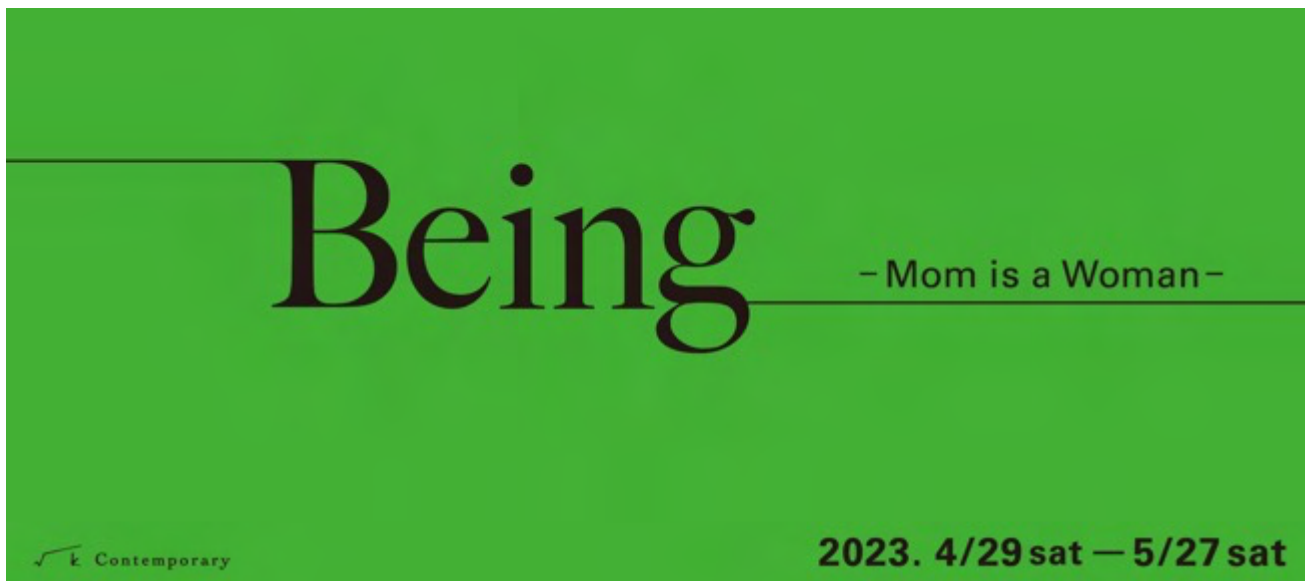


Opening April 29:  
*Being - Mom is a Woman -*



√K Contemporary (Root K Contemporary) is elated to announce the launch of a series of exhibitions titled *Being*, a series of exhibitions centered around leading artists of the future. The inaugural exhibition of this series, *Being - Mom is a Woman -* will present works by approx. 20 established to emerging, wartime to contemporary female artists from around the globe.

**【On the Exhibition Series, *Being*】**

The establishment of √K Contemporary stemmed from an ambition to preserve human history through art, and the desire to support artists who lead the past to the future.

With this ethos at its heart, *Being* hopes to realize these ideas through a set of uniquely curated exhibitions that bring the “present” together with the “future”.

*“Being”*

*Much like how wisdom may be attained through the unraveling of the past embedded within the artworks that remain today, much of what we create in our current lives becomes a part of the future. As such, the very things that exist within our “present” is, indeed, very precious.*

*Our existence is but a speck of dust within the all-embracing universe.*

*If synergy can be generated through coincidental interactions, then perhaps this phenomenon is embodied by some works of art.*

*Civilization has been built through the sharing of cultures and ideas and, even in the over-saturated climate of today's world, we are able to imagine a future. Through the perpetual act of sublimating present lives and experiences into works of art, humanity is able to leave behind a legacy. In this sense, the weight of one's existence is most felt through the context of the now.*

*Humanity's existence remains meaningful so long as it remains conscious of its very own existence and history.*

**【The Inaugural Exhibition, *Being -Mom is a Woman-*】**

The very first installment of this exhibition, *Mom is a Woman*, is an exhibition of approx. 20 mid-twentieth century to present-day, established and emerging international female artists.

Whilst also being an incredibly diverse assembly of artists from differing genres, periods, countries, and cultures, the exhibiting artists are drawn together by their shared identification with womanhood. Unbound by socially construed ideas of gender, these artists express their ideas of identity and existence through their works. In turn, what they embody through their production is a high sense of self-reflection and awareness, the strength to constantly challenge themselves, and the ability to overcome differences, maintaining dignity and respect as female artists unconstrained by superficial barriers.

