

EARTH HOLE FILM FESTIVAL

Press Release

update: 27. 7. 2018

GAITO JUNREI

Katsunobu Yaguchi & Keiko Ogane

Celebrating the beginning of Earth Hole Film Festival 2018, the Washington Contemporary Art Centre (WACAC) presents GAITO JUNREI, a guided walking tour with Katsunobu Yaguchi, an artist, and Keiko Ogane, an avant-garde housewife, to experience history and culture in the light of the street lamps. The tour explores the west side area around Mito Station's north exist, which was once the leading red-light district after World War II. The two professionals are willing to share their wealth of knowledge and stories of the city's unique atmosphere and charms.

Please keep in mind the following three things while on tour.

- 1.** Silence your cellphone by turning off or putting on silent. Enjoy getting acquainted with other participants.
- 2.** There may be Youkai (supernatural creatures) living around the street lamps. They are not fond of electronic devices. Avoid taking pictures with cameras and mobile phones/devices. Use your eyes to capture the images and burn them into your mind, or bring your drawing tools to make sketches.
- 3.** The tour takes place at dusk, however, dangerous heat is expected this time of year. Bringing a bottle of cold drink is highly recommended.

The Washington Contemporary Art Centre looks forward to your participation.

Date: Saturday, July 28th, 2018 at 6:30 pm

Location: Meet in front of the Washington Site

Suntopia St. 1-2-10, Minami-machi, Mito, Ibaraki 310-0021 Japan)

Price: 500yen (All participants will receive a towel as a little gift.)

*Participants may arrive late or leave early.

*In case of rain, the tour will be rescheduled.

enquiry: wacac@washington.jp

Katsunobu Yaguchi / Artist

In 2008, Yaguchi renovated a two-storey old-Japanese-style abandoned house in the City of Mito, Ibaraki and converted it into a café called "Café Washington". On its opening day, he had his fateful encounter with Keiko Ogane. He has produced his own newspaper, hosted local festivals and created collaborative art with neighbourhood residents, ever since then. Through his vigorous social practice, he reconstructs lost landscapes and traditions, which has often took the form of installations. In recent years, he has produced works in a wide range of mediums such as photography, drawing, sculpture, and video.

His recent projects and solo exhibitions include: The Deconstruction of Washington, Mito (2013), The Last Bargain for Suntopia, Mito (2016), Paris Photo, Paris (2017), LISTE Art Fair Basel, Basel (2018).

Keiko Ogane / Avant-garde Housewife

A Mito-native born on July 4th, 1950. She grew up healthy and strong thanks to Japan's rapid economic growth in the post-WWII period. Since she was a young girl, she has paid keen attentions to her surroundings. She has been a housewife for 40 years, a mother of two children and currently has 6 grandchildren. Her life has changed dramatically, ever since she ran into Yaguchi in 2008. She became a poster girl for the Washington, which stirred up the neighbourhood and created avid fans. In 2017, she founded Keiko Ogane Gallery and made her debut as a gallery owner in Paris Photo 2018. She is a