

A Collective of Japanese Emerging Artists

15 Oktober - 12 November 2014 at Zanter & Schulz

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Words for the catalogue for DANDANS exhibition in Berlin

We feel deeply honored that Ms Kazuko Aso and the group of young Japanese artists, DANDANS, choose our law firm as premises for the first opening of an exhibition of DANDANS in Berlin. Thank you very much.

Why is it that we as law firm happily confirmed to have DANDANS exhibited here, when Ms. Aso suggested so?

There are three reasons:

1. We like entrepreneurs with innovative ideas and this is why we admire artists. There is no more entrepreneur than an artist, who does not augment instantly the wealth of his client as we as lawyers try to do, but the artist trusts that only his/her own idea of estetiquest will spark interest from the audience trusting that the observer will be caught by the artist's own idea of art and sees a value in it for himself. The piece can be bought, but does not have to be bought to enjoy it, the idea itself stands strong and convinces or not and only then comes the sale – or not. This is the daring point of entrepreneurship at its best.

2. This law firm was founded some 25 years ago, in order to integrate "East" and "West".

This was in the 1990, when in Berlin "East" was considered the "Eastern Bloc" of Europe, which was the Warsaw Pact. This "East" is integrated in Europe as the "West" finds himself in a renewed and refreshed Europe, at least until the East border of Poland.

For us now in times of globalization, "East" is Asia, the rising epicenter of our planet and we, as a medium sized law firm, reach out with clients for this region hoping to integrate this continent within our scope and also being

renewed ourselves by the many different qualities of Asia. Japan was some 50 years ago the starting point of what seems today to become the Asian century with its innovation, energy, hard work and precision. If we look at the art works of the 23 Japanese artists, who exhibited in our law firm, we find also these qualities in many of their art works.

We think it is time, when not only rich people and giant companies frequently go to this continent and get to know it, but also normal people and medium sized companies should get used to normally go there like ourselves. With other law firms from Asia, we founded in 2013 in Bali, Asia, the League of Lawyers, which serves helping family companies to reach out from Asia to Europe and vice versa. We have a Japanese law firm as member and we are the German member in a group of medium sized law firms with its medium sized clients.

By this, we got to know the other continent and we realize, how much citizens from Europe and Asia have in common and we like to spread this insight: We all like our own culture and would not so easily leave it. We are vested in a tradition, often with our families and we foster it, community matters. At the same time, we honor other cultures and are curious to get to know them, since we know it is part of being human. Serenity is more appreciated than blind ambition. We appreciate wealth and know that it demands hard work and science to uphold it; but we do not make a god out of wealth and do not want to govern the world with our own wealth or culture. These and other features, only Asian and European people honor to the same degree, it seems to me and art is possibly the best way, to get a deeper understanding of the other culture. This, we also learnt in this exhibition.

3. Let me finish with the third reason and a true story.

When Kazuko Aso was here in November 2014, to see whether our premises could fit DANDANS purposes, we went also to my office room.



ベルリン・ザンティエ法律事務所展にあたって In a Berlin Zhantier law office exhibition

I showed her my favorite piece of art, called “three basic prayers” by the Turkish artist Sakir GÖDCEBAĞ, another person, who integrates East(Islamic world) and West(christian world). Out of Muslim praying beets, he formed a square, a triangle and a circle, not much bigger than 1 meter times 0,5 meter.

I explained to Kazuko that on a religion level these three pattern represent Judaism, Islam and Christianity, on a human level it stands for the individuality of believes or tolerance and on a funny level it reduces very big thoughts to very simple structures. And then Kazuko san said: But those three structures are the structures of Zen Buddhism. I was astonished, did not say anything and we had a moment of silence – maybe a moment of Zen silence.? I suddenly realized, how much richer this piece of art was, if we see it also from a Japanese perspective.

This is, what often happened in this exhibition: many visitors were surprised and fascinated by these artists from Japan. We heavily enjoyed the exhibition, it was a great success in Berlin.

We saw the elegance and the refinedness of the pieces of Japanese art. We were seduced by the beauty in the art works, the precise observation of the artists and their different perspective. The artist were ready to guide us and explain their works. It was a fantastic event, which had several follow-ups in Berlin itself.

Berlin, February 2015

Henning von Zanthier

私の友人、アームガード フォン レーデンが紹介してくれたベルリンの銀座通りといわれるクーダム通りに広い法律事務所を構え、アート・コレクターでもある弁護士のヘニング フォン ザンティエさんが、オフィスを解放して団・DANSの展覧会をして下さったことは、私達にとって忘れられない、素晴らしい思い出となりました。多くの友人やアート関係者を招いて、秋のベルリンの夕べに素敵な、心の温まるヴェルニッサージュやフィニッサージュをして下さった時の写真をご覧ください。本当に御礼の言葉も有りません。

彼の気持ちに答えて、これからも作家達が素晴らしい仕事を続け、もっとグローバルに活躍する事を願っております。作家達はザンティエさんのようなコレクターによって、いつも支えられている事を忘れないでしょう。

麻生 和子

Dr. Henning von Zhantier, a lawyer and also an art collector, whom my friend Armgard von Reden introduced to me, so generously opened his big office located at Kudam street in Berlin to Dandans artists. There we could have a fantastic exhibition. In lovely autumn evening, he kindly organized a vernissage and finissage after his office hour with his generous stuff and so many nice friends. We never forget their kindness and warm atmosphere. I simply can't find out the words to express my gratitude and appreciation.

