

## Gil Kuno Solo Exhibition, *ON::OFF::ON*

Dates: February 19 (Sat) to March 26 (Sat), 2022

Venue: √K Contemporary (6 Minamicho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo)



√K Contemporary is proud to host Gil Kuno's upcoming solo exhibition, *ON::OFF::ON*.

From video to sound art, photography, installation work, as well as two-dimensional art, Kuno's ambitious retrospective spans across three floors, from the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to the basement of the gallery. In addition to major works such as a series of complex electromagnetic dot-matrix displays that transmutes the movements of natural scenes (i.e., waterfalls and flower petals), and *The Antmaster*, an installation that merges digital and analog forms and enacts an analogy of the notion of karma through the perpetual movement of ants; Kuno's most recent works, as well as those undergoing production, will be on view at Kuno's experimental space *Gil Lab*. As the largest display of the artist's work to date, *ON::OFF::ON* offers the most extensive exhibition of not only Gil Kuno's works but also his creative processes.

Like the very chaos these works are centered on, Kuno's works are constantly undergoing evolution. From afar, Kuno's works may appear disjointed. However, up close, each piece carries a discernable sense of order within its disorder. Dynamic yet static, symmetric yet asymmetric, Kuno's works playfully alternates between diametric states to reveal an underlying order and pattern that lies beneath a sea of chaos.

Kuno's works are strangely comforting. They digitize the patterns and movements of waterfalls, waves, rain, wind, and other natural phenomena. Continually subverting our perceptions of reality, *OFF::ON::OFF* is a comprehensive display of Kuno's early to recent endeavors.

In addition to his completed works, the artist will exhibit and produce various experimental works in *Gil Lab*, located in the B1F of the gallery. Giving visitors a chance to experience a part of the artist's process, works such as *Pogophonic* will be in-production at the venue throughout the show.

Numerous collaborative live events, gallery talks, and artist workshops featuring guest speakers, artists and prominent figures will also be held during the exhibition.

The first day of the show (Feb 19, Sat) will open with an inaugural live event featuring two key figures in experimental music, Carl Stone, Tatsuya Yoshida and Gil Kuno. Other notable live performances include collaborative events featuring Gil Kuno and the VJ, artist and mind behind Dommune, Naohiro Ukawa (Feb 26, Sat), performance/sound artist Fuyuki Yamakawa (Mar 5, Sat), Boredoms and OOIOO frontwoman, YoshimiO (Mar 19, Sat). In addition to providing a chance to experience sound art, these events will offer a rare insight into Kuno's artistry and his role as a driving force and pioneer behind the development of noise music.

Coupled with an abundance of scheduled collaborative live events, talks and workshops, *ON::OFF::ON* is opportunity to experience art through all senses, from audio to visual, music to video, and sculpture to the flat-plane.

Exhibition Website: [https://root-k.jp/exhibitions\\_en/gilkuno\\_onoffon/](https://root-k.jp/exhibitions_en/gilkuno_onoffon/)

## Artist Statement

*I can't understand why people are frightened of new ideas. I'm frightened of the old ones.*

— John Cage (music composer, artist, music theorist)

Due to social conditioning, our minds are guided to think within certain patterns. I try to redirect the flow of the mind beyond the set patterns we are taught by society to construct.

In my work, I seek to displace natural activity from its context, revealing an otherwise hidden layer of metaphorical absurdity within the ordinary patterns that remain before our eyes.

On *ON::OFF::ON*

Sight and sound can be replicated by waves. Sight is comprised of light waves, while sound is formed by vibrations in the air.

*ON::OFF::ON* signifies the smallest increment of a wave. Through repetition, this cadence transforms into an infinite expressive loop.

Gil Kuno

## Events

Various events showcasing a wide range of Kuno's artistry and talents will be held in conjunction with the exhibition. From music to video, performance, and two-dimensional art, each event will feature a special guest and approach a different theme. Starting from *Unsound Experiments*, Kuno will test the boundaries of sound art, discuss various epistemological questions at his gallery talks, and explore new ideas at his workshops.

[*Unsound Experiments*]

In many ways, noise music acts represents the catalyst to Kuno's production. Kuno's *Unsound Experiments* seeks to test the limits of sound art and discover new sounds through various collaborative performances.

For further details and updates, please visit the exhibition website or √K Contemporary's social media profiles.

Feb 19 (Sat) 5PM to 7PM Carl Stone, Tatsuya Yoshida, Gil Kuno, (Opening Act) Yousuke Fuyama  
Feb 26 (Sat) 5PM to 7PM Naohiro Ukawa, Gil Kuno  
Mar 5 (Sat) 5PM to 7PM Fuyuki Yamakawa, Gil Kuno  
Mar 19 (Sat) 5PM to 7PM YoshimiO (via the internet), Gil Kuno

Admission: 1500yen \*Tickets must be bought in advance.

