

GALLERY4A

ASIA-AUSTRALIA ARTS CENTRE

181-187 Hay Street

SYDNEY NSW 2000

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Media release

EXHIBITION:

KOJI RYUI - *MOAI*

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HUSEYIN SAMI - *PAINTER I AM WHY NOT*

Exhibition dates: 30 April - 6 June 2009

Over the coming months, Gallery 4A presents a program that looks at the work of artists in their 30s to 40s to explore some of the generational shifts and dynamic changes occurring within contemporary Australian art, viewed from diverse Asian-Australian perspectives.

Koji Ryui and Huseyin Sami are both Sydney-based artists who have been making work for more than a decade. Their work encompasses performance, installation, painting and sculpture and their work has several points of similarity. Both are driven by a desire to question our rational expectation of what a painting or a sculpture is and how it operates as a work of art.

For their upcoming project at Gallery 4A, they have made new work that responds to the site and context of the gallery. The result is two large individual installation projects that will occupy both levels of the gallery. "Gallery 4A's program gives artists the opportunity to pursue projects of a larger-scale, which may have performative or collaborative elements. Huseyin Sami and Koji Ryui are two artists we have teamed together because of their interesting use of materials and the influence of performance in their work. There are visual similarities, yet they both have very different strategies which engages the relationship between art and the real world. Through their use of materials and process, they encourage us to view the world in completely different ways," says Aaron Seeto, Director of Gallery 4A.

Huseyin Sami's, *Painter I am why not* will include a new painting machine (Painting Machine No.5) from his ongoing series. Creating a space within a space, this large scale structure will resemble a production line for the construction of individual paintings. Throughout the exhibition new work will be made by Huseyin Sami and the painting machine, through a series of performative actions. Sami's *Painting Machine #5* becomes both a practical arena for activity and performance as well as an analytical environment to consider chance and control, harmony and deconstruction – and the role of the artist among this spectacle.

Koji Ryui's, *MOAI* is a new body of work which has as a starting point, the idea of portraiture shrouded in mystery. The exhibition takes its title from the monumental and enigmatic sculptures, of speculative origin, on Easter Island. Only partially resembling human faces, Ryui fuses light and simple gestures with ordinary everyday materials. Ryui's sculptures are abstract and playful. He seeks to animate the moment that something becomes recognizable in a similar way to hallucination or day dreaming. The work is composed from banal, mass-produced everyday materials such as foil, plastic bags, household mops, chosen by the artists for their paucity and ephemeral qualities.

Since graduating from Sydney College of the Arts in 2000 Huseyin Sami has exhibited extensively across Sydney, Greater Western Sydney and Australia. He was Highly Commended in the Helen Lempriere Travelling Art Scholarship exhibitions in 2002 and 2005.. In recent years he has completed several residencies in Sydney including Artspace, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Parramatta Artists Studio, and internationally at the Contemporary Arts Center, Japan.

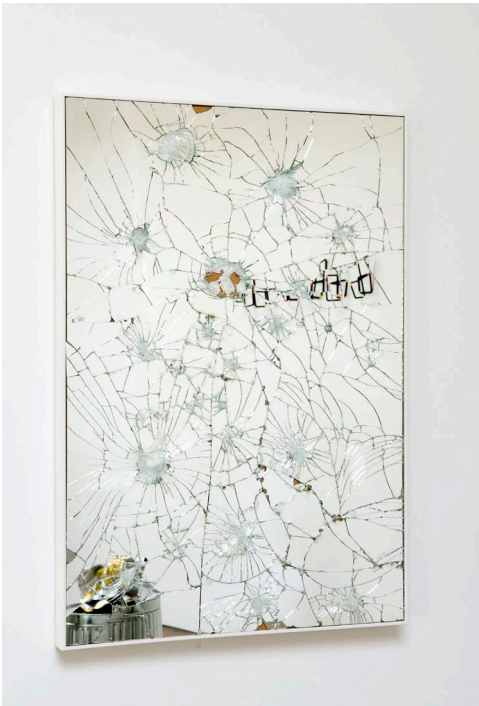
Born in Kyoto, Japan, Koji Ryui moved to Sydney in 1992. He is a graduate of the Sydney College of the Arts. Ryui has exhibited in a range of exhibitions and venues in Australia and New Zealand including The Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney; Artspace, Sydney; Firstdraft, Sydney; MOP Projects, Sydney; Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, Sydney; Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces Melbourne; and Michael Lett, Auckland, New Zealand. He was also curated into Primavera at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney in 2006.