I do hope the artists will continue their career more actively and globally to reciprocate his generosity. They will remember that an artist is always supported by a collector like Dr. von Zhantier.

Kazuko Aso





Miwa KUTSUNA



Hiroshi KATO



Masaya EGUCHI



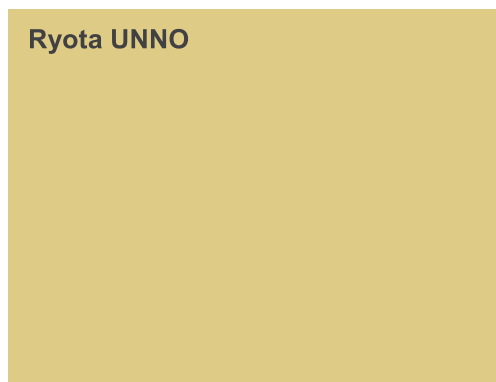


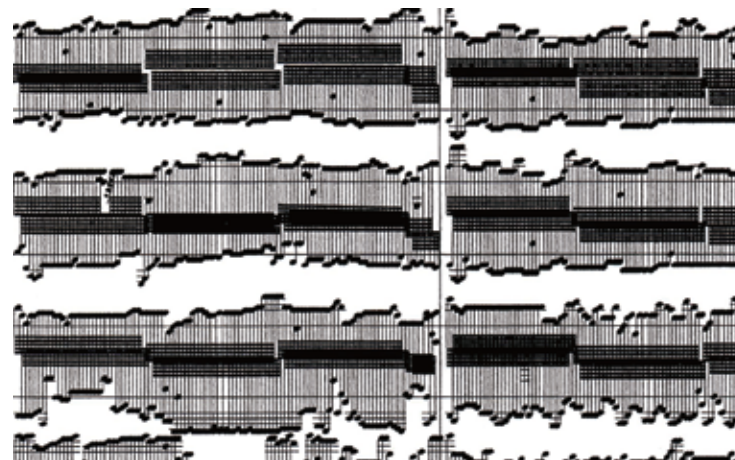
Chiharu KINOSHITA



Mitsuki NOGUCHI







Yu SHINOMIYA



Shinji MAEDA

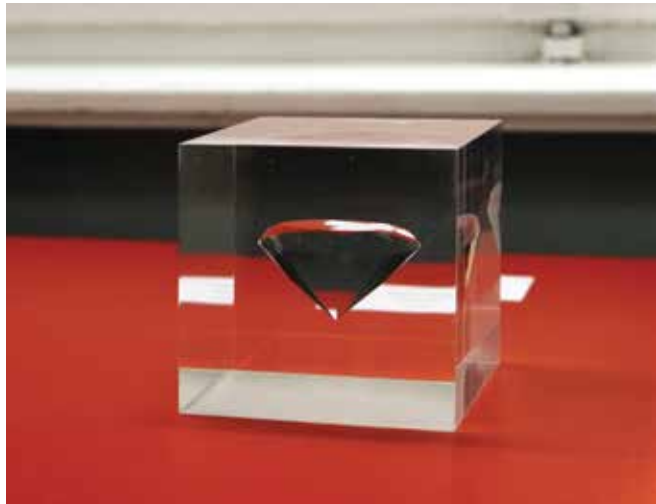


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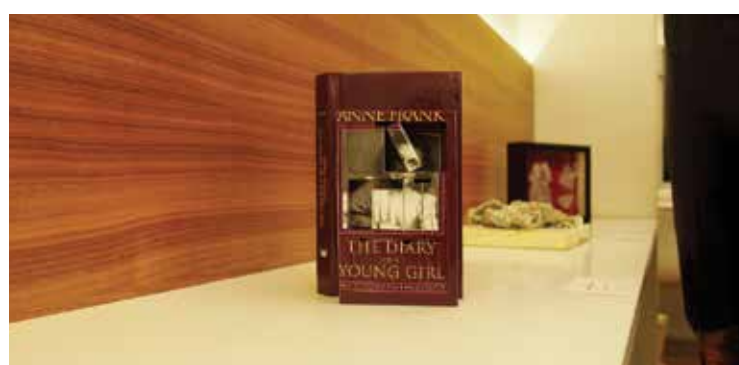
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A Collective of Japanese Emerging Artists

VON ZANTHIER & SCHULZ / Kurfürstendamm 217 10719 Berlin
15 October - 12 November 2014



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