Venue: Space √K (√K Contemporary B1F)

For details on reservations and more, please visit: <https://root-k.peatix.com/>

[Gallery Talks] \*Japanese Only

How would you define media art?

What is alternative art?

And what drives such a multifaceted artist like Gil Kuno to create?

These are the topics these discussions will engage with through the varying viewpoints of curators and major figures in the art world.

For details on reservations and more, please visit: <https://root-k.peatix.com/>

[Gil Lab Workshop]

The Gil Lab Workshop consists of interactive sessions with Kuno and other invited guests on topics such as NFT and sound art.

Mar 12 (Sat) 3PM to 4PM NFT Workshop with Saeko Ehara (3D artist / VJ) x Gil Kuno

Admission: 500 yen \*Tickets must be bought in advance.

Venue: Space √K (√K Contemporary B1F)

For details on reservations and more, visit: <https://root-k.peatix.com/>

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For further details or reservations on each event, please visit the exhibition website or √K Contemporary's social media profiles.

Exhibition HP : [https://root-k.jp/exhibitions/gilkuno\\_onoffon/](https://root-k.jp/exhibitions/gilkuno_onoffon/)

TW : @rk\_contemporary | FB : @rootkcontemporary | IG : @rk\_contemporary

\* Depending on the state of COVID-19, details and schedules are subject to change. Please check the √K Contemporary website or social media pages periodically for updates.

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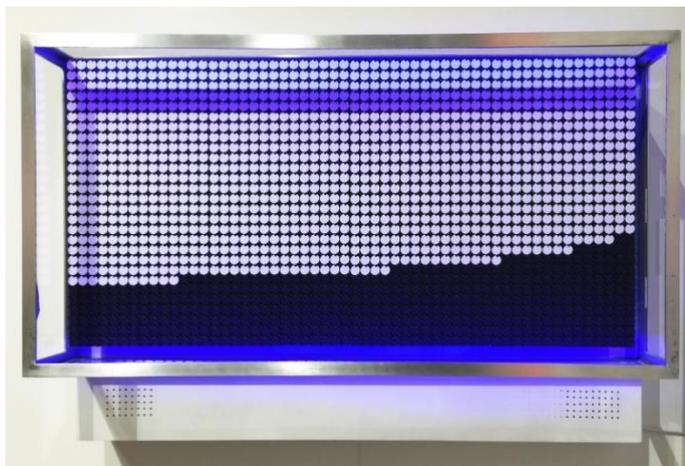
## Featured Works

[Flip Dot Works]

Propelled by the notion of a “future kakejiku” (hanging scroll), Kuno’s series transforms the sound and movement of natural phenomena, such as waterfalls and falling flower petals, into a flip-disc display. The first work that propelled this series, *Waterfall*, will be exhibited alongside other works.



*Waterfall*, 2018  
Analog flip displays, computers, aluminum, wood, wiring



*Waves*, 2015  
Analog flip displays, computers, acrylic, LEDs, amplification

#### [Installations]

Several of Kuno's large-scale installations will be on display throughout the gallery. *The Antmaster*, a work that enacts the notion of karma through the ceaseless movement of ants, was displayed internationally and was most notably projected on Takamatsu Castle in 2015, as well as *Haze*, the installation and audiovisual embodiment of Chaos Theory, shown at the 2015 Yebisu International Festival for Art & Alternative Vision, will also be on view.



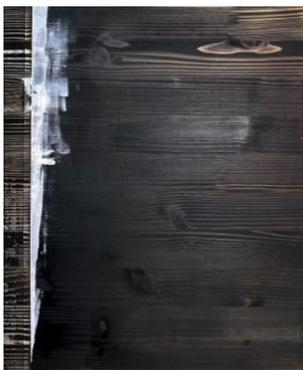
*The Antmaster*, 2008.  
glass, tempera, projection, audio  
Image ©unsound.com , “The Antmaster” 2008, Warsaw, Poland



*Haze*, 2009-2015  
CO2, Projection, Soundtrack, Dimensions variable  
Image @unsound.com, NTV, Tokyo, 2012

#### [New Works]

Highlights include Kuno's *Hangi Series*, a skeletal abstraction of wood that negates everything except the grain, and *Everything | Nothing*, a light sculpture that embodies a duality.



*Hangi Series - Pine 00b*, 2022  
Pine, stain, acrylic



*Hangi Series - Pine 00*, 2022  
Pine, stain, acrylic



*Everything | Nothing*, 2014  
Acrylic, light, switch, lacquer

### [Gil Lab and Other Works]

Gil Lab features interactive works such as *Pogophonics* and other works that will be under production during the exhibition period. Videos of past installations, such as the Japan Media Arts Festival Excellence Award-winning performance *Six String Sonics, The*, will be on view.



*Six String Sonics, The*, 2004-present  
Guitar Deconstruction Performance



"Pogophonics"

### Artist | Gil Kuno



Born in Los Angeles, USA.

Studied Media Art and received his MFA at UCLA.

