

Daniel Arsham

My First Show in Japan, Year 2044

Sat 12 March - Sat 16 April, 2016

NANZUKA

NANZUKA is pleased to announce our upcoming exhibition of new works by American artist Daniel Arsham. The exhibition marks the artist's first solo presentation in Japan, and his second in Asia following his show at Galerie Perrotin in Hong Kong last autumn.

Arsham was born in 1980 in Ohio, United States, and currently lives and works in New York. His works are founded upon the concept of "Fictional Archaeology," and consist of a diverse variety of mediums ranging from sculpture, painting, installation, to performance. Arsham's work has been shown in numerous museums and international exhibitions throughout the world including the PS1 in New York, The Museum of Contemporary Art in Miami, The Athens Biennale in Athens, Greece, The New Museum In New York, Mills College Art Museum in Oakland, California and Carré d'Art de Nîmes, France. In recent years Arsham has also actively produced film works including a series of short films entitled, "Future Relic."

While constantly engaging in the repeated search and experimentation of new materials, Arsham embarks on a continuous pursuit for devices that serve to give birth to the imaginary. The artist's interrogation of the real and the imagined can be recognized from his appropriation of various materials in the sculptural works presented, including materials such as pyrite, selenite, volcanic ash, glass, obsidian, and hydrostone. What serves as a catalyst for Arsham's exploration of such materials, is his profound interest towards architecture and the environment (geology). From environments with eroded walls, stairs going to nowhere, to landscapes where nature overrides artificial structures, Arsham meticulously unveils spaces and moments that seemingly confuse and confound our expectations, resolving such experiences within the context of his work.

Arsham's works capture the future from an archaeological perspective, and thus invite the viewers on a journey through time. A corroded and decayed radio-cassette recorder and camera allow viewers to imagine the possibility of the various objects that are present around us to become nothing but fossilized artifacts in the distant future that lies a million years ahead. Alternatively, Arsham's work provokes us to think about our very own existence. Despite the obvious improbability of the situation, as we set our eyes on the sight of a fossilized human figure we cannot help but contemplate the ephemerality of existence and affirm our understanding that the future of the mankind is indeed not eternal.

The exhibition features sculptural works that represent the remnant traces of mankind, as well as an ensemble of modern artifacts consisting of an army of cameras, radios, and pilot helmets. In addition, the presentation includes a new series of blue paintings depicting the moon, marking Arsham's first experience of painting in colors achieved through wearing color corrective glasses as a consequence of his colorblind condition.

In addition to Arsham's artist book *FICTIONAL ARCHEOLOGY* published at the end of last year available to purchase at the opening, a T-shirt produced in correspondence to the exhibition as a collaborative project between the artist and *POGGYTHEMAN*, will be on sale at *UNITED ARROWS & SONS*.

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