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Air de Paris is very pleased to announce SHIMABUKU's fifth solo show and MONICA MAJOLI's fourth solo show which openings will take place on March 21st, 2014.

**Opening : Friday 21 March, from 6 pm.
Until 10 May.**

Forthcoming:

- May 09 –12: Frieze, NY
- May 23 – July 18 : solo shows Lily Van Der Stokker, Ben Kinmont
- June 19 - 22: ArtBasel, Basel

SHIMABUKU
City in the Sea



Shimabuku, *City in the Sea*, 2013

Intrigued by his discovery of kuchiko dried sea cucumber ovaries, Shimabuku decided on a trip to Noto, Japan to see the delicacy being made. During his stay there he met women who work for hours cutting up sea cucumbers and men placing the light orange strips on wooden frames to dry. Making kuchiko is seen as a battle against the forces of nature. As part of *City in the Sea* a video and a sculpture showing the preparation process will be on show, and at the close of the exhibition a farewell tasting will be organised before the works continue on their way. Shimabuku's oeuvre hinges on specific encounters between people and the elements. Born in 1969 in Kobe, Japan's second-largest port, he is particularly interested in the sea: as it happens, the first of the two Chinese characters making up his family name means 'island'. *City in the Sea* also exists as a slide projection portraying a form of marine life suggesting a mysteriously engulfed city whose buildings are made of salt crystals. The artist was so struck by the regularity of their arrangement and their resemblance to the Pyramids that it became evident to him that this harmonious work of nature had influenced the architecture of our ancestors. *City in the Sea* works with memory, notably in the Super-8 film *Children Playing in the Sea*, in which the children of Noto are seen challenging the sea by defying the waves and throwing stones: moving moments that take us back to those distant, carefree times when the sea seemed like a dream. This dreamlike feeling pervades the exhibition, notably in *Stones with Code*, which transmutes simple fishing sinkers found on the Noto beaches into secret, magical bearers of fishermen's prayers; and *Fish Spin-drying Device*, an astute implement for doing exactly what its name says, made out of bicycle wheels that remind us of the one that stood in state in Marcel Duchamp's studio well before it entered the history of art¹. *City in the Sea* urges us to take the time to look at the world around us, especially with the work *Sea and Flowers*, inspired by the observation of a red flower floating among the waves just off the coast of Noto. Here we find Shimabuku wondering about where the flower came from, and how it got there, and deciding to illustrate its voyage by offering the sea petals without knowing if, someday, they will make a landfall somewhere. As we are well aware, though, it is not really the arrival that counts.

Shimabuku was born in 1969 in Kobe, he lives and works in Berlin. The Kunsthalle Bern and Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver will dedicate him a solo exhibition in 2014, his works have been recently exhibited at Ikon Gallery, Birmingham and 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa. His works have been acquired by the MNAM, Centre Pompidou, Paris.

¹ Marcel Duchamp, *Bicycle Wheel* (1913), Centre Pompidou, Paris.

SHIMABUKU

Born in 1969 in Kobé, lives and works in Berlin

Solo shows

(* publication)

2014

Flying Me, Kunsthalle Bern, Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver

City in the Sea, Air de Paris

2013

Something that Floats/ Something that Sinks, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

Shimabuku : Noto, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

Souvenir from Noto, Open Work, Stockholm (curated by Stefanie Hessler and Carsten Höller)

2011

Il vaut mieux éviter tout contact avec les formes de vie extra-terrestres, Centre International d'Art et du Paysage, île de Vassivière*

Sur l'eau, CAPC, Bordeaux

2010

Kaki and Tomato, Air de Paris, Paris

2008

Album, The Street-Whitechapel Art Gallery, London *

2007

Shimabuku's Fish & Chips (an event with Damian Ortega), DAAD Galerie, Berlin

2005

Catching octopus with seif-made ceramic pots, Air de Paris, Paris

From high in the sky to the bottom of the sea, Nogueras Blanchard, Barcelone

1999

Christmas in the Southern Hemisphere, Air de Paris, Paris

Group Shows

(* publication)

2014

Asking the Repentitas – Peneira & Sonhador – to remix my octopus works, Sheriff Station, Art Fair Paramount Ranch, Agoura Hills -USA

2013

How to Write I, Wien Lukatsch, Berlin -G

Re:emerge, Sharjah Biennial 11, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah - UAE

Le Pont, MAC Musée d'Art Contemporain, Marseilles -F

Aquatopia: The Imaginary of the Ocean Deep, Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham -UK

Aquatopia, Tate St.Ives, St. Ives -UK

2012

Le Mont Fuji n'existe pas, Le Plateau, FRAC Ile-de-France, Paris -F

Wide Open School, Hayward Gallery, London -UK

Food, Reflections on Mother Earth, Agriculture and Nutrition, Musée Ariana, Genève -S

2011

Impossible Community, Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Moscow -R

Our Magic Hour, Yokohama Triennale 2011, Yokohama -J

Kaza Ana/ Air Hole: Another Conceptualism from Asia, The National Museum of Art, Osaka –J

2010

Negotiations: The 2nd Today's Document 2010, Today Art Museum, Beijing -C

Arts and Cities, Aichi Triennale, Aichi -J

Reviews

2013

Art Forum, Août 2013, picks, Adrian Favell,

2012

Art Press 387, Mars 2012, Didier Arnaudet, p.24

Collections

MNAM, Centre Pompidou, Paris

Nouveau Musée national de Monaco, Monaco