

OVERDUIN & CO.



Ei Arakawa
Don't Give Up

Ei Arakawa (b. 1977, Fukushima) is a queer Japan-born American performance artist based in Los Angeles since 2019. His exhibitions and performances are often created through fervent collaborations with artists (and at times their artworks), art historians, and with audience members themselves. His activities undertake the lo-fi mimicry, duplication, and embodiment of cultural forms—be they architectural structures, art historical legacies, or organizational systems—to reanimate their potentialities anew.

Since the early 2000s, Arakawa has been at the forefront of renewing the visibility and advancement of performance art internationally, and has mined both its vintage forms (Gutai, New York Fluxus, Happenings, and Judson Dance Theater, and Viennese Actionism) as well as numerous contemporary manifestations of movement, entertainment, and togetherness. His work, initially appearing spontaneous or improvised, is underpinned by a deep commitment to collaboration as well as addressing the specific contexts of the people for which it is created.

For ***Don't Give Up***, three living American painters (Nicole Eisenman, Laura Owens, Trevor Shimizu) and a couple of dead ones (Mary Cassatt, Alice Neel) mentor Arakawa about the hardship and reality of being a parent and an artist at the same time, a subject which is still a rare topic for female and queer artists (although Cassatt was neither married nor a parent). Arakawa's psychic preparation for planned queer parenthood becomes a maze of hallways and rooms of cardboard in the gallery, through which the visitor encounters singing paintings. Together with the LA based composer Celia Hollander, Arakawa creates an insecure opera of "figuring this out" or "figuring paintings" in need of temporarily connected parenting artist-hoods.

Don't Give Up (a whole cycle is approx 25 min)
Vocaloids: Celia Hollander with Ei Arakawa
Lyrics: Ei Arakawa (based on the interviews of the painters)

Section 1 (2:34), Section 2 (4:06), Section 3 (4:02), Section 4 (4:00)

with 4 tracks (*1:23 AM, 6:33 AM, 1:17 PM, 3:34 AM*)
from the album *Timekeeper* (2021) by Celia Hollander

Note: The AC can be paused during your listening experience.
Please request the gallery staff.

Ei Arakawa's selected performances/exhibitions include; Turbine Hall at Tate Modern, London (2021); Artists Space, New York (2021); Honolulu Biennial (2019); Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen, Düsseldorf (2018); Sculpture Project Münster (2017); Museum Ludwig, Cologne (2017); The 9th Berlin Biennale (2016); Gwangju Biennial (2014); Whitney Biennial, New York (2014); Carnegie International, Pittsburgh (2013); The Museum of Modern Art, New York (2012). For more info please go to a5rkw.com.

Celia Hollander is a Los Angeles based composer. Her work critically engages ways that audio and the act of listening can shape temporal perception and question cultural infrastructures. Her work has been performed or installed at institutions and venues including MOCA, The Getty, Skirball Cultural Art Center, Various Small Fires, Human Resources and Zebulon. Her discography includes releases on Leaving Records, Recital and Noumenal Loom and she is a resident dj with Dublab Radio. She holds an MFA in music composition from California Institute of the Arts.

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