

LUXEMBOURG + CO.

SEEN AND UNSEEN

Isamu Noguchi

Katsumi Nakai



Isamu Noguchi, *Seen and Unseen*. 1962 © 2024 Estate of Isamu Noguchi / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York & Katsumi Nakai, *50 - 103*, 1981.

Luxembourg + Co.

October 29, 2024 – January 25, 2025

Opening reception, October 28, 6-8PM

Fuller Building

595 Madison Avenue, 6th Floor

New York, 10022

The Art Show | Stand C1

October 30 – November 2

Benefit Preview, October 29, 6-8PM

Park Avenue Armory

643 Park Avenue

New York, NY 10065

Luxembourg + Co., New York, is pleased to announce the opening of *Seen and Unseen: Isamu Noguchi and Katsumi Nakai*.

Innovators in the field of sculpture, these two artists operated on opposite sides of the Atlantic but shared an aspiration to translate their Japanese cultural heritage into a new geographic context. Taking Noguchi's seminal work *Seen and Unseen* of 1962 as a gateway to discover the work of Katsumi Nakai, the proposed display will focus on the importance of veiling and unveiling as artistic strategies that underline both of these practitioners' work. Moreover, the display will also point towards the significance of Japanese craft traditions such as origami, interior design, and garden landscaping within this context.

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FULLER BUILDING, 595 MADISON AVENUE, 6TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10022

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Isamu Noguchi, *The Elephant*, 1952 © 2024 Estate of Isamu Noguchi / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.

American born Isamu Noguchi (1904-1988) spent most of his youth in Japan, before returning to the United States as a teenager. Having trained and studied in several institutions and artists' studios in the States, he then travelled to Paris where he apprenticed as a sculptor with Constantin Brancusi before finally returning to New York and establishing his own studio. His point of view as a mature artist later retained the tension of his multinational identity, particularly in the aftermath of the Second World War, and came to expression in his search to reinterpret traditional motifs of Japanese craft using the language of European and North American modern art.



Katsumi Nakai, *Loggetto si sboccia 40*, 1967.

Katsumi Nakai (1927-2013), on his part, was a Japanese native, born in the town of Hirakata in the province of Osaka. He became an active artist in the local art scene and the leader of an artistic group named Tekkei-Kai. Nakai belongs to a generation of artists that experienced the trauma of the Second World War during their formative years as young adults training in art in Japan. His desire to travel in the aftermath of the War and explore other cultures was a direct result of this. It led him to leave Japan at the age of thirty-seven and to spend the most prolific decades of his career, between 1964 and 1996, in the city of Milan, Italy. There, Nakai abandoned an expressive painterly practice he developed over more than a decade. In its place, he began to forge a new artistic vocabulary, cutting and reassembling wooden panels using hinges to create simple monochrome paintings that open into complex and colourful three-dimensional objects.

The new moving sculptures represented Nakai's original contribution to the local developments in Spatialism, abstraction and pop art within the Italian context of the 1960s.

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Noguchi and Nakai's original approaches to manifesting the power of the unseen is at the heart of the two gallery displays, bringing to the fore some of the ways in which Japanese traditions of craft have immigrated in the second half of the Twentieth Century into the realm of European and North American art.

Between October 30th and November 2nd, the exhibition will also extend to Luxembourg + Co's display at the ADAA The Art Show (the Armory Park Avenue, NYC).



Katsumi Nakai, *Hiraku 81-33*, 2009.

About Luxembourg + Co.

Luxembourg + Co. presents curated, museum-quality exhibitions of works by modern masters and contemporary artists in its spaces in New York and London. Since its opening, the gallery has presented a number of critically acclaimed exhibitions, ranging from individual presentations of artists such as Paul Cezanne, René Magritte, Alberto Burri, Richard Prince and Derrick Adams to thematic survey exhibitions such as *Grisaille*, *Unpainted Paintings*, *The Shaped Canvas*, *Revisited* and *The Ends of Collage*.

Press enquiry

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Luxembourg + Co. is open Tuesday to Friday, 10am–5pm, and Saturday, 12pm–4pm (or by appointment).