



## Okayama Art Summit Returns For Its Second Edition with Pierre Huyghe as Artistic Director

Open to the public from September 27 through November 24, 2019

### Artistic Director:

Pierre Huyghe

#### Artists:

- Tarek Atoui Matthew Barney Etienne Chambaud Paul Chan Ian Cheng Melissa Dubbin & Aaron S. Davidson John Gerrard Fabien Giraud & Raphaël Siboni Glass Bead
- Elizabeth Hénaff Eva L'Hoest Fernando Ortega Sean Raspet Lili Reynaud-Dewar Pamela Rosenkranz Tino Sehgal Mika Tajima

**September 18, 2019 (Okayama, Japan)** – This fall the triennial Okayama Art Summit will return under the artistic direction of French artist Pierre Huyghe. Open to the public from September 27 through November 24, the exhibition will be on view in the center of Okayama City and in a number of historic and cultural venues, including the building of

former Uchisange Elementary School, Tenjinyama Cultural Plaza of Okayama Prefecture, Okayama Orient Museum, Okayama Castle, and Hayashibara Museum of Art among others.

The second edition of the Summit builds on the rich historical legacy and cultural heritage of the city. Okayama sits within western Japan's Setouchi region, which is increasingly recognized as a cultural hub for such art attractions as the Ohara Museum of Art, the Naoshima "art island," and the popular contemporary art festival Setouchi Triennale, whose fourth edition will partly coincide with the Okayama Art Summit in September and October 2019.

In the crowded field of art biennales and triennales, Okayama Art Summit, whose inaugural edition in 2016 was directed by UK artist Liam Gillick, stands out as an experimential exhibition directed by internationally renowned artists. This year, Huyghe presents the Summit under the title "IF THE SNAKE," promising to challenge visitors to rethink what constitutes art exhibitions. "IF THE SNAKE" considers the exhibition a living entity, through which heterogeneous things, chemical and algorithmic processes, as well as different intelligent life forms navigate. The entity is an infant but complex system in formation, and the dynamic worlds proposed by the participating artists and their co-presence endlessly grow particular modes of uncertain and unpredictable continuity. The exhibition is just one in an infinite possibility, one hypothesis, of its existence.

For more information, please visit https://www.okayamaartsummit.jp/home\_en/.

#### Preview

Thursday, September 26, 2019 10:00–17:00

#### **Exhibition Dates**

Friday, September 27 to Sunday, November 24, 2019 (51 days) Closed: Mondays [except for October 14 (Monday, holiday) and November 4 (Monday, holiday) in which the following Tuesdays will be closed]

#### Venues

Former Uchisange Elementary School, Tenjinyama Cultural Plaza of Okayama Prefecture, Okayama Orient Museum, Okayama Castle, Hayashibara Museum of Art among others

#### Management structure

Organizer: Okayama Art Summit Executive Committee (Okayama City, Ishikawa Foundation, and Okayama Prefecture) Chairman: Masao Omori, Mayor of Okayama City Executive Producer: Yasuharu Ishikawa, President, Ishikawa Foundation Executive Director: Taro Nasu, Owner/Director, TARO NASU Artistic Director: Pierre Huyghe, Artist Public Program Director: Chieko Kinoshita, Associate Professor, Osaka University

#### **Pierre Huyghe**

Born in 1962, Paris. Lives in New York.

Huyghe's works often present themselves as complex systems characterised by a wide range of life forms, inanimate things and technologies. His constructed organisms combine not only biological, technological and fictional elements, they also produce an immersive, constantly changing environment, in which humans, animals and nonbeings learn, evolve and grow. In 2001, he received a Special Award from the Jury of the Venice Biennale. He was also awarded the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum's Hugo Boss Prize in 2002. In 2017, Huyghe was awarded the Nasher Prize for Sculpture. Recent major projects /solo exhibitions include "UUmwelt" at the Serpentine Gallery, London (2018), "After Alife Ahead" at Skulptur Projekte Münster (2017), "The Roof Garden Commission" at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (2015), "A Season Dedicated to Pierre Huyghe" at The Artist Institute, New York (2014). In 2013-2014, a major retrospective of Huyghe's work travelled from the Centre Pompidou, Paris to the Ludwig Museum, Cologne and to Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California. His work has also been featured in group exhibitions including "Tino Sehgal" at the Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2016), "Saltwater: A Theory of Thought Forms" at the 14th Istanbul Biennial (2015), "dOCUMENTA 13" in Kassel (2012) among others.

#### Media Contact

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# For inquiries regarding Okayama Art Summit 2019, please contact Okayama Art Summit Executive Committee Office

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