

## Atsuo Hukuda + Shuhei Fukuda

*RYUHA = Inheritance of School of Art and Inheritance of Style of Art*

家流派【流派=家元継承と様式継承】 福田 篤夫 + 福田 周平

**24 September - 22 October 2017**

An exhibition by Atsuo Hukuda and Shuhei Fukuda will open at EQ on Sunday 24 September, 2017, 2-5pm.

This will be the first exhibition at EQ, a new art space based in St Cyr en Pail, in the Mayenne department of western France. EQ is a partner project of the Highland Institute for Contemporary Art (HICA) in northern Scotland, and shares many of HICA's concerns, especially in re-examining the area of ideas around Concrete Art. EQ's exhibition space, a former agricultural building, is in the process of being developed as a gallery. The artists' works will be presented in the gallery in its current state. The exhibition is also related to a concurrent presentation of the artists' works, also titled *Ryuha = Inheritance of School of Art and Inheritance of Style of Art*, at Imprints Galerie, in Crest, France.

The exhibition's title refers to the Japanese Ryuha tradition, the skills, styles and techniques of which are usually considered to be inherited collectively, often through bloodlines from the patriarch of the school to its students, as with many other Japanese traditions such as those of Ikebana, the tea ceremony or the martial arts. Rin-pa, one of the most well-known Ryuha schools and styles, employs gold or silver-leaf for the foundation of its paintings and repeated ornamental patterns. The painting technique of *tarashikomi*, which translates as 'dripping in', where a second layer of paint is applied before the first layer dries, is also characteristic, as are asymmetric composition and the presenting of all these elements as one single flat surface. Rin-pa is notable amongst the schools of Ryuha for its openness to collaborations across different disciplines, for example, painting, calligraphy and ceramics, and also for its more organic development by differing followers, rather than solely by way of bloodlines.

For over 35 years Atsuo Hukuda has curated exhibitions at Concept Space in Japan. Employing traditional Japanese painting techniques and materials such as gold and silver leaf and Urushi lacquer, Hukuda's minimalist works have been consciously related to the methods of Rin-pa. *Suki-Mono-Tachi: Ways Since Rin-pa*, for example, is a series of exhibitions he has curated since 1991, which specifically considers the approaches of Rin-pa from within a contemporary art context.

Shuhei Fukuda is Hukuda's son and is currently studying Japanese painting, exploring his own contemporary approach through using traditional techniques and materials.

The relationship between the two artists, as father and son, coincidentally employing the same materials in their work, represents one of the more orthodox forms of inheritance of the Ryuha school. The exhibition thus reflects on the nature of this relationship, as it is understood through Ryuha, while also prompting wider considerations of the nature of inheritance; questioning our, especially Western, notions of individuality through consideration of a more collective tradition, and reflecting generally on the processes through which personal and cultural ideas are transmitted.

The exhibition will be open to the public on Sunday 24 September only, from 2-5pm. Thereafter, to 22 October, it will be open by appointment only.

For more information or images please contact Geoff Lucas or Eilidh Lucas at:

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