In this assembly of artists from disparate times and cultures, what kind of synergy will emerge during the course of the show?

With this in mind, *Mom* urges all visitors to take this opportunity to experience its works and be witness to the present and future of humanity's very own existence.

■ **Exhibition Highlights**

**1. An Exhibition that Draws Female Artists Across Different Ages, Genres, Continents, and Cultures**

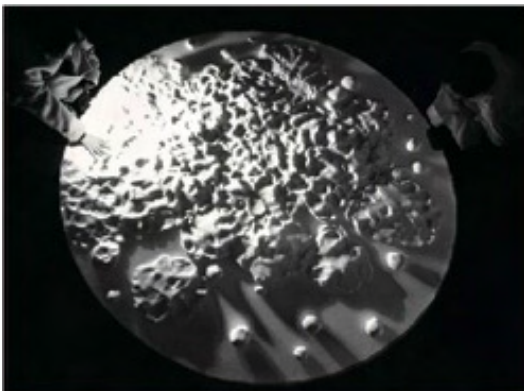
With the gallery's ethos at its center, *Being's* inaugural exhibition brings together approx. 20 artists across varying periods, countries, and genres.

From wartime to postwar and contemporary, emerging artists, *Mom* will present a range of works by artists from Japan, Korea, Brazil, Germany, and Taiwan across three floors of the gallery.

**Exhibiting Artists (Tentative)**

Saori (Madokoro) Akutagawa, Emi Uchida, Yuki Katsura, Ruriko Taguchi, Mitsuko Tabe, Ching Wen Chang, Mai Horayama, Erize Hori, Yoko Matsumoto, Seiko Mikami, Ritsuko Minemura, Yuna Yagi, Sanami Yamada, Shiori Watanabe, Carol Chediak, Cornelia Thomsen, Ha Haengeun, Sohyun Park, Jimere, Lim Seo Hyun \* Subject to change

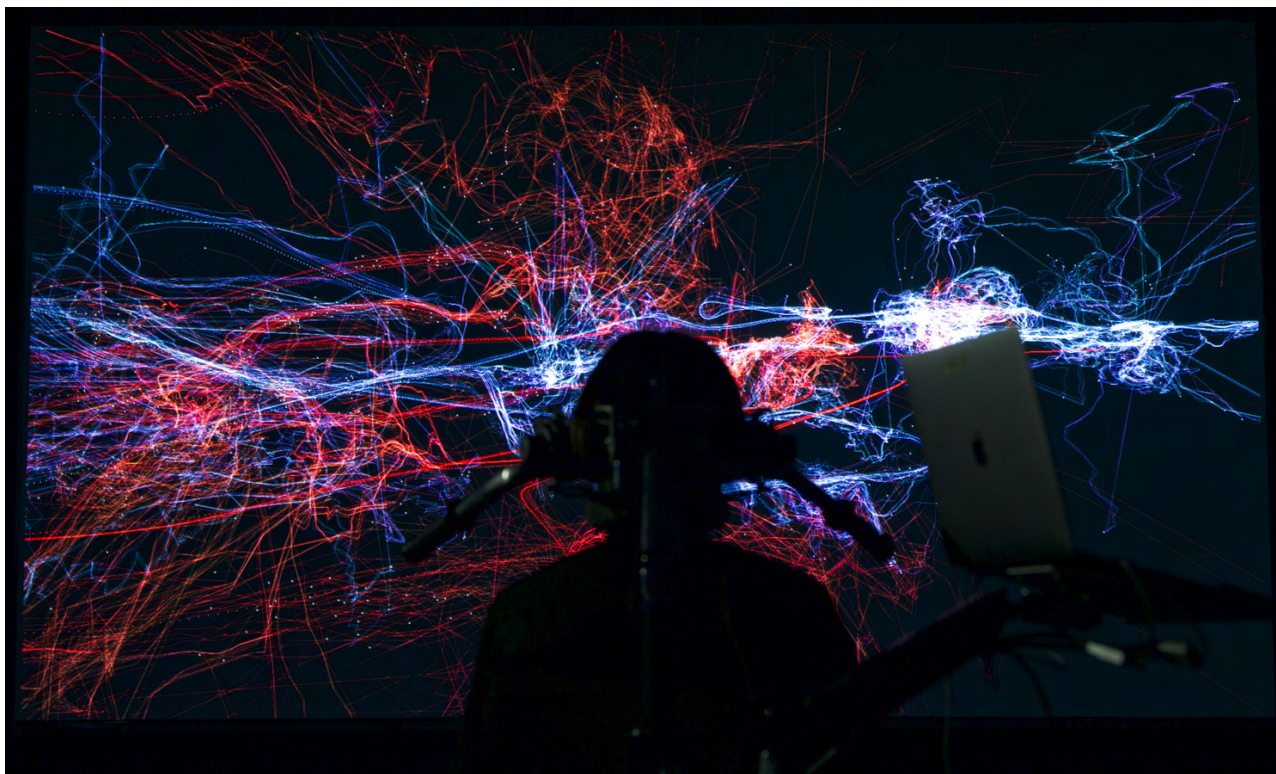
**2. From Installations to Video Art, Photography, Sculptures, and Paintings: An Exhibition that Features Works from a Wide Spectrum of Genres**



