

21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

PRESS RELEASE

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About "Son et Lumière – Material, Transition, Time and Wisdom"

The 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa has reached beyond the conventional collection/special exhibition framework to stage a year-long series of one-theme exhibitions based on the key phrase 'son et lumière.' It is an attempt to display and to contemplate a diverse range of art in which a part of the contemporary world has been extracted in a radical way and is projected amidst the ebb and flow of gradually fading light and time within the open architectural space designed by SANAA.

Chapter 1 is titled "Son et Lumière – Material, Transition, Time" in which the minds and bodies of those of us living in the world today constrained by days carved out of digital time and a history that flows in one direction have been unleashed, and the material world, including humans, that is a slowly flowing form of energy is explored.

Chapter 2 is titled "Son et Lumière, et sagesse profonde" in which light is shed upon that inner world peculiar to humans – a world of intellect, emotion and intention and the despair and darkness confronted by man, and the way of the human world is explored.

This autumn (September 15 - November 4), the two chapters come together to create a magnificent polyphony called "Son et Lumière - Material, Transition, Time and Wisdom."

Features of the exhibition

The key phrase: Son et Lumière

A disposable plastic cup is tossed around making a clattering sound on top of a tilted turntable. It is illuminated by a green light from an outdoor portable lamp and an illusion of light and shadow is projected onto the facing wall. This is the spectacle that is the sculpture by Peter Fischli and David Weiss, *Son et Lumière - Le rayon vert*, now is part of the museum's collection.

The exhibition "Son et Lumière" takes its title from this sculpture. The French phrase *son et lumière* – *son* meaning "sound" and *lumière* meaning "light" – first became known in 1952 at an event of the same name. Since then it has come to mean an extravaganza that tells a story about a historic landmark or famous piece of architecture using lighting and sound effects. The sculpture mentioned above is one of the best-known of a succession of works in which the artists have used common everyday things to highlight and to criticize with wit the essential nature of human society while seeking out the beauty concealed in those everyday things. The words *son et lumière*, which are also nouns that describe an entertainment spectacle as much as they refer to the substances of light and sound, clearly indicate the critical and philosophical thinking of Fischli Weiss as artists. The title of this exhibition "Son et Lumière", to add to its essential ambiguous meaning, contains a sense of respect for artists who continue always to remain free from existing systems, authority and social stereotypes.

An exhibition, unique to a SANAA building, transforming over the course of one year

