try to see them with our mind's eye. He is interested in artworks containing concepts like "overturning a preconception or a fixed idea in a bad way" or "being aware of overlooked things" or "widening and deepening the point of view for society".

"Collecting contemporary art pieces is not special and also not only for wealthy people." The collection by Daisuke Miyatsu is such a case in point. It is not his intention to collect new media art. He wants to collect great works by the budget he is able to afford. Miyatsu suggests that the prices of art pieces by young artists are reasonable and there is almost no fakery from primary galleries. In this sense, "low cost" and "no risk" are the major benefits of starting art collection. Nevertheless, Miyatsu has paid tremendous efforts to maintain his capability for collection. Living frugally, he had also taken on a part-time night-shift job for 5 years since he started collection. Therefore, his financial resources for collecting art are the product of his painstaking efforts to save bit by bit.

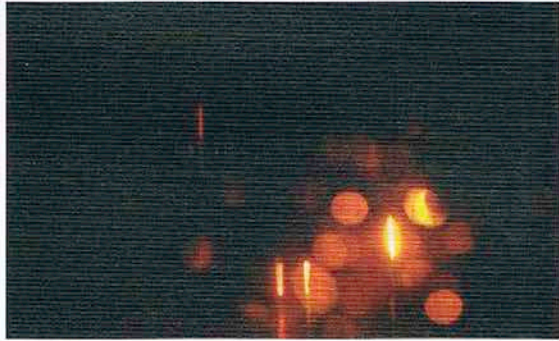
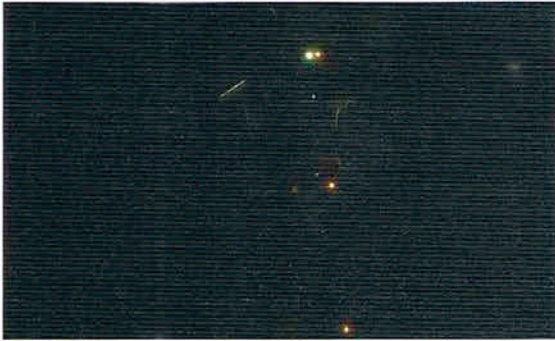
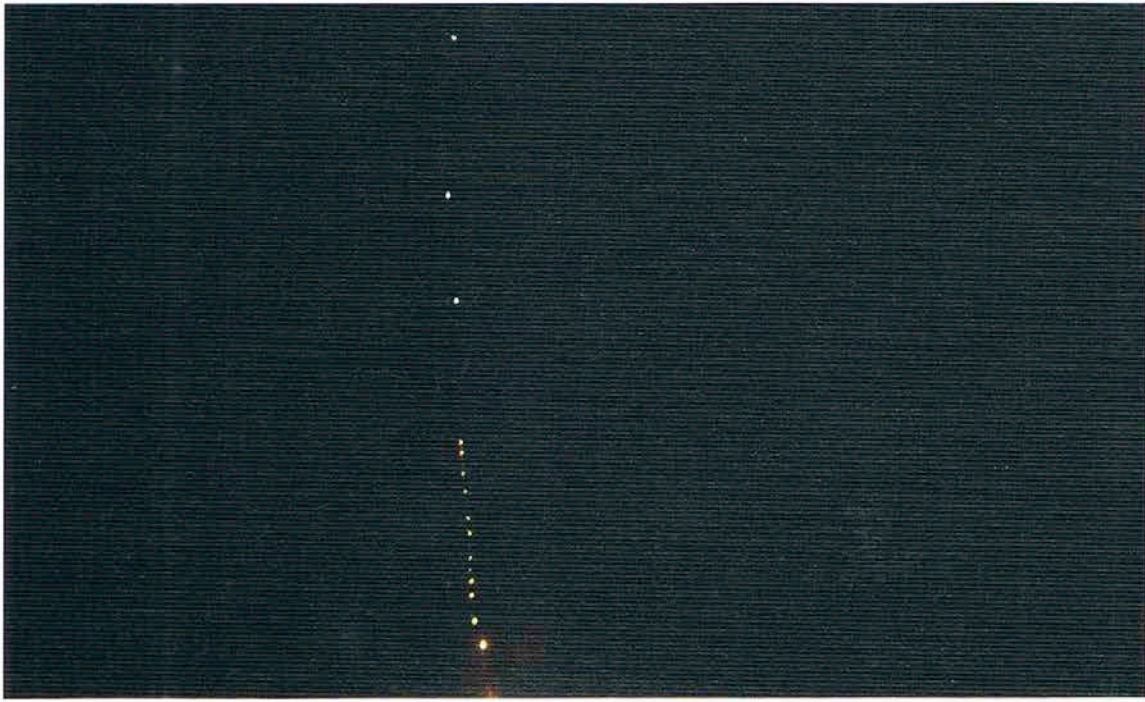
Nevertheless, Miyatsu's efforts are not limited to collecting artworks only. In 1999, in collaboration with Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster, Yayoi Kusama, Jung Yeondoo, Jun Yang, Shimabuku and so on, Miyatsu started the Dream House project - a personal residence filled with commissioned artworks. Regarding his primary purpose of "Dream House" project, Miyatsu wanted to live with art and make it domestic and intimate. Miyatsu's collection had been exhibited abroad over the years and his collection was in storages totally as usual. Therefore, making money for collection was always his big problem and building his house by art works would be the great solution to the problem. He proposed to every artist directly about the project except

the cost because every artist has already been his friends before this project. Miyatsu claims he cannot find such an open field as contemporary art and enjoys communicating with the artists face to face.

The collection of contemporary artworks Miyatsu has accumulated as well as his house which he built with the contribution of various artists have been extensively covered by the Japanese and international press. His collection has been exhibited in various places such as Tokyo Opera City's Art Gallery or the Daelim Museum of Contemporary Art in Seoul. In 2011, a great exhibition of his collection was organized at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei (MOCA, Taipei) in Taiwan, and in 2012 the BEXCO convention centre in Busan with the video and visual works.

Miyatsu is a visiting professor at the Kyoto University of Art and Design, and a writer, the author of "Gendai Art wo Kao!" (Let's buy contemporary art!), published in Japanese as part of the Shueisha Shinsho Collection, as well as in traditional Chinese and Korean. His latest publication includes Gendai Art Keizaigaku (Contemporary Art Economics), published by Kobunsha.





*Shooting Stars*  
Sutthirat Supaparinya

Single-channel video  
2010  
9'06"

Courtesy of Sutthirat Supaparinya