Currently resides in New York.

Kuno's wide oeuvre spans from the establishment and direction of the alternative art website [UNSOUND.COM](http://UNSOUND.COM), to collaborative work, such as the first Internet-based band, [WIGGLE](#), the interactive music video, [FLOW](#), and the ambitious band, [Six](#)

[String Sonics, The](#).

### **[Selected Art Festival Participations]**

Japan Media Arts Festival (4-time award-winner), Ars Electronica (3-time invitee) Yebisu International Festival for Art & Alternative Visions, Roppongi Art Night, Media Ambition Tokyo, Rotterdam, World Wide Video Festival (Amsterdam), Fringe Festival NYC, Glow Festival (Los Angeles), WRO Festival (Poland) and more.

### **[Selected Exhibitions & Performances]**

The National Art Center, Tokyo (Tokyo,), Tokyo Photographic Art Museum (Tokyo), Zerospace (New

York), Waterfall Gallery (N.Y.), Tokyo City View, Roppongi (Tokyo), The Hammer Museum (L.A.), Castillo de Rivoli (Italy), Center for Contemporary Art Zamek Ujazdowski (Warsaw, Poland), CSW Torun (Poland), New York Fringe Festival (N.Y.), Torrance Art Museum (L.A.), JACCC (L.A.), MCM Gallery (Serbia), House of Legacy (Serbia), New Wight Gallery (L.A.), LACE Gallery (L.A.), Laforet Harajuku (Tokyo), Panke Gallery (Berlin), ORF (Austria), ArtSci Gallery (L.A.), Fuji Rock Festival (Naeba), Melkweg (Amsterdam), Schouwburg (Rotterdam), The Sprawl (London), Liquid Room (Tokyo), Womb (Tokyo), Club Asia (Tokyo) and more.

#### 【Collaborations】

EY3 Yamantaka (Boredoms), Yoshimi (Boredoms, OOIOO), Ken Ishii, Fuyuki Yamakawa, Merzbow, Yoshihide Otomo, Battles, Vincent Gallo, Tatsuya Yoshida (Ruins), Carl Stone, Alec Empire (Atari Teenage Riot), Steve Albini (Big Black, Shellac), Tamio Shiraishi (Fushitsusha), Cristian Vogel, Zbigniew Karkowski, Atau Tanaka, GX Jupitter Larsen (The Haters), Nissennenmondai, Christian Galarreta, Joseph Hammer and more.

Artist HP | <https://www.unsound.com/>

IG | [@gilkuno](#) FB | [@gilkuno](#) TW | [@gilkuno](#)

#### ■ Exhibition Details

Exhibition Title	ON::OFF::ON
Exhibiting Artist	Gil Kuno
Dates	February 19 (Sat) to March 26 (Sat) * Closed Sunday and Monday (Open February 23, March 21)
Venue	√K Contemporary (Root K Contemporary) Address: Minamicho 6, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo Tel: (+81) (0)3-6280-8808 Email: <a href="mailto:info@root-k.jp">info@root-k.jp</a> URL: <a href="https://root-k.jp">https://root-k.jp</a>
Exhibition Website	<a href="https://root-k.jp/exhibitions_en/gilkuno_onoffon/">https://root-k.jp/exhibitions_en/gilkuno_onoffon/</a>
Admission	Free *excluding performances and workshops
Exhibiting Works	Approx. 40
Organizer	√K Contemporary
Equipment Cooperation	BenQ Japan Co., Ltd. Synthax Japan Inc. MI Seven Japan, Inc. GENELEC JAPAN Inc.

※Depending on the state of COVID-19, business days and hours are subject to change.

Please check updates on the [√K Contemporary website](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or [Twitter](#) periodically for updates.

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#### About √K Contemporary

Inspired by the notion that new art generates from years of refinement, √K Contemporary (Root K Contemporary) was founded with the aim of creating a space where one can experience art at its fullest. Established May 2020, √K Contemporary is an offshoot sibling gallery of Kashima Arts, which has strived, since 1988, to showcase and enhance traditional Japanese art. Seeking to present a form of

Press Release  
February 2022

√ k Contemporary

next-generation art that withstands social and temporal trends, the gallery's futuristic interiors and thoughtful approach to modern and contemporary exhibitions carry a sense of originality and sophistication.

Official Website: <https://root-k.jp/en>

TW : [@rk\\_contemporary](#) | FB : [@rootkcontemporary](#) | IG : [@rk\\_contemporary](#)

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For all Press & Media Inquiries

Contact: Naoko Watanabe, Aisei Tamura

√K Contemporary (Managed by SEI-RIN Co.,Ltd.)

6 Minamicho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 162-0836

Tel: (+81) (0)3-6280-8808 | Fax: (+81) (0)3-6280-8809 | Email: [pr@sei-rin.com](mailto:pr@sei-rin.com) | URL: [root-k.jp/en](https://root-k.jp/en)