

## RYOJI IKEDA'S *DATA-VERSE 3* (2021) OPENS AT UNLIMITED, ART BASEL

20 September 2021 – Ryoji Ikeda's *data-verse 3* (2021) premiered today as a standalone artwork as part of Art Basel's Unlimited sector, the unique platform for large-scale projects that transcend the limitations of a traditional art-fair stand. Presented by Almine Rech and commissioned by Audemars Piguet Contemporary, the third and final variation of the artist's most complex project to date marks the conclusive chapter in his data-driven audio-visual research into nature that first began in the early 2000s.

Ryoji Ikeda is an electronic composer and visual artist who explores sound and light by means of mathematical precision and aesthetics. By experimenting with frequencies and scales difficult for the human ear and mind alone to comprehend, Ikeda renders the imperceptible through numerical systems and computer aesthetics. His long-term projects have taken a multiplicity of forms, from immersive live performances and audio-visual installations to books and CDs and have evolved over the years to encompass his data-driven research.

Ikeda considers the *data-verse* trilogy to be his ultimate project. The perfectly synchronised composition follows two decades of research and execution, during which the artist and his team rigorously processed, transcribed and transformed open-source scientific data from institutions including CERN, NASA and the Human Genome Project. The complete trilogy was commissioned by Audemars Piguet Contemporary in 2015 and consists of three state-of-the-art high definition DCI-4K video projections accompanied by a minimalist electronic soundtrack, *data-verse* is Ikeda's own hypnotic manifestation of the various dimensions of our world and immerses visitors in a cosmic journey from the microscopic to the human to the macroscopic.

*data-verse 1* premiered at the 58<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition, La Biennale de Venezia (11 May – 24 November 2019). *data-verse 1* and 2 were exhibited at Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg (7 December 2019 – 29 March 2020). The complete trilogy was exhibited at the centrepiece of *RYOJI IKEDA*, the largest exhibition of works by the artist to date in Europe, at 180 Studios in London curated and produced by The Vinyl Factory and Fact Magazine in collaboration with Audemars Piguet Contemporary (20 May – 18 September 2021).

*“data-verse is absolutely precise. I have created so many installations in my life, but this project is the ultimate one.”*

Ryoji Ikeda  
Artist

*“Ryoji Ikeda's installation-based works resound so closely with the foundations of the gallery's programme, engaging with the rich traditions of light and space as well as conceptual art. We are elated to present data-verse 3 (2021)*

*as part of Unlimited during Art Basel this year. It is such a  
transcendental work of art.”*

Almine Rech  
Founder, Almine Rech

*“We embarked on a very special journey with Ryoji when we  
commissioned data-verse in 2015. Each iteration of the work  
has captivated audiences globally and we are delighted that  
the third and final variation can be celebrated as part of such  
an important moment on the art world calendar—a true  
testament to Ryoji’s practice.”*

Denis Pernet  
Art Curator, Audemars Piguet Contemporary

*“Born in Le Brassus, raised around the world.”*

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Installation images available (as of 20 September) under:

<https://audemarspiguet.picturepark.com/Go/jq8U64eu>

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### About Ryoji Ikeda

Leading composer and visual artist Ryoji Ikeda explores the essential characteristics of sound and light by means of mathematical precision and aesthetics. By orchestrating sounds, visuals, materials, physics and mathematics, Ikeda goes beyond the conceptual to delve into extremes and infinities, testing the limits of human senses and digital technology. Ikeda's experimental work engages with frequencies and scales difficult for the human ear and mind to comprehend, visualising sounds and rendering the imperceptible through numerical systems and computer aesthetics. His long-term projects have taken a multiplicity of forms, from immersive live performances and audio-visual installations to books and CDs. They have evolved over the years to encompass the latest iterations of his data-driven research.

Ryoji Ikeda's work has been performed and exhibited in numerous venues worldwide, such as the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo, the Elektra Festival, DHC Art Foundation and Musée d'Art Contemporain (MAC) in Montreal, the Festival Grec and the Sonár in Barcelona, the Barbican Centre and The Vinyl Factory in London, the Carriageworks in Sydney, the MONA in Hobart, the

Ruhrtriennale in Germany, the Kyoto Experiment, the ACT Centre in Gwangju, the Singapore Art Science Museum, the Kunstverein in Hannover, the Pompidou Centre in Paris and Metz, the ZKM Centre for Art and Media in Karlsruhe, the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art in Moscow, Eye Film Museum Amsterdam and Onassis Cultural Centre in Athens, among others. Ikeda is the recipient of the 2001 Ars Electronica's Golden Nica Prize for the Digital Music Category, the 2012 Giga-Hertz Award in the category of Sound Art at ZKM in Germany and the 2014 Prix Ars Electronica Collide@CERN.

