

Benesse House Museum: Notice of Exhibition Changes from February 25th, 2017



Benesse House

photo: Tadasu Yamamoto

On the origin of the Benesse Collection — “Art is Something that Makes Us Think”

Benesse House Museum, a facility integrating a museum and a hotel, gives visitors the opportunity to consider the meaning of the coined word “Benesse” (well-being) and to re-envision their own lives for the better. Since 2015, the museum has held themed exhibitions exploring different perspectives. In 2015, the theme was “In Nature,” and in 2016, it was “Social Commentary.” In 2017, we will go back to the origin of the Benesse Collection - “Art is Something that Makes Us Think” .

The guiding principle at Benesse Art Site Naoshima is that the art be “site-specific” ; each work of contemporary art or architecture here harmonizes with the scenery of the Seto Inland Sea and its unique culture. It will naturally contribute to a heightened perception of the intricate changes occurring in our natural and social environments.

Since beginning, we focused on exhibiting artworks with this unique natural setting in mind. One of the works that beautifully demonstrates this is “Yellow and Black Boats” by Jennifer Bartlett, which will be reintroduced into the exhibition this year. Through a large window, one can see a beach in the distance, and on the beach two boats, the view of which reflects back to a painting inside the museum with black and yellow boat and in front of which two more boats are installed. The boats outside on the beach were placed by the artist after the installation inside the museum had been completed.

We will also reintroduce for the first time in two years “The World Flag Ant Farm 1990” by Yukinori Yanagi. Originally, this work was comprised of colonies of live ants living in plexiglas frames. The frames are filled with colored sand forming the designs of world flags, and the ants were allowed to tunnel and make their nests throughout the frames, thereby altering the images of the flags. The very concept brings into question the meaning and value of borders between nations, and the effects of migration, themes of particular relevance in our tumultuous modern times.



“Yellow and Black Boats”

photo: Koji Murakami

Our wish is that many people will come to experience the latest exhibition at Benesse House Museum, and take this opportunity to “think through art.”

Benesse House Museum

Opening Hour 8:00~21:00 (last entry 20:00) Open everyday

Admission 1,030 yen (Free admission for children 15 years old and under, and overnight guests at Benesse House)

Location Gotanji, Naoshima, Kagawa, 761-3110, JAPAN Phone +81-(0) 87-892-3223 (9:00~20:00)

Benesse Art Site Naoshima <http://www.benesse-artsite.jp/en/>

850-2, Naoshima, Kagawa, 761-3110, JAPAN Phone +81-(0)87-892-2887 Fax +81-(0)87-840-8277

For more information, please contact Yoko Miyashige at BASN-press@mail.benesse.co.jp

*For press inquiry, please fill out the application by visiting <http://benesse-artsite.jp/en/contact/press/>

Benesse House Museum : Notice of Exhibition Changes from February 25th, 2017.

Shigeo Anzai

Artists from Benesse House 1974-96

Jennifer Bartlett

Yellow and Black Boats 1985

Bernd and Hilla Becher

Fachwerkhauser, Siegener Industriegebiet 1993

David Hockney

A Walk Around the Hotel Courtyard Acatlan 1985

Pool with Reflection of Trees & Sky 1978

Tadashi Kawamata

Kawamata Project on Roosevelt Island plan 1993

Richard Long

60 Minute Walk 1990

Louise Nevelson

Night Totality 1974

Robert Rauschenberg

Run-off 1984

Winston Roeth

Duluth; Huron; Ontario; Erie 1995-96

George Segal

Oriental Woman 1981

Yukinori Yanagi

The World Flag Ant Farm 1990 1990