

PACE LONDON



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kohei Nawa

FORCE

9 – 19 September 2015

6 Burlington Gardens, London, W1S 3ET

Curated by Tamar Arnon and Eli Zagury

Private view: Tuesday, 8 September 2015, 6 – 8 pm

London—Pace London is pleased to present an exhibition of work by the Japanese artist Kohei Nawa. The exhibition will be staged at Pace London, 6 Burlington Gardens from 9 to 19 September 2015.

Nawa comes to London as part of *She Inspires Art*, an exclusive evening of installation, performance and fundraising on 16 September in support of Women for Women International's work with women in Nigeria and Syrian refugees in Iraq, for which he will be creating a major installation at Bonhams, New Bond St, open to the public on 15 and 16 September.

Moving fluidly between media, Nawa's work explores issues of science and digital culture while challenging viewers' sensory experiences. Interested in industrial mass-production, Nawa often works with synthetic compounds, using them to mediate between ideas of the real and the virtual, perception and illusion.

His exhibition at Pace will explore the idea of force, which he conceives as a set of invisible operations dictating the behaviour of materials. "Force in this sense refers to the gravity that exerts an influence on all things that exist in a space, the force that allows vegetation to grow up from the ground, and the force that enables slime mould to creep along a wall," Nawa writes. Presented on the first floor gallery, the exhibition will include drawings, sculptures and site-specific installations from four of Nawa's *Direction*, *Ether*, *Catalyst* and *Moment* series.

In his *Direction* paintings, Nawa pours black paint onto a vertically set canvas. He offsets the grain of the canvas on the stretcher by fifteen degrees, and then allows the paint to slowly drip down the face of the canvas, allowing the force of gravity to produce the lines of the painting. The repetition of this action creates a set of parallel stripes that cover the canvas. The relation between the points and the lines not only yields visual stimulation but also enhances the dynamic impression of the space as a whole entity. The speed of movement, direction and gravity resonate hereby inspiring sensibility.

His newest body of work, the *Moment* series similarly uses a two-dimensional plane to capture the forces of physics. Using a pendulum device, Nawa unleashes acrylic ink onto a paper surface, creating a swirling set of concentric circles and overarching lines. The orderly nature of the lines seems to contradict the haphazard nature of their making, yet Nawa's work forces viewers to consider the effects of air pressure, distance, and the motion of the pendulum as agents in making the work.

Gravity is the driving forces in his *Ether* series, which captures high-viscosity fluid into a solid state at the moment it is dripping downward. Appearing as a three-dimensional sculpture, the iterative forms of the droplets appear as an endless column and visualize the force of gravity while also creating a feeling of weightlessness.

The exhibition will include a site-specific wall work that is part of his Catalyst series. Like the Ether work, Nawa employs a fluid material in his Catalyst sculptures—in this case hot glue—to highlight the transition between liquid and material states. Building on the legacy of post-impressionism and process art, the Catalyst works are net-like sculpture drawn directly on the wall. The different dots and strands of glue accumulate into an almost biological form that seems to crawl across the wall.

In his trademark series Beads, Nawa utilises stuffed animals collected from auction websites that he covers with glass beads, polyurethane foam or prism sheets. These materials fragment the exoskeleton of the sculptures into PixCell—a portmanteau of pixel and cell that refers to the constitutional elements of biology and digital forms. These bead-like forms absorb texture of the object and its colour, abstracting the core animal form into image cells, staging a confluence of the real and the virtual while questioning the status of both terms.