He is represented by Almine Rech (Paris, Brussels, London, New York and Shanghai) and TARO NASU (Tokyo). — [www.ryojiikeda.com](http://www.ryojiikeda.com); [www.codexedition.com](http://www.codexedition.com)

### About Art Basel

Founded in 1970 by gallerists from Basel, Art Basel today stages the world's premier art shows for Modern and contemporary art, sited in Basel, Miami Beach, and Hong Kong. Defined by its host city and region, each show is unique, which is reflected in its participating galleries, artworks presented, and the content of parallel programming produced in collaboration with local institutions for each edition. Art Basel's engagement has expanded beyond art fairs through new digital platforms and a number of new initiatives such as the Art Basel and UBS Global Art Market Report, Intersections: The Art Basel Podcast and the BMW Art Journey. Art Basel's Global Media Partner is The Financial Times. For further information, please visit [artbasel.com](http://artbasel.com)

### About Unlimited

Unlimited, Art Basel's unique platform for large-scale projects that transcend the limitations of a traditional art-fair stand, takes place once again in Hall 1. Giovanni Carmine, Director of the Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen, curates the sector for the first time this year.

### About Almine Rech

Almine Rech opened its doors on April 1, 1997 in the 13<sup>th</sup> arrondissement in Paris. The gallery was founded on an axis of California Minimal, Perceptual art and Conceptual art. In addition to its stable of internationally recognised, mid-career and emerging artists, it has always been the gallery's mission to continually seek out and include new artists in its programme, opening especially to painters. The gallery has held longstanding relationships with artists like Joseph Kosuth, John McCracken and James Turrell and has since started working with and representing artists such as Alex Israel and De Wain Valentine, Jeff Koons and the painters Antoni Tàpies, Karel Appel, Nathaniel Mary Quinn, Vaughn Spann and Claire Tabouret, among others. In 2006 the gallery moved to a larger two-floor space in the Marais district and in 2008 inaugurated a second 1,000 square metre exhibition space in Brussels. In March 2013, Almine Rech launched its new Paris space at 64 rue de Turenne. In June 2014, Almine Rech opened a gallery in London on Savile Row, Mayfair. In October 2016, the gallery moved from Savile Row to a larger space on Grosvenor Hill, Mayfair. The 400 square metre gallery opened with a solo exhibition by Jeff Koons. Almine Rech also opened in Manhattan's Upper East Side—the gallery's first exhibition space in the US—at the end of October 2016. The New York gallery's inaugurating exhibition was "Calder and Picasso". In 2019, Almine Rech inaugurated its new Shanghai space. The gallery opened at 27 Huqiu Road on July 12, 2019 with a group show titled "Approaches to Abstraction" featuring a selection of artists from the gallery's roster, including John M Armleder, Sylvie Fleury, and Günther Förg in conjunction with an exhibition curated by the gallery at Song Art Museum, Beijing. In January 2021, Almine Rech opened a second space in Paris, avenue Matignon in the 8<sup>th</sup> district, with a solo show by iconic US artist Kenny Scharf. Almine Rech settled a temporary location in Aspen, Colorado, during summer 2021. — [www.alminerech.com](http://www.alminerech.com)

## About Audemars Piguet Contemporary

Audemars Piguet Contemporary commissions international artists to create contemporary artworks, fostering a global community of creators. The brand believes in the power of contemporary art to connect and be connected. Its patronage resonates with the talented artisan community that the Manufacture has supported and grown in the Vallée de Joux. The team accompanies each commission process from inception to development to exhibition and builds experiences for audiences to engage with the work around the world. The resulting artworks belong to the artists and contribute to their body of work.

Audemars Piguet Contemporary engages with and commissions artworks in two ways. Under Studio Audemars Piguet, artists develop ambitious artworks across a variety of scales and media alongside our curatorial team, which enables them to explore new territories in their practice. Under the Audemars Piguet Art Commission, the brand's biennial competition, an artist—not yet internationally recognised—is selected to develop a large-scale artwork with an invited guest curator.

As with mechanical watches, commissioned artworks are about more than what you see. These works are sensitive to our ever-changing world. They are an opportunity for new creation, bringing together audiences and leading to conversations that go beyond first impressions.

Since 2012, Audemars Piguet Contemporary participating artists have included Aleksandra Domanović, Cao Fei, Phoebe Hui, Ryoji Ikeda, Lars Jan, Theo Jansen, Robin Meier, Tomás Saraceno, Semiconductor, Jana Winderen and Sun Xun. Commissioned artworks have been presented worldwide at major venues including Art Basel (of which Audemars Piguet has been an Associate Partner since 2013) in Hong Kong, Basel, Miami Beach; the Venice Biennale; Times Square, New York City; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; HeK (House of Electronic Arts), Basel; Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg; 180 The Strand, London; and Ars Electronica, Linz.

– [www.audemarspiguet.com/com/en/about/audemars-piguet-contemporary.html](http://www.audemarspiguet.com/com/en/about/audemars-piguet-contemporary.html)

## About Audemars Piguet

Audemars Piguet is the oldest fine watchmaking manufacturer still in the hands of its founding families (Audemars and Piguet). Based in Le Brassus since 1875, the company has nurtured generations of talented craftspeople who have continuously developed new skills and techniques, broadening their savoir-faire to set rule-breaking trends. In the Vallée de Joux, at the heart of the Swiss Jura, Audemars Piguet has created numerous masterpieces, testament to the Manufacture's ancestral craftsmanship and forward-thinking spirit. Sharing its passion and savoir-faire with watch enthusiasts worldwide through the language of emotions, Audemars Piguet has established enriching exchanges among fields of creative practices and fostered an inspired community. **Born in Le Brassus, raised around the world.** – [www.audemarspiguet.com](http://www.audemarspiguet.com)

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