

REALTIME

MIYANAGA AKIRA

Artwork labels

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REALTIME: Miyanaga Akira

This exhibition brings together recent works by the Japanese contemporary video artist Miyanaga Akira. Born in Hokkaido in 1985, the Kyoto-based artist is renowned for moving images that shift poetically between realism and abstraction. The exhibition's title, *REALTIME*, refers to the artist's technique of using film footage of everyday life. Allowing himself to be guided by that documentary content, Miyanaga proceeds by intuition rather than strategy, with no preconceived idea of what his final works of art might be.

Video fragments filmed in both urban and rural areas of Japan – from crowds moving through subways to light gently falling over rice fields – become raw materials that the artist manipulates to create visually compelling sequences. Using timelapse techniques and processes of splicing and superimposition, Miyanaga merges disparate motifs within the same frame to create complex layered imagery. In some works, these effects are further accentuated by the addition of text and immersive soundscapes that together suggest a dreamlike zone where the familiar becomes unfamiliar.

Exhibition essay available at ngv.melbourne/essay

Miyanaga Akira

Japanese 1985–

See Saw

2015

colour high definition video, sound,
4 min 25 sec

Collection of the artist, courtesy Kodama Gallery, Tokyo

See Saw reveals Miyanaga Akira's ability to perceive the poetic potential of everyday life. In this work he creates a confounding sense of time and space using video footage taken while driving over a bridge. Fragments of video are superimposed upon one another to create an unsettling mirroring effect. Miyanaga's unique technique disrupts chronological narratives traditionally associated with time-based art. As a result, many of his works are characterised by a strange non-temporal quality: they appear to have no beginning and no end.

Miyanaga Akira

Japanese 1985–

WAVY

2014

colour high definition video, sound,
10 min 10 sec

Collection of the artist, courtesy Kodama Gallery, Tokyo

Miyanaga Akira combines images of rural and urban settings from his native Japan in this large-scale video work. *WAVY* employs multiple perspectives and a complex layering of imagery to metaphorically illustrate the global phenomenon of rapid urban expansion. The artist has explained that the work's title holds multiple meanings for him: 'The Japanese word *nami* means "wave", "ordinariness" and "row of something" at the same time ... *WAVY* explores my interest in layers of language as well as layers of images'.

Miyanaga Akira

Japanese 1985–

REALTIME-MATERIEL

2015

colour high definition video, sound, 7 min 4 sec

Collection of the artist, courtesy Kodama Gallery, Tokyo

In this large-scale projection, Miyanaga Akira turns an ordinary urban scene into an hypnotic abstract composition. The artist has manipulated footage filmed in a busy subway in contemporary Japan to make an increasingly intricate pattern, accompanied by a pulsating soundtrack. Miyanaga composed the work by layering different images over one another, transforming a mundane daily scene into something magical and otherworldly.

Miyanaga Akira

Japanese 1985–

Angles

2015

colour high definition video, silent,
40 min 56 sec

Collection of the artist, courtesy Kodama Gallery, Tokyo

Miyanaga Akira

Japanese 1985–

See Same Sky

2015

colour high definition video, silent,
40 min 56 sec

Collection of the artist, courtesy Kodama Gallery, Tokyo

For kids

In these two works, Japanese artist Miyanaga Akira has created the impression that we are standing at a window, looking out to a world beyond. What can you see as you look through the frame? Can you see anything familiar? What do you imagine might happen if you stepped into this world?