

Press Release March 2019

Tom Sachs: Tea Ceremony

Sat. 20 April – Sun. 23 June, 2019

Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery

Conceived for and organized by The Noguchi Museum in New York in 2016, *Tom Sachs: Tea Ceremony* has since travelled to Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco, CA (2016-17), where it was integrated into Sachs' *Space Program: Europa—Tea* representing humanity at its centered, questing best—and the Nasher Sculpture Center in Dallas, TX (2017-18). *Tea Ceremony* represents Sachs' reworking of chanoyu, traditional Japanese tea ceremony—including examples of the wide range of elements which comprise its intensely ritualistic universe. From the moment Sachs began developing a culture of Tea in 2012, he aimed to exhibit his *Tea Ceremony* in Japan. At Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery, this completely immersive and interactive environment will at last be seen in the country that inspired it. *Tea Ceremony* includes complete inner and outer gardens, a handmade plywood tea house, a functional lavatory based on that of a Boeing 747, a koi pond with views of a sublime peak, and a variety of gates.

Following the way of Tea—in order, as Isamu Noguchi put it, to pursue the “true development of an old tradition”—Sachs has produced a complete, alternative material culture, from bowls and ladles, scroll paintings, vases, and bronzes, to a motorized tea whisk, a shot clock, and an electronic brazier. Any question one may have about the sincerity of Sachs's obsession with Tea are answered by objects such as *Lobster*, a perfectly articulated, Meiji-style bronze welded from spare and scrap tool parts, and the more than 500 perfectly imperfect chawan Sachs has sculpted, a selection of which will also be on view. What underlies and animates *Tom Sachs: Tea Ceremony*, and what makes it such a meaningful contribution to the culture of Tea—not despite its sense of mischief but because of it—are the tens of thousands of hours of painstaking research, craft, and devotion Sachs and his studio have committed to this most extraordinary expression of human culture.

“Traditional tea ceremony,” says Dakin Hart, Senior Curator at The Noguchi Museum, “was refined over many years, reached a mature state, was codified, and then, like many cultural phenomena that survive an originating generation, more or less stopped developing. It was essentially a 16th century fad, which became a full-fledged culture because it captured lasting values in universal experiences. Tea celebrates hospitality, reinforces the development of community through ritual, creates a holistic but intimate sense of connection to the world in fundamental combinations of earth, air, fire, and water, and encourages quiet reflection. Tom Sachs's version is a sublimely rich and deeply moving attempt to inspire new generations and new audiences to embrace those values, and the culture that supports them, by way of exploring the infinite space within.”

Supplementing the tea garden are additional installations covering consummate examples of Sachs' Tea tools, and a brief history of Tea as it developed out of Sachs' *Space Program 2.0: MARS* (2012). The exhibition will also feature Tom Sachs' film *Tea Ceremony*, a celebration of ritual that extends the artist's two-decade-long absorption in the development of complex subcultures centered on labor. It will be shown continuously in a small quarter-geodesic dome theater made uniquely for Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery.

During the course of the exhibition, Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery will present a series of public demonstrations of Sachs' tea ceremony. The walls of the tea house will be removed for the occasion, enabling visitors to watch the ceremony unfold.

Tom Sachs: Tea Ceremony is accompanied by a 280-page artist's book, *Tea Ceremony Manual*, documenting the artist's culture and practice of Tea. The book was produced for the first exhibition and published by The Noguchi Museum, with additional support from Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and Nasher Sculpture Center.

About Tom Sachs

Tom Sachs was born in 1966 and lives and works in New York. He studied at the Architectural Association, London in 1987 and received his B.A. from Bennington College, Vermont in 1989.

Major exhibitions include: Tom Sachs: Tea Ceremony, Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, Texas (2017); Space Program: Europa, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, California (2016); Tom Sachs: Boombox Retrospective 1999–2016, Brooklyn Museum, New York (2016); Tom Sachs: Tea Ceremony, The Noguchi Museum, New York (2016); Tom Sachs: Boombox Retrospective 1999–2016, The Contemporary Austin, Texas (2015); Biennale de Lyon, France (2013); Space Program: Mars, Park Avenue Armory, New York (2012); Le Corbusier Installation, Venice Biennial of Architecture (2010); Logjam, Des Moines Art Center, Iowa (2007); Tom Sachs, Fondazione Prada, Milan, Italy (2006); Tom Sachs – Survey, Astrup Fearnley Museum for Modern Art, Oslo, Norway (2006); NUTSY'S, Deutsche Guggenheim, Berlin, Germany (2003).

Sachs's work is included in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; The Jewish Museum, New York; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA); Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; and San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

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Open hours: 11:00 - 19:00 (to 20:00 on Fridays and Saturdays. Entry up to 30 minutes before closing)

Closed on Mondays (Tuesday if the Monday is a public holiday, Open on Tuesday 30 April.)

Admission: adult 1,400 [1,200] yen / university and high school students 1,000 [800] yen / junior high and under: free

Fare includes admission for "From the Terada Collection 066" (provisional title) and "project N 75 KOROMO Shinichiro".

Fares in brackets are rates for groups of 15 or more. Free entrance for person with disability certificate and an attendant. Only one reduction is available at a time. Nonrefundable.

Organisers: Tokyo Opera City Cultural Foundation / Executive Committee of Tom Sachs: Tea Ceremony in Tokyo

Special sponsor: Nippon Life Insurance Company

Sponsor: BEAMS Co., Ltd.

Cooperation: Sogo Development Co., Ltd. / Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac / Vito Schnabel Projects / Tokyo Studio Co., Ltd.

Coordination: Tomio Koyama Gallery

Event

Tea Ceremony

Sat. 20 April 12:00- / 14:30

Related Exhibitions and Pop-Up Store

Tom Sachs: Smutshow Tomio Koyama Gallery 20 April - 25 May, 2019 www.tomiokoyamagallery.com

Tom Sachs: Indoctrination Center KOMAGOME 1-14 cas 20 April - 14 May, 2019 www.tokyo-studio.co.jp/cas

Tom Sachs Pop-Up Store BEAMS HARAJUKU 19 April - 6 May, 2019 www.beams.co.jp

For more information, visit www.operacity.jp/ag



《Ishidoro》 2015



《Pam》 2013



《Kabuto》 2015



《Bonsai》 2016 《Stupa》 2013



《Tea House》 2011-16

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