

July 11, 2024

KOIAS ART PROJECT #1 | AKIRA MIZUNO Artist Talk

On July 11, 2024, the third day of Akira Mizuno's residency, we hosted an artist talk. The event took place at Kobe University's Takigawa Memorial Hall, an open space offering a scenic view of the Kobe coastline.



The origins of this project trace back to the international conference “Respiratory Philosophy,” co-hosted by KOIAS and ZRS Koper in Slovenia last June. Following his presentation at the conference, and building on further research, KOIAS member Mao Matsuyama engaged Mizuno in a discussion about his work and production process.



It was a productive conversation that extended just briefly beyond the scheduled time, delving into topics such as the fundamental meaning of “realism,” Mizuno’s roots in Spanish painting and his residency experiences there, the drawing line that follows the movement and generation of the subject, the slowness of painting, and his ongoing work at Lake Haruna in Gunma, Japan. Participants asked enthusiastic questions and shared images that inspired ideas for the next day’s workshop.

Mizuno also shared his work *Portrait of Mother, Yuriko* (2018-2021) along with his sketchbooks, offering a rare opportunity to appreciate the layers of paint and brushstrokes – details that cannot be fully captured through images alone.



Photos © manami Inui