There will be a closed performance of Huseyin Sami's Painting Machine #5 prior to the public opening, please contact the gallery if you are interested in photography opportunities for this event.

Contact Aaron Seeto (02) 9212 0380 or email info@4a.com.au for more program information, hi res images or media interviews.

AVAILABLE IMAGES

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[1]-Koji Ryui The Mona Lisa #3 2008 (detail) [2] Koji Ryui- Dr Mona Lisa's Factory #3 (Nuclear Explosion) 2008 galvanized steel bin, polystyrene, spakfilla, monosodium glutamate [3] Koji Ryui - Self Portrait Looking at the Work of Art 2008 galvanized steel bin,wood, mirror, resin, stickers. [4] Huseyin Sami Painting Machine. [5] Huseyin Sami - performance - painting machine All images are courtesy of the artist and Sarah Cottier Gallery, Sydney

MEDIA CONTACT

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EXHIBITION DETAILS

KOJI RYUI - MOAI

HUSEYIN SAMI - PAINTER I AM WHY NOT

Exhibition dates: 30 April - 6 June 2009

Opening: FRIDAY 8 May 2009, 6-8PM (please note this event falls after the exhibition is open to the public)

Related Events ARTISTS FLOORTALK, Saturday 16 May at 2pm

Gallery 4A Asia-Australia Arts Centre

181-187 Hay St

Sydney 2000

ph: 02 9212 0380

info@4a.com.au

www.4a.com.au

Tuesday - Saturday, 11am - 6pm.

Closed public holidays

FREE ADMISSION

ABOUT GALLERY 4A

Gallery 4A was founded in 1997 as an initiative of the Asian Australian Artists Association Inc. (4A, a non-profit organization established to present and promote the work of Asian-Australian artists and a greater understanding of diverse cultures through the arts.

Our exhibition program focuses on contemporary art practice. Our exhibition program is culturally diverse, and many of the projects and artists who exhibit here reflect this diversity. The exhibition program has played a significant role in the cultural development of this region. We also run regular public programs including video art screenings and artist talks.

GALLERY 4A provides a vital cross-cultural dialogue through an innovative and comprehensive program of exhibitions, conferences, seminars and workshops. Over the past 10 years we have exhibited over 300 artists from around Australia as well as from India, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, China, the USA, the UK and New Zealand.

The Asian Australian Artists Association is supported by



THE VISUAL ARTS AND CRAFT STRATEGY



The Asian Australian Artists Association is assisted by the NSW Government through Arts NSW



Australian Government



Gallery 4A is an initiative of the Asian Australian Artists Association Inc (4A). We gratefully acknowledge our Principal Patrons Geoff and Vicki Ainsworth; Daniel and Lyndell Droga and Dr Dick Quan; Patrons Richard Funston, John Lam-Po-Tang, Kerr and Judith Neilson; Benefactors Peter Talbot and Dr Gene and Brian Sherman AM and Friends Ari and Lisa Droga, Phillip Haw, David Droga, Richard and Margie Holden, VisAsia, Annika Droga-Susskind, Isabella and Sam Droga, Ann Lewis, Peter Fay, Yeehwan Yeoh and Matt Cox, Lianne Rossler, Brooke Aitken, Claire Armstrong and John Sharpe. The assistance of the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its funding and advisory body, the NSW Government through Arts NSW and the City of Sydney.