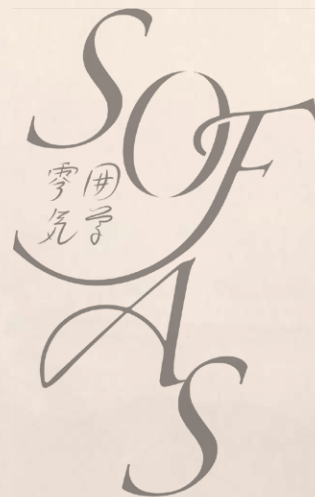


SEASON LAO EXHIBITION

Yamaguchi Seishi Memorial Hall (Kobe University)

25th Sep 2026 — SOFAS Inaugural Conference — Kobe 2026 Programme

This exhibition at the Yamaguchi Seishi Memorial House focuses on the artwork of Season Lao and features a piece by Kōju Takahashi. Like haiku, the creation of pictorial art, especially photo-painting, is largely a solitary act. Nevertheless, the artist does more than simply capture elements of the world. They allow these elements to exist again while simultaneously becoming something else. Each piece is the result of a unique combination of elements that cannot be anticipated or repeated—light, humidity, mist, snow, and time coming together in a configuration specific to that moment. Still, the artist attempts the impossible gesture of capturing an instant that has already passed. What remains is not the instant itself but rather an experience that unfolds differently for each viewer. These experiences encompass atmospheric phenomena and elements both inside and outside the frame, expressing the spontaneity and ephemerality of life itself.



Exhibition tour with the curators

Rie Kodera x Romaric Jannel

Yamaguchi Seishi Memorial Hall 山口誓子記念館

25th Sep 2026 10:30 - 11:00 / 15:00 - 15:30

Presentation

Rie Kodera x Romaric Jannel

ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel 9F Banquet Room

24th Sep 2026 10:00 - 10:15



Installation / Performance *KYOSHITSU SHÔHAKU* 2025

EAA, The University of Tokyo / Nishida Kitarô Museum of Philosophy

「虚室・生白」東京大学東アジア藝文書院／西田幾多郎記念哲学館

Organization:



Sponsors:

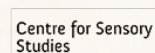


Core-to-Core Program
研究拠点形成事業



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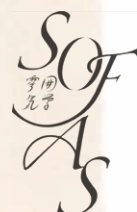
Support and partnerships:



シーズン・ラオ展

SEASON LAO exhibition (入場無料)

会場 神戸大学 山口誓子記念館
二〇二六年九月二十五日(金) 午前10時半・午後3時後半



Rie Kodera studied Art History and Aesthetics and has obtained Ph.D. in 2022 from Kyoto University with thesis *La peinture fœtale : pensées sur l'art et pratique artistique de Jean Dubuffet des années 1910 aux années 1950*. Currently, she is associate professor at Kobe University. Working mainly in the field of aesthetics, her research interests include the notion of "art", the history and theory of painting and drawing, as well as the relation between image and word. Her recent research has engaged with these questions, particularly in relation to cross-cultural perspectives. Recent publications include: Rie Kodera, "Experience of in-between: Isamu Noguchi's Stone Sculpture and his Idea of 'The Art of Space'", *Sophia*. Special Issue "Atmosphere and Breath in Cultural Diversity", Springer, 2025.

Romarc Jannel serves as Program Director at the Collège International de Philosophie (Paris) and as Visiting Researcher at the Research Center for Intercultural Phenomenology at Ritsumeikan University. He is also a board member of the Japan Society for Global System and Ethics. His publications include papers and translations on Japanese philosophy, with a particular focus on Yamauchi Tokuryū, Miki Kiyoshi, and Imanishi Kinji. He is the author of *Yamauchi Tokuryū (1890-1982): Western Philosophy and Buddhist Thought* (2023, in French) and has edited an issue of the French academic journal *Philosophie* dedicated to the Kyoto School. He is currently working on the philosophy and ethics of AI. In this field, he recently coauthored a paper with Professor Jonathan Tallant titled "Trustability and trustworthiness: conceptual foundations and the case of AI" in *AI and Ethics*.



Installation / Performance KYOSHITSU SHÔHAKU 2023
Season Lao: une pièce vide vient blanche pour l'illumination
Museum of Asian Arts in Nice, France
「虚室・生白」Season Lao フランス・ニース国立東洋美術館

Season Lao Based in Japan, was born in Portuguese Macau in 1987. He graduated from Macao Polytechnic University. In 2009, his video works about communities in Macau gained acclaim. This led to the preservation of historic buildings, including his birthplace, previously scheduled for demolition as people re-evaluated their importance. This inspired Lao to pursue his artistic work further. His work during this time focused on the concept of "*Engi*" or Dependent Co-arising. His artwork sought to capture the "interdependence of emptiness and reality" in natural phenomena such as snow and fog.

Public Collections: Museum of Asian Arts in Nice; Macau Museum of Art; Chishima Foundation; InterContinental Sapporo; The Ritz-Carlton Fukuoka; Setsu Niseko; Aya Niseko; University of Nîmes; among others. Archive Collections: The Metropolitan Museum of Art; Guimet Museum; Cernuschi Museum; The National Art Center, Tokyo; National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Korea); Gulbenkian Foundation; Princeton University; University of Michigan; among others.



181231 Koju Takahashi
Wood, casein, pigments
117×31cm 2018

Koju Takahashi lives and works in Nara. At the age of twenty, he withdrew from public life and spent nearly a decade in relative isolation in the mountains surrounding Nara, studying philosophy, religion, and art. This period became a formative foundation for his artistic practice. After ten years, he gradually began presenting his paintings and sculptures publicly. His work explores beauty and existence through the philosophical concept of emptiness. His paintings and sculptures seek to create a space for contemplation, where meaning emerges through the viewer's encounter with solitude, stillness, and the wider world.

Public Collections: Aman Residences, Tokyo; Gora Kadan Fuji; among others.

KOBE UNIVERSITY | YAMAGUCHI Seishi Memorial Hall 神戸大学 山口誓子記念館
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