

PRESS RELEASE

# LIFe IS STEEL FULL!

Tomohiro Kato exhibition

May25fri - June16sat, 2012

TEZUKAYAMA GALLERY



Tezukayama Gallery is delighted to present Tomohiro Kato's solo exhibition "Life is steelfull!".

Tomohiro Kato was born in Tokyo in 1981 and completed an MA course from the Tama Art University, after completion of the course, he started a career as an artist whilst working at a metal processing company in order to improve his skill working with metals. He is keen to use steel on his projects, constantly looking to challenge the perceptions and also to find new potential while working with this material.

Kato creates unconventional works revolving around steel. Either by framing a steel canvas or creating sculptures that mimic mass produced items such as a light bulb or a paintbrush, steel is his material of choice. He also dabs in performing arts, wearing a steel made tie with business suit whilst travelling unconcernedly on rush hour train in Tokyo, or posting a steel made postcard to any buyer of his work, it's simply stamped and sent by mail. All his works showcase "steel" and what it means for him as he sharply puts up a question to us about "material" or "material and society"

In his first solo exhibition at Tezukayama gallery, Tomohiro Kato will try to recreate a quintessential part of Japanese traditional culture, the tea ceremony.

Since witnessing the Tohoku great earthquake and its impact on society, Kato has become more conscious of Japan where he is from. The devastating earthquake actually brought back a new interest in traditional culture for Kato as he went back to study metal work at the university that he deliberately kept away from after graduating.

In this exhibition, Kato will build a steel made tea room at the gallery space including, "tokonoma (alcove), kakejiku (hanging scroll), a tea-set and even flower arrangements, all made of steel. All tea sets and furniture items at a tea-room are traditional crafts and make up the essential elements for a traditional tea-room. During the tea ceremony, the tea room is a condensed universal spiral and a moment there should be perpetuity.

The title of the exhibition "Life is steelfull" literally comes from Kato's life around steel, but also tries to give the audience an understanding of the exhibition. Picture yourself in a tea room where all the soil, trees and bamboo is replaced by steel. A view into the future perhaps? At the opening reception on the 26th of May, we will throw a tea party using a steel tea set by Kato. Looking forward to seeing you at Tezukayama Gallery!

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## Past works



"Radiation Soup" 2011



"steel gouache" 2011



"protective tie" 2007

### Lives and works in Tokyo

- 1981 Born in Tokyo, Japan
- 2004 TAMA ART University, B.F.A.
- 2006 TAMA ART University Graduate School, M.F.A.

### Awards

- 2008 Won a prize in "AMUSE ARTJAM 2008"
- 2010 Masamichi Katayama prize in "Geisai Taiwan#2"

### Solo exhibition

- 2008 "desolate world" / AISHO MIURA ARTS. Tokyo
- 2011 "Fe w" / Hermas gallery. Tokyo

### Group exhibition

- 2007 Pair of metalwork exhibition / gallery fannane. Tokyo  
ZAKU exhibition / Mott gallery. Tokyo
- 2008 Temptation of riquid age / Mott gallery. Tokyo  
AMUSE ARTJAM 2008 / The Museum of Kyoto
- 2009 IDENTITY London Tokyo / AISHO MIURA ARTS. Tokyo  
GEISAI #13 / Kaikai Kiki Miyoshi studio. Tokyo
- 2010 GEISAI #14 / Tokyo bigsite  
Density of Existence / Hermas gallery. Tokyo  
GEISAI TAIWAN #2
- 2011 GEISAI TAIWAN #2 winners group exhibition / Kaikai Kiki gallery Taipei. Taiwan  
ART TAIPEI / Taiwan  
"3 Dimension GALLERY ARTISTS" / TEZUKAYAMA GALLERY
- 2012 ART FAIR TOKYO

## Tomohiro Kato Solo Exhibition "LIFe IS STEEL FULL !"

Date : May 25, fri - June 16 sat  
Time : 11:00 - 19:00  
Close : Sunday, Monday  
Venue : TEZUKAYAMA GALLERY  
Yamazaki Bldg. 2F Minami-horie  
Nishi-ku, Osaka, Japan  
TEL +81.6.6534.3993  
E-mail info@tezukayama-g.com  
URL www.tezukayama-g.com

contents : steel made tea room  
other sculptures, steel canvas paintings  
contact : Kazuhide Miyashita(Mr), assistant director

\*Opening Reception starts May 26th 18:00  
Tea party in the steel tea room will be held.