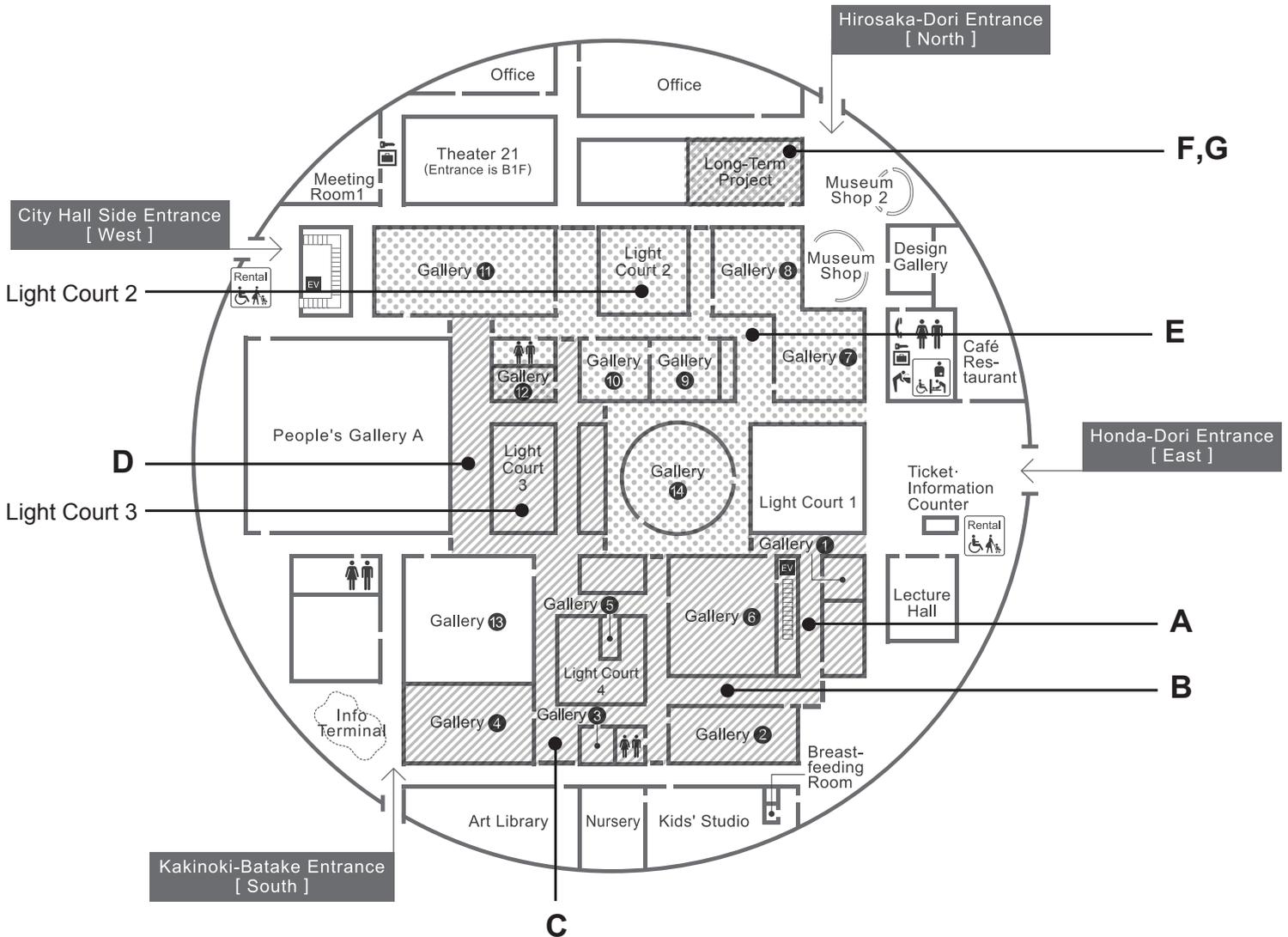
The collection exhibition "Son et Lumière – Material, Transition, Time" (April 28 - November 4, 2012) and special exhibition "Son et Lumière, et sagesse profonde" (September 15, 2012 - March 17, 2013) are independent of each other, yet both are form part of one major theme-based exhibition, based on the key phrase son et lumière. Carsten Nicolai who demonstrates the deep layers of the world of sound in the circular gallery space in the approximate center of the round-shaped museum; *Untitled (Concrete Landscape)* and *Kling Kloug* produced by Peter Fischli and David Weiss for a light court at the museum; the "Sunset-Sunrise Ark" light court project, a collaboration between Hibino Katsuhiko and Patrick Blanc; and Murakami Takashi's *Sea Breeze* in which artificial light is emitted amidst the ever-changing natural light... the inside and outside resonate, as the exhibition transforms moment by moment in a place where the natural and the man-made, the ordinary and the extraordinary traverse back and forth.

A diverse and colorful selection of work

From Goya to Chim ↑ Pom, a polyphony created by 25 artists, traversing genre and time

“Son et Lumière, et sagesse profonde”
 [①] - [⑥], [⑫], [A] - [D], [G], [Light Court 3]
 Saturday September 15, 2012 - Sunday March 17, 2013
 * [⑥] till November 4

Collection Exhibition
 “Son et Lumière - Material, Transition, Time”
 [⑦] - [⑫], [⑭], [Light Court 2], [E], [F]
 Saturday April 28, 2012 - Sunday November 4, 2012
 * [⑫] and [F] till August 31



[①] Chim ↑ Pom (a) / Francisco de GOYA (b)

[A] KIMURA Taiyo (c)

[B] SUZUKI Hiraku (d)

[②] Peter FISCHLI David WEISS

[③] Jake & Dinos CHAPMAN (f) /
Francisco de GOYA

[C] NARA Yoshitomo (g)

[④] Rafael LOZANO-HEMMER (h)

[⑤,⑥] UMEDA Tetsuya (i)

[D] MURAKAMI Takashi (j)

[Light Court 3] Patrick BLANC / HIBINO Katsuhiko (m)

[⑦] KISHIMOTO Sayako (6) / SAITO Makoto (11) /
Andy WARHOL (14)

[⑧] Jan FABRE (3) /

Gerhard RICHTER / TASHIMA Etsuko (12)

[E] KIMURA Taiyo (5)

[⑨] KUSAMA Yayoi (7)

[Light Court 2] Peter FISCHLI David WEISS

[⑩] Gordon MATTA-CLARK (8)

[⑪] AKIYAMA Yo (1) / Gerhard RICHTER (10)

[⑫] Peter FISCHLI David WEISS (4 / e) /
KUSAMA Yayoi (k)

[⑭] Carsten NICOLAI (9)

[Long-Term Project]

[F] AWAZU Kiyoshi (2) / Magnus WALLIN (13),

[G] Pipilotti RIST (l)