NOTES TO EDITORS

KOHEI NAWA

Kohei Nawa (b. 1975, Osaka) lives and works in Kyoto, Japan. After a semester abroad at the Royal College of Art, London, he received a PhD in Fine Art Sculpture from the Kyoto City University of Arts (2003). In 2009, he founded the creative platform SANDWICH in Kyoto, thereafter serving as its director. Notable solo exhibitions include: *L_B_S*, Ginza Maison Hermès, Tokyo (2009); *Synthesis*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo (2011); and *SCULPTURE GARDEN*, Kirishima Open-air Art Museum, Kagoshima (2013). He has shown work in numerous international biennials and triennials including the 6th Asia Pacific Triennial, Brisbane (2009); 14th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh 2010, Dhaka (2010), where he won the grand prize; and Aichi Triennale 2013, Nagoya (2013). Nawa is a Professor of Graduate School / Art and Design Studies at the Kyoto University of Art and Design.

WOMEN FOR WOMEN INTERNATIONAL

Since 1993, Women for Women International have supported over 420,000 of the most socially-excluded women survivors of war in Iraq, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Kosovo; and our work has never been more pressing than it is today. With the rise of extremist groups like ISIS and Boko Haram, the women they serve live in some of the world's most dangerous places. Where extremism and conflict take root, the livelihoods, freedoms, and security of individuals suffer – and it is women and children who bear the brunt. Yet when given the tools, resources and knowledge to access livelihoods and protect their rights, women can literally transform their families, communities – and ultimately their nations. Through its 12-month programme, women learn about their rights, as well as key life skills. They also learn vocational and business skills to access livelihoods and break free from poverty. Communities are not, of course, made up of just women and because the whole community benefits when everyone in the community is involved, Women for Women International also engages men as men are powerful advocates for women's empowerment, breaking down prejudices and practices which prevent women from reaching their potential. More information: womenforwomen.org.uk

SHE INSPIRES ART

This September leading lights in the international art world, for the first time ever, are creating special one-of-a-kind pieces generously commissioned by Patrons for She Inspires Art, in support of Women for Women International's work with women in Northern Nigeria and Syrian refugee women in Northern Iraq.

Combining the power of installation and performance art, and involving a year of collaborations and exclusive events such as private studio views with artists, She Inspires Art is brought together by Chair Lady Alison Deighton and a dedicated high profile Honorary Committee with Artistic Directors/Curators Tamar Arnon and Eli Zagury.

Hosted at Bonhams' flagship saleroom in New Bond Street on 16th September, She Inspires Art is a unique, immersive event. A highlight of the event will be the involvement of internationally renowned artists such as **Kohei Nawa** and performance artists such as South African performance art duo **Nelisiwe Xaba** and **Mocke J Van Veuren** and **Amanda Coogan**. She Inspires Art will also feature a select live auction with highly collectable pieces by artists including **Etel Adnan**, **Fabienne Verdier**, **George Shaw**, **Idris Khan**, **Kevin Francis Gray**, **Massimo Izzo**, **Sevan Bıçakçı**, **Zaha Hadid** and **Zhu Jinshi**.

Art lovers unable to attend the event on 16th September will be able to join the auction and purchase one of these exciting one-of-a-kind pieces online from August and via phone on the night. See <http://www.womenforwomen.org.uk/ways-give/events/she-inspires-art> for announcements.

PACE

Pace is a leading contemporary art gallery representing many of the most significant international artists and estates of the 20th and 21st centuries. Founded by Arne Glimcher in Boston in 1960 and led by Marc Glimcher, Pace has been a constant, vital force in the art world and has introduced many renowned artists' work to the public for the first time. Pace has mounted more than 800 exhibitions, including scholarly ones that have subsequently travelled to museums, and published nearly 450 catalogues. Today Pace has nine locations worldwide: four in New York; two in London; one in Beijing, one in Hong Kong and a temporary space in Menlo Park, California. Pace London inaugurated its flagship gallery at 6 Burlington Gardens in 2012.

Pace London at 6 Burlington Gardens is open to the public Tuesday to Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. www.pacegallery.com/

###

For press inquiries, please contact Nicolas Smirnoff, nicolas@pacegallery.com / +44 203 206 7613

Follow Pace on Facebook (facebook.com/pacegallery), Twitter (twitter.com/pacegallery) and Instagram ([http://instagram.com/pacegallery](https://instagram.com/pacegallery))