The Fondation Cartier pour l’art contemporain presents *Yokoo Tadanori: The Artists*, an immersion into the pictorial universe of Tadanori Yokoo at 21_21 DESIGN SIGHT Gallery 3 in Tokyo. The exhibition comprises an iconic series of 139 portraits featuring a constellation of artists, philosophers and scientists, created at the invitation of the Fondation Cartier pour l’art contemporain, as a tribute to those who marked the French institution’s history. Bringing alive the singularity of these leading figures, the artist turns each canvas into a playground of artistic experimentation, creating a gallery of unique portraits that represents each character in their individuality and collectively displays Tadanori Yokoo’s immense creative talent.

The exhibition’s scenography takes the visitor on an almost cinematographic journey through a story, deploying the portraits in a ribbon that evokes the unfolding of an infinite conversation. An interplay of echoes between the works and enlarged details offers an immersion into the pictorial universe of Tadanori Yokoo, and his exploration of the possibilities of painting. This immersion is extended by the film made especially for the exhibition by Noriaki Okamoto. In this movie, the artist is captured in the intimate setting of his studio in Tokyo and talks about his relationship with Issey Miyake and the Fondation Cartier.

Designed by Tadanori Yokoo himself, the exhibition poster features a cosmogony of faces, Issey Miyake to Sarah Sze, Marc Newson and Ron Mueck, surrounding a self-portrait, enigmatic and treated in shadow, pointing out that each portrait speaks as much about himself as about the artists he portrays. With this series, the painter rediscovers the very essence of his painting and the driving force behind his creation: “I paint to discover. I am still looking for new versions of myself.” By bringing together this “large orchestra” of the Fondation Cartier, he bears witness to the spirit of an institution that privileges the relationship with artists as essential elements of its programming.
The commission for this series of portraits is the outcome of an earlier relationship between Tadanori Yokoo and the Fondation Cartier, which in 2006 organized the first European exhibition of the artist’s paintings. A few years later, in 2011, the Foundation entrusted him with the creation of the poster for the exhibition Mathematics: A Beautiful Elsewhere. Since, the artist has continued to appear in the Fondation’s programming. This continuity characterizes the way in which the Fondation Cartier forges lasting links with artists, nurtures a continuous and faithful dialogue with a community of thinkers, researchers and creators, in an international vision in which Japan holds a privileged place.

The Fondation Cartier Collection holds two major works by Tadanori Yokoo, Screaming of the Five Senses (1999) and The Spa Lotus (Geisha’s mirror) (2004). These two significant works are presented in the MOT (Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo) solo exhibition devoted to the artist, GENKYO YOKOO TADANORI (from July 17 to October 17), held concurrently with the exhibition at 21_21 DESIGN SIGHT Gallery 3 this summer.

Curators: Hervé Chandès (General Director, Fondation Cartier pour l’art contemporain), with Béatrice Grenier (Head of Artistic Development, Fondation Cartier pour l’art contemporain)
The Fondation Cartier pour l’art contemporain is a private cultural institution whose mission is to promote all fields of contemporary artistic creation to the international public through a program of temporary exhibitions, live performances, and lectures. Created in 1984 by the Maison Cartier, its historic center is located in Paris in a building designed by the architect Jean Nouvel, a creative space for artists and encounters with the public. Fostering surprising and unexpected encounters between artists, scientists, philosophers, musicians, and architects from around the world, the Fondation Cartier pour l’art contemporain has over the years developed a program of distinctive contemporary art exhibitions on subjects ranging from science to cinema and dance to design, and has built a unique collection that brings together more than 2,000 works by 500 artists of 50 different nationalities. In recent years the Fondation has initiated partnerships with major institutions around the world, organizing exhibitions in cities such as Tokyo, Buenos Aires, Seoul, Milano and Shanghai.

The most “Japanese” of French foundations

From photography to architecture, design and painting, Japanese artists have been part of the Fondation Cartier’s program and collection for more than 30 years, as shown by the many portraits of Japanese creators gathered at 21_21 DESIGN SIGHT Gallery 3. In the last three decades, the Fondation has been instrumental in revealing the Japanese cultural and artistic scene to the European public. In total 14 exhibitions dedicated to Japanese artists have been held at the Fondation Cartier in Paris, including:

1993    Yasumasa Morimura, 9 visages
1994    Shinzo et Roso Fukuhara, Photographies (1913–1941)
1995    Nobuyoshi Araki, Journal intime
1996    Tatsuo Miyajima
1998    Issey Miyake, Making Things
2002    Takashi Murakami, Kaikai Kiki
2003    Daido Moriyama
2004    Hiroshi Sugimoto, Etant donné : Le Grand Verre
2005    Rinko Kawauchi
2006    Tadanori Yokoo
2007    Tabaimo
2010    Takeshi Kitano, Beat Takeshi Kitano, Gosse de peintre
2016    Daido Moriyama, Daido Tokyo
2018    Junya Ishigami, Freeing Architecture

The Fondation Cartier Collections holds works by 17 Japanese artists: Nobuyoshi Araki, Katsuhiko Hibino, Junya Ishigami, Rinko Kawauchi, Takeshi Kitano, Erina Matsui, Tatsuo Miyajima, Issey Miyake, Daido Moriyama, Yukio Nakagawa, Yusuke Sakamoto, Mariko Shindo, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Yuko Takeyama, Tabaimo, Tadanori Yokoo, Keiji Uematsu
Born in Hyogo Prefecture in 1936, Tadanori Yokoo is an internationally-acclaimed artist whose works are held in the collections of many of the world’s greatest art galleries and museums. He was given a solo exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York in 1972, and has since held solo exhibitions at art galleries and museums around the world, including the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, the Fondation Cartier pour l’art contemporain in Paris, and the State Museum of Oriental Art in Moscow. He has also submitted works to biennale exhibitions worldwide, including Paris, Venice, Sao Paulo, and Bangladesh. In Japan, he has presented numerous solo exhibitions – at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo, the National Museum of Modern Art in Kyoto, the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art in Kanazawa, and the National Museum of Art in Osaka. The Yokoo Tadanori Museum of Contemporary Art opened in Kobe in 2012, and the Teshima Yokoo House opened on the island of Teshima in Kagawa Prefecture in 2013. In 2011, he was awarded both The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette and the Asahi Prize. Then, in 2015, he received the 27th Praemium Imperiale Awards In Honor of Prince Takamatsu, and in 2020 he was conferred with the title of Tokyo Honorary Citizen. The Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo is to present a major solo exhibition of his work, opening on 17th July 2021.

http://www.tadanoriyokoo.com

Title: Yokoo Tadanori: The Artists
Date: July 21 (Wed) — October 17 (Sun), 2021
Hours: 11:00—17:00 on Weekdays, 11:00—18:00 on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays *Subject to change
Closed: Tuesdays
Admission: Free

Organized by: Fondation Cartier pour l’art contemporain
In special collaboration with: 21_21 DESIGN SIGHT
Media partner: The Asahi Shimbun

Venue: 21_21 DESIGN SIGHT Gallery 3
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Inquiry: TEL.0120-301-757 (Cartier Customer Service)