Featuring works from a wide range of genres, *Mom* will present paintings, installations, photographs, sculptures, and more across three floors of the gallery, from the basement to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

Sanami Yamada, *One* (2020)  
Video installation (2 minutes 53 seconds), mixed media

### 3. A Special Display of Seiko Mikami's interactive work, *Eye-Tracking Informatics*



Photography by Kazuomi Furuya, Courtesy of Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]

The exhibition will feature a special display of Japanese media artist, Seiko Mikami's *Eye-Tracking Informatics*. Mikami, who sadly passed away in 2015 at the age of 53, produced and exhibited this work at Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] (Website: <https://www.ycam.jp/en/>) in 2011. This special display will be the first presentation of *Eye-Tracking Informatics* since NTT InterCommunication Center [ICC]'s 2019 exhibition. Based on the notion of "observing the act of observation", Mikami's installation visualizes the viewer's gaze in a three-dimensional virtual space. Mikami's special display will open from mid-May.

Artist | Seiko Mikami (三上 晴子 / 1961- 2015)

Former artist & professor at Tama Art University's Media Art Laboratory. Since the 1980s, Mikami has presented large-scale installations themed on information society and the human body. In the 1990s, most of her works were interactive media art installations that incorporated human perception; from her eye-tracking project "Molecular Informatics," to her work regarding the acoustic sense and the sounds of a living body "World, Membrane and the Dismembered Body," her work "gravicells - gravity and resistance" centered on the theme of the gravity called the 6th consciousness and "Desire of Codes", which focused on the coded individual in an information society.

Mikami has exhibited with Fundacio Joan Miro, Le Musée des Beaux-arts de Nantes (Nantes), Künstlerhaus Vienna (Vienna), Kulturhuset Stockholm (Stockholm) and Canon ARTLAB (Tokyo). Mikami has also presented her works at a number of international media art festivals such as transmediale (Berlin), DEAF (Rotterdam), SHARE (Turin), Ars Electronica (Linz), MoiMulti (Quebec), TESLA (Berlin), VEROCITY Festival of Digital Culture (UK), TRUST (Dortmund), ISEA and more. Mikami held her solo exhibition "Desire of Codes" at Yamaguchi Center for Art and Media [YCAM] and NTT

InterCommunication Center [ICC] and from 2012, went on to travel around the world. She passed away in 2015 at the age of 53.

Sourced and edited from the NTT InterCommunication Center [ICC] Website

(<https://www.ntticc.or.jp/en/archive/participants/mikami-seiko/>)

Seiko Mikami, Eye-Tracking Informatics Special Display

Scheduled to begin from May 15, 2023 (Sat)

\* Further details to be posted on the exhibition website and √K Contemporary social media pages.

■ **Special Event | Sake & Art Pairing**

A sake and art event led by sake maker and stylist, food culture researcher and CEO of Sai Shoku Ken Bi Co., Ltd, Ms. Makiko Tejima will be held during the course of the exhibition. For this collaborative occasion, participants will be given the opportunity to enjoy the female sake specialist's exclusive selection of sake inspired by the show and gain an inside view into the stories behind the exhibited works. Further details on dates and more will be published on the √K Contemporary website or social media pages.

Co-Ordinator | Makiko Tejima



Sai Shoku Ken Bi Co., Ltd CEO

Food Culture Researcher / Japan Sake and Shochu Makers Association Certified Sake Stylist / Japan Council for Promotion of Sake Brewery Tourism Steering Committee / Brewing Society of Japan Director

Inspired by the notion of “a life enriched by sake”, Tejima actively seeks to support Japan’s regional communities through the national and international promotion of Japanese sake and food culture, and content planning for gastronomy tourism.

On Sai Shoku Ken Bi Co., Ltd

Sai Shoku Ken Bi Co., Ltd works to promote and support the future of Japan’s regional community by offering PR and consulting services in Japan and overseas for traditional Japanese food cultures such as sake.

