

About the artist, Adriaan Rees



October 2015 : Visiting Japan to hold a solo exhibition (KANEKO ART TOKYO/ Iwamoto-cho, Tokyo)

Copyright (c) 2022 KANEKO ART LLC. and Adriaan Rees, All Rights Reserved.

Adriaan Rees (1957, Amsterdam) lives and works in two locations, Amsterdam and Jingdezhen, China. Rees, who is famous for his large-scale projects and assignments for public space, makes sculptures and installations mainly in ceramics, porcelain, and also in many materials such as bronze, glass, textiles, plaster and stone. He has also been working on photography, video and performance production, expanding the range of his creation.

Since the 2000s, Rees has been strongly influenced by Asian Cultures through his travels in Japan, Korea and China. He is also currently based in Jingdezhen, China, where he works in his own studio among the thousands of craftsmen locally.

He started his working career as a physical therapist in the Netherlands. After three and a half years of his career, he made a decision. From an early age, he was interested in the human body. At the same time, he loved to draw, to touch art, and to create things with his hands. He had chosen to become a physical therapist as his career, but still felt that there was something unreachable, so he decided to quit his good career and start studying again at the Art Academy.

His first visit to Japan was in 1998. At that time, he visited the "Kaneko Art Gallery" in Kyobashi, Tokyo with a letter of introduction from Mr. Trumpie, Managing Director of Struktuur 68 in The Hague, the Netherlands. Through his encounter with the previous owner, Tasaku Kaneko, he began his activities in Japan. After holding solo exhibitions and publishing a collection of his works in Japanese, he was invited to stay and work at the Shiga Prefectural Ceramic Cultural Park and other places, and had deepen his relationship with Japan.

Activities in Japan planned for 2022



From the video of the performance in Belgium, May 2021 (Coppejans Gallery / Antwerpen, Belgium)

Copyright (c) 2022 KANEKO ART LLC. , Adriaan Rees and Coppejans Gallery, All Rights Reserved.

This project will consist of 2 exhibitions of his new works of ceramics and clay drawings for the first time in Japan in almost seven years since October 2015, and 4 performances for the first time in Japan.

Due to the collapse of the previous owner shortly after his last visit to Japan, his promotion in Japan stopped for a long time. He himself was steadily expanding his activities and footholds in Europe and China in this period, but at the same time, his special love and thought for Japan remained with him.

He recognizes himself as a cosmopolitan artist. He goes and works anywhere around the world like “the exploring wanderer” as he says, envisioning his work as a bridge for dialogue between cultural traditions like Europe and Asia. Through working in a tribute event to Joseph Beuys with a Belgian gallery, he came to feel that Beuys left without completing his approach to Japan, and he has become to wish that he would take it over and bring it to life in a new way for this day and age.

Activities planned :

- 1) Demonstration of the four-part performance work (with Japanese musicians and dancers).
Cooperation : Egasaki Hachiman Shrine (Yokohama City), TS4312 (Yotsuya-Sanchome, Tokyo), and others.
- 2) The exhibition at kaneko art gallery (Yokohama City), mainly new works and also recent works.
- 3) The exhibition at Gallery KTO (Jingumae, Tokyo), mainly new works and also recent works.
- 4) Organizing the above projects with support from the Embassy of the Netherlands in Japan (pending).
- 5) Production and publicity of video works, booklets, archives, etc.

For 1), Rees is working on a completely new piece based on the performance "Drei Hasen" (Three Hares) in Belgium last May, but with inspiration from Japan. This will include elements of the "The white Hare of Inaba" from Japanese mythology. And the main act of this will take place at a shrine in Japan.