

SENSE OF TASTE

Works by Ken and Julia Yonetani

7 October - 19 November 2011
Private View Thursday 6 October 2011, 6-9pm
GV Art Gallery, 49 Chiltern Street, Marylebone, London W1U 6LY



Still Life: the food bowl, 2011, salt, dimensions variable

'If revolt is to come, it will have to come from the five senses' Michel Serres

Sense of Taste by Ken and Julia Yonetani is inspired by the 1618 painting by Jan Brueghel the Elder of the same name. One of a series on the five senses, it depicts a new world based on unfettered consumption of luxury goods, at a time when expanding markets, colonisation and agricultural revolutions were feeding the increasingly lavish and abundant tables of the European upper class. Nearly 400 years later, Ken and Julia Yonetani's *Sense of Taste* ponders our obsession with sensual and material pleasures, reconnecting our sense of taste to the environmental impacts of what is on the dinner table. The exhibition comprises two main works, *Sweet Barrier Reef* and *Still Life*, the first made out of sugar and the second made entirely from salt. Both works explore ideas of human desire, colonialism, a culture of hedonism, and global food security, as well as reconnect us back to a spiritual world of nature and magic.

Sweet Barrier Reef focuses on the event of bleaching coral – the process leading to coral death. River waters containing high levels of suspended sediment (nitrogen, phosphorus and herbicides) cause coral death and bleaching. This sediment often comes from harvesting sugarcane, and is known to be one factor leading to bleaching in the Great Barrier Reef.

Still Life: The Food Bowl brings us back to the environmental cost of agricultural production and links up with historical associations of salt – as a powerful, sacred substance that maintains life by enabling food preservation, but also induces the death of ecosystems. Salinity is a major problem for the Murray-Darling basin, known as Australia's 'food bowl' as it produces up to 90 per cent of Australia's domestic fresh food.

Ken and Julia Yonetani are available for interviews in London until the end of October.

For press enquiries and images, contact:
GV Art via media@gvart.co.uk
or call 020 8408 9800

Please see image sheet attached.

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

Ken and Julia Yonetani are collaborative artists who work in the field of sculptural installation, video, and performance art. They have exhibited together at such galleries as *Art Gallery of New South Wales*, *Campbelltown Arts Centre*, *La Trobe University Museum of Art*, *Mildura Arts Centre*, *Arterreal* and *Sydney College of the Arts*. In 2010, they staged a bed-in performance in Federation Square, Melbourne, and conducted a *Synapse Residency* in Mildura in collaboration with the Murray Darling Freshwater Research Centre and Sunrise 21. Additional plans for 2011-12 include a residency at the Kone Foundation in Finland and the Navegar Foundation, Portugal.

Ken was born in Tokyo, Japan. He was an assistant for pottery master, Toshio Kinjo, oldest son of Jiro Kinjo, National Living Treasure of Japan. He was selected for the 2008 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art, and the Australian contingent at the 53rd Venice Biennale in 2009.

Julia is an artist, writer, and researcher, and has held several university positions lecturing and researching. Ken and Julia live together with their children in the Blue Mountains, Australia.

GV Art is a contemporary art gallery which aims to explore and acknowledge the inter-relationship between art and science, and how the areas cross over and inform one another. The gallery produces exhibitions and events that create a dialogue focused on how modern man interprets and understands the advances in both areas and how an overlap in the technological and the creative, the medical and the historical are paving the way for new aesthetic sensibilities to develop.

VISITOR INFORMATION

GV Art, 49 Chiltern Street
London W1U 6LY nearest tube Baker Street
Tel: 020 8408 9800
Email: info@gvart.co.uk
Web : www.gvart.co.uk

GALLERY OPENING HOURS

Tuesday to Friday 11am - 6pm,
Saturdays 11am - 4pm or by appointment.
Admission Free



www.gvart.co.uk

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IMAGES



Details from *Sweet Barrier Reef* (as an installation) in the 53rd Venice Biennale, 2009, Medium: Sugar, Icing sugar, polystyrene foam, Dimensions: 3.7m(D)x 8.5m(W)x 1.4m(H)



Details from *Still Life: the food bowl*, 2011, salt, dimensions variable