Sai Shoku Ken Bi Co., Ltd Website: <https://www.saishokukenbi.com/>



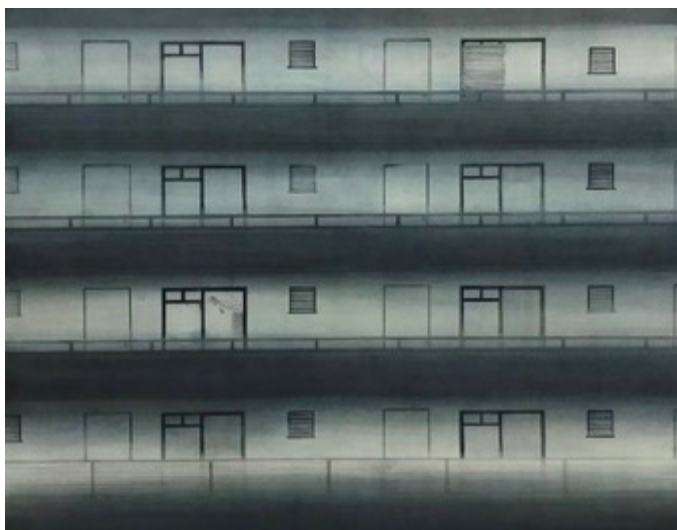
■ Featured Works



Erize Hori, *Ariadne's Thread* (1973-2022) Linen, 210 x 140 cm  
Photography courtesy of Ryo Fujishima



Carol Chediak, *Same place, new light no. 2* (2022)  
Digital fine art printing with mineral pigments in a Photo Rag 308 cotton paper,  
framed, 73 x 110cm



Ching Wen Chang, *Behind the Door* (2021)  
Ink, Suihi-enogu (mud pigments), Iwa-enogu (mineral pigments), kumohada  
hemp paper, 117 x 91cm



Ruriko Taguchi, *COMPOSITION No.3* (2023)  
Archival pigment print, paper, wooden panel  
158 x 166cm / 182 x 233cm



Above:  
Yuki Katsura, *Kappa*  
Bronze, 18 x 79cm

Below:  
Emi Uchida, *Trace-64*  
Oil and charcoal on canvas, 117 x 117cm



Mai Horayama, *Re:* (2023)  
Iron, 63 x 59 x 16 cm



Sohyun Park, *Une Nuit d'été à Lyon* (2022)  
Acrylic and ink on canvas, 24 x 30cm

## ■ Exhibition Outline

Exhibition Title	<i>Being - Mom is a Woman-</i>
Dates	April 29 (Saturday) to May 27 (Saturday), 2023 * Open on Public Holidays & throughout Golden Week, closed on Sundays & Mondays
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>
Exhibiting Artists	Saori (Madokoro) Akutagawa, Emi Uchida, Yuki Katsura, Ruriko Taguchi, Mitsuko Tabe, Ching Wen Chang, Mai Horayama, Erize Hori, Yoko Matsumoto, Seiko Mikami, Ritsuko Minemura, Yuna Yagi, Sanami Yamada, Shiori Watanabe, Carol Chediak, Cornelia Thomsen, Ha Haengeun, Sohyun Park, Jimere, Lim Seo Hyun *Subject to change
Exhibition Website	<a href="https://root-k.jp/exhibitions_en/being-mom-is-a-woman/">https://root-k.jp/exhibitions_en/being-mom-is-a-woman/</a>
Organizer	√K Contemporary
Collaborators	Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM], Masaya Inoue (TODOROKI Co., Ltd.), Norimichi Hirakawa, Jung-Yeon Ma, Gallery Kawafune, Sai Shoku Ken Bi Co., Ltd, Gallery COLORBEAT
Design	Shintaro Tabara
Exhibition Website	<a href="https://root-k.jp/exhibitions_en/being-mom-is-a-woman/">https://root-k.jp/exhibitions_en/being-mom-is-a-woman/</a>

### About √K Contemporary



Guided by the notion that new art is generated from years of refinement, √K Contemporary deals mainly with contemporary art from the post-war period onwards. With an ethos colored by its roots in traditional art, √K Contemporary hosts and organizes various unique exhibitions and events that aim to provoke, stimulate, and evoke new thoughts and ideas. In conserving its acts, the gallery hopes to place itself within and pave its way toward the future art scene. Manifesting this notion, the 300 sqm gallery space was envisioned as a "gallery from space", where works are shown with new values and viewed with new eyes. With innovation at its heart, √K Contemporary strives to become the next-generation art space that represents "the present of the future".

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

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

### For all Press & Media Related Inquiries

Contact: Naoko Watanabe, Aisei Tamura

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