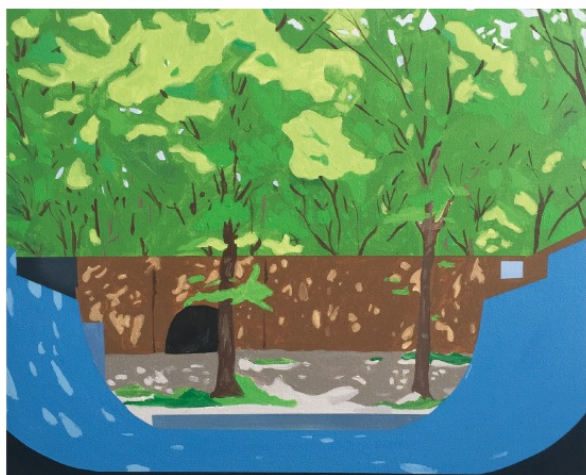


PRESS RELEASE

TOKYO–LONDON–NEW YORK  
AKI INOMATA / Kentaro Kobuke / Brian Alfred  
SEPTEMBER1–OCTOBER8, 2016  
12-7pm  
Closed on SUN, MON and National Holidays



top left <Why Not Hand Over a "Shelter" to Hermit Crabs? -Tokyo-> 2016 ©AKI INOMATA / MAHO KUBOTA GALLERY  
bottom left <Halfpipe Park> 2016 ©Brian Alfred / MAHO KUBOTA GALLERY  
right <Memory Niigata> 2015 ©Kentaro Kobuke / MAHO KUBOTA GALLERY

*MAHO KUBOTA GALLERY is delighted to announce a group exhibition entitled TOKYO / LONDON / NEW YORK. This show introduces the works of three artists living in those major cities across the world—Aki Inomata in Tokyo, Kentaro Kobuke in London, and Brian Alfred in New York.*

A feeling of incredible lightness comes from getting on a plane with just your laptop, passport, and minimal luggage in hand, or else just an iPhone in your pocket, and the next moment finding yourself in a totally different spot on the earth. Or maybe that kind of physical movement isn't even necessary for us any more in the 'warp' of modernity we live in. With our highly complex forms of communication that transcend the restrictions posed by maps and time, truths that go beyond cultural differences and modes of thought, possessing both anonymity and universality, can have huge numbers of people across the world sharing their thoughts within a single instant.

The feeling of 'sharing' is now beginning to transverse even the barriers of time difference. The phenomenal

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number of images posted on Instagram every second speak of the seamless web of time that spreads across the world. While on the one hand this mass of images speaks of diversity of values, it also testifies to the fact the vehicle that is earth, spinning round at ferocious speed with us all on board, transforms personal language and individual desires into a sweeping tide. It already seems outside the realms of possibility to live a life that is unaffected by the huge forcefield created by the all-powerful whirlpool of the changing trends.

This exhibition entitled 'Tokyo/London/New York' introduces the works of three artists living in those major cities across the world—Aki Inomata in Tokyo, Kentaro Kobuke in London, and Brian Alfred in New York—but the exhibition could just as well have been Buenos Aires/Tehran/Chiang Mai, or Belgrade/Adelaide/Capetown. As we join up our computers to the net and thereby assume a nomadic presence in that imaginary world, we become part of a 'bigger story', as well as the protagonist of our own personal 'small stories'. As it explores key concepts such as sharing, anonymity, noise, conflict, symbols, and the individual, the exhibition investigates contemporary forms of expression making tracks in this complex, fragile world of ours

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<Why Not Hand Over a "Shelter" to Hermit Crabs? -Tokyo-> 2016

©AKI INOMATA / MAHO KUBOTA GALLERY

## AKI INOMATA

Born in Tokyo in 1983, AKI INOMATA graduated with an MFA in Inter Media Art from Tokyo University of the Arts. Lives and works in Tokyo. She received the Grand Prize at the YouFab Global Creative Awards 2014 from Loftwork Inc.

AKI INOMATA's work includes many collaborations with animals. Her *Why Not Hand Over a "Shelter" to Hermit Crabs?* series, in which she gives hermit crabs shells made with a 3D printer, brings to mind migrants, refugees, and their ability to swap nationalities. For *I Wear the Dog's Hair, and the Dog Wears My Hair*, she makes herself a cape out of her dog's hair and a smaller cape out of her own hair. Wearing the dog hair cape, the artist has the dog wear the cape made from her hair so that they are wearing each other's coats.

Her recent exhibitions include "ECO EXPANDED CITY 2016" WRO Art Center, Poland, Wroclaw (2016), "Emergencies! 025 : Inter-Nature Communication AKI INOMATA " NTT InterCommunication Center[ICC], Tokyo (2015), "Digital Choc 2015" institut francais du Japon-Tokyo (2015).

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<The Potter Niigata> 2015

©Kentaro Kobuke / MAHO KUBOTA GALLERY

#### Kentaro Kobuke

Born in Hiroshima 1975, and currently lives and works in London. Kobuke graduated from Kuwasawa Design Institute in 1998, from Chelsea College of Art and Design MAFA in 2009. He received the Fellowship of Overseas Study Program for Artists by the Agency for Cultural Affairs by the Japanese Government.

Kobuke creates fantastic paintings (drawings) evoking references to mythology and fairy tales using a distinctive method in which he draws with colored pencils directly onto boards of natural wood. He is acclaimed for a style of symbolic motifs submerged in a richness of expression reminiscent of the Transavantgarde movement. His *Letters* series poetically depicts the traces of communication residing in media such as envelopes and paper. The artist frequently works with partners in a number of fields, producing commissioned work for commercial buildings and collaborations with apparel brands.

His recent exhibitions include “*17th DOMANI: The Art of Tomorrow*” The National Art Center, Tokyo (2015), “*Letters*” Nakata Museum, Onomichi, Hiroshima (2012), “*Mokume*” Daiwa Foundation, London (2012), “*The Frank Suss Collection*” Phillips de Pury & Company, Saatchi Gallery, London (2010)

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<Maritime> 2016

©Brian Alfred / MAHO KUBOTA GALLERY

Brian Alfred

Brian Alfred was born in Pittsburgh, PA in 1974. His work is imbued with the world around us.

From issues of conflict and unrest to the beauty of the landscape and everything in between, Alfred is interested in who we are as a people by way of our surroundings and environment. He works through a variety of media from painting to collage to animation to present images of our world. His work resonates with American artists such as Hopper and Sheeler and also has an affinity with Ukiyo-e and popular culture.

His work has been shown in galleries and museums worldwide and his animations have been played in film festivals and screenings across the globe.

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