

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REQUIEM FOR THE SUN: THE ART OF MONO-HA

February 25 - April 14, 2012

Opening reception: Saturday, February 25, 6-8pm

Blum & Poe is pleased to announce its forthcoming exhibition *Requiem for the Sun: The Art of Mono-ha*. This exhibition examines the postwar Japanese artistic phenomenon Mono-ha (School of Things), following the solo exhibition of Mono-ha's key ideologue, Lee Ufan at the gallery in January 2010. Representing an important art historical turning point, "Requiem for the Sun" refers to the attitude of aesthetic detachment and renewal of matter in response to the immanent loss of the object as a sun in Japanese postwar art practice. Included in the exhibition are works by Koji Enokura (1942-1995), Noriyuki Haraguchi (1946-), Susumu Koshimizu (1944-), Katsuhiko Narita (1944-1991), Nobuo Sekine (1942-), Kishio Suga (1944-), Jiro Takamatsu (1936-1998), Noboru Takayama (1944-), Lee Ufan (1936-), and Katsuro Yoshida (1943-1999).

Mono-ha's primary tenet explores the encounter between natural and industrial objects, such as glass, stones, steel plates, wood, cotton, light bulbs, leather, oil, wire and Japanese paper, in and of themselves arranged directly on the floor or in an outdoor field. Evident in their works is a tendency based not on the art historical recuperation of objects, but on maintaining an affective relationship between works and our surrounding environment. That is, the works operate as a process of perceiving a perpetually passing present that opens the materiality of the work beyond what is simply seen. These practices are linked to the cultural milieu of process and post-minimalist art apparent on an international level during the 1960s and 1970s. What distinguishes their work is the refined technique of repetition as a studied production of difference developed over time in each artist's practice.

The exhibition will show select key installations, works on paper, and photographs that unveil resonant concepts and artistic methods relative to the exhibition. Some themes include perceiving works as actions or events, experiments in topology and spatial continuity, visceral materiality, and the contingency of the body. While the art of Mono-ha has been the subject of exhibitions in Asia and Europe, it is virtually unknown in North America. *Requiem for the Sun: The Art of Mono-ha* will provide the audience with a critical introduction to this extremely significant work.

In conjunction with the exhibition, Blum & Poe will publish a 232-page catalog, which will include an essay with new scholarship by Mika Yoshitake, translations of artists' texts, a chronology of historical exhibitions with accompanying rare installation photographs, and new photography of the works installed at Blum & Poe. Also entitled *Requiem for the Sun: The Art of Mono-ha*, this exhibition catalog will be available May 2012 and has distribution through DAP/Distributed Art Publishers.

The University of Southern California Center for Japanese Religions and Culture will host a panel discussion, titled *Voices of Mono-ha Artists: Contemporary Art in Japan, Circa 1970*, Friday, February 24, 1:30-3:30 pm, held at the Doheny Memorial Library, Room 240. Organized in association with PoNJA-GenKon (a scholarly listserv for postwar Japanese art), the program consists of an introductory talk by Mika Yoshitake, followed by conversations with the Mono-ha artists moderated by contemporary Japanese art

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specialists. For further details about the panel discussion, please email:
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Please call or email the gallery for more information at [\(310\) 836-2062](tel:3108362062) or
info@blumandpoe.com.

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