

Press Release

Minoru Nomata

映遠 – Far Sights

12 January – 2 March 2024

White Cube Seoul

White Cube is pleased to present Japanese artist Minoru Nomata's first solo exhibition in Korea, marking the inaugural solo presentation at White Cube Seoul since opening in the Gangnam district in September 2023. Titled '映遠 – Far Sights', the exhibition features paintings and works on paper that are unified by a notion of the sublime, where the behemoth proportions of Nomata's architectures serve only to amplify the vastness of the surrounding landscape.

Born in Tokyo in 1955, over the past four decades Nomata has developed a lexicon of imaginary architectonic and topographical forms to create paintings that transcend specifics of time and place. Conveyed through the first part of the title '映遠', to mean 'reflecting distance' in Japanese, the artist envisions landscapes where vertiginous architectural forms stand in serene grandeur, emerging from low horizon lines that blur the frontier between Earth and the cosmos.

Growing up in an industrialised neighbourhood of central Tokyo, Nomata's work traces a history of urban landscape painting, from that of the 20th-century 'precisionist' painter Charles Sheeler and the Bauhaus luminary Lyonel Feininger, to the visual kinetics of Op Art and the fluid style of Symbolism and Art Deco. Influenced by the ambience of generative electronic music and the landscapes of retro-futuristic science fiction films and literature, his towering edifices appear to float or ascend from flat, desolated terrains, bathed in a theatrical, directional light.

The exhibition features works spanning over two decades of Nomata's practice, including the early 'Eastbound' paintings from the late 1990s, which draw from the prevailing influence of *Japonisme* and Eastern aesthetics. The 'Far Sights' series of Conté crayon drawings were created together within a modest studio space that Nomata parallels to the intimate confines of the *Chashitsu* – an architectural space designed to house Japanese tea ceremonies. Nomata found resonances between the infinite possibilities of the imagination and the notion of a vast cosmic expanse.

Similarly, Nomata continues to employ Old Master techniques, including strong chiaroscuro, in the 'Seeds' series, which he renders using colour pencil, pastel and charcoal on gessoed plywood panels inspired by Medieval Icons and Renaissance painting.

Visions of buildings, once demolished but persisting in memory, characterise the 'Rectangular Drawings' and the 'Ghost' series from the mid-2010s. Both depict towering structures inverted at

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their base, with intangible foundations evoking imagery reminiscent of floating fortresses or remnants of a dream.

Devoid of identifiable markers, Nomata's silent landscapes reveal diverse conditions: from nuclear ruination to cosmic infinitude, from the relentless glare of industrial light to the enduring waxing and waning of solar energy. Within these works, the mortal ambitions of human endeavour contend with the supreme boundlessness of an unknowable universe.

Minoru Nomata's '映遠 – Far Sights' is open at White Cube Seoul (6, Dosan-daero 45-gil) from 12 January to 2 March 2024.

For additional information, interview requests, or press images please contact:

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Notes to Editors:

- Minoru Nomata (b.1955) lives and works in Tokyo. He studied design at the Tokyo University of the Arts, graduating in 1979 before taking up a position in an advertising agency in the city. After five years Nomata left in order to focus on his painting practice, and in 1986 held his debut exhibition 'STILL – Quiet Garden' at the Sagacho Exhibit Space, an alternative gallery in Tokyo run by Kazuko Koike. Further solo exhibitions include Meguro Museum of Art, Tokyo (1993); Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery (2004); The Museum of Modern Art, Gunma, Japan (2010); De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea, UK (2022); and Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery (2023). Until recently, Nomata was a Professor at the Joshibi University of Art and Design in Tokyo.
- Situated in the heart of the bustling Gangnam-gu district, White Cube Seoul comprises of exhibition spaces, a private viewing room and offices spanning over 300m² (3,230 sq

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ft) and is led by the gallery's Korean Representative and Director Jini Yang, who joined in 2018.

Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday, from 10am to 6pm
Address: White Cube Seoul, 6, Dosan-daero 45-gil, Seoul

- White Cube's exhibition programme extends across locations in London, Hong Kong, Paris, New York, Seoul and online. Since its inception in 1993, the gallery has exhibited the work of many of the world's most highly acclaimed contemporary artists.
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