

# LISSON GALLERY

## Press Release

### Tatsuo Miyajima

55 Main Street  
East Hampton, NY  
November 11 – 28, 2021

For the latest exhibition in East Hampton, Lisson Gallery is pleased to present a selection of LED installations and works on paper by Tatsuo Miyajima. The five works on view exemplify the Japanese artist's signature digital vocabulary.

The spiritually and technologically infused works of Tatsuo Miyajima reflect on the individual potential of human beings and invite introspection in each viewer that encounters them. Inspired by Buddhist teachings, the artist addresses his chosen themes of change, connection, eternity and death through the infinite possibilities of numerical combinations. The single digits, from 1 to 9, are at the heart of his practice, signifying a universal language that transcends boundaries and cultures. A central work in the East Hampton presentation is *Innumerable Life/Buddha* (2018). Made up of a glowing LED display, the work features thousands of numbers counting down to one at differing speeds, before beginning their loop once more. According to Miyajima: "These digits embody the human cycle and the eastern philosophy of change and renewal; each solitary, blinking diode signifying the individual body and soul. The counting sequence continues on, and yet '0', implying death, is expressed solely by darkness. Through this allusion, the numbers—or 'Life'—are destined to an everlasting cycle of regeneration. This idea is also reflected in the color of the work: the radiant red denotes the blood of life, love, fire, passion, strength and joy."

The endless possibilities represented by Miyajima's numerical system expand into his *Innumerable Counts* series. Three works embossed on gold and white paper feature random arrangements of numbers. Each digit represents a countdown in progress from 9 to 1, similar to the numbered LED lights across the room. Blank spaces take the place of zeros and each number signifies the existence of life at different moments in time. The final work in the show is a study model that considers this structure of time and is part of the ongoing *Counter Fragile* series. *C.F. Loop / Helix* (2021), features Miyajima's archetypal LED numbers on an irregularly-shaped circle.

Tatsuo Miyajima's East Hampton presentation precedes a large exhibition of his works in London in early 2022. The presentation follows solo exhibitions at the East Hampton gallery by [Masaomi Yasunaga](#), [Roy Colmer](#), [Leon Polk Smith](#), [Ceal Floyer](#), [Laure Prouvost](#), [Sean Scully](#), [Ryan Gander](#), [Olga de Amaral](#), [Rodney Graham](#), [Wael Shawky](#) and [Ted Stamm](#). The gallery is open to the public each Thursday through Saturday, from 11am to 5pm, Sundays from 11 to 4pm and Wednesdays by appointment. Lisson Gallery's East Hampton space will close for the season beginning November 28, re-opening in Spring 2022.

### About Tatsuo Miyajima

Tatsuo Miyajima is one of Japan's foremost sculptors and installation artists. Employing contemporary materials such as electric circuits, video, and computers, Miyajima's supremely technological works have centered on his use of digital light-emitting diode (LED) counters, or 'gadgets' as he calls them, since the late 1980s. These numbers, flashing in continual and repetitious—though not necessarily sequential—cycles from 1 to 9, represent the journey from life to death, the finality of which is symbolized by '0' or the zero point, which consequently never appears in his work. This theory derives partially from humanist ideas, the teachings of Buddhism, as well as from his core artistic concepts: 'Keep Changing', 'Connect with All', and 'Goes on Forever'. Miyajima's LED numerals have been presented in grids, towers, complex integrated groupings or circuits and as simple digital counters, but

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are all aligned with his interests in continuity, connection and eternity, as well as with the flow and span of time and space. “Time connects everything”, says Miyajima. “I want people to think about the universe and the human spirit.”

Tatsuo Miyajima was born in 1957 and lives and works in Ibaraki, Japan. He finished undergraduate and postgraduate studies at the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music in 1986, after which he began experimenting with performance art before moving on to light-based installations. In addition to participating in numerous international biennales and important group shows, he has held solo exhibitions at Minsheng Museum, Shanghai, China (2019) Buchmann Galerie, Lugano, Switzerland (2019); Lisson Gallery, New York, NY, USA (2018); William Morris Gallery, London, UK (2018); Fosun Foundation, Shanghai, China (2017); SCAI The Bathhouse, Tokyo, Japan (2017); MCA, Sydney, Australia (2016); The Met Breuer, New York, NY, USA (2016); Capsule Gallery, Tokyo (2014); Kunstmuseum St Gallen, Switzerland (2012); Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China (2011); Miyanomori Art Museum, Hokkaido, Japan (2010); San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA, USA (1997); Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, Paris, France (1996); and Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, TX, USA (1996). He has participated in the Venice Biennale (1988, 1999) and in numerous group exhibitions, including 'Change Connect Continue', Galleria Lorcan O'Neill Roma, Italy (2019); 'The Life of Buddha, the way to now', Nieuwe Kerk, Amsterdam, Netherlands (2018); 'Catastrophe and the Power of Art', Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan (2018); 'Everything at Once', The Store, London, UK (2017); 'Relight Days', Counter Void, Tokyo, Japan (2017); 'Kumamoto Admirable', Contemporary Art Museum Kumamoto, Japan (2016); 'Order and Reorder: Curate Your Own Exhibition', National Museum of Modern Art Kyoto (MOMAK), Japan (2016); 'Eppur Si Muove', Mudam Luxembourg (2015); 'Boolean Expressions', Lewis Gluckman Gallery, Ireland (2015); 'Logical Emotion, Contemporary Art from Japan', Museum Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich, Switzerland (2014); 'Asia Code ZERO', Seoul Olympic Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea (2013); 'Marking Time', Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia (2012); and 'Dome', Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Japan (2008). In 2006, Miyajima was selected to serve as Vice President of Tohoku University of Art and Design. His work is featured in numerous public collections including British Museum, London, UK; Tate, London, UK; La Caixa, Barcelona, Spain; National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; and Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taiwan.

## About Lisson Gallery

Lisson Gallery is one of the most influential and longest-running international contemporary art galleries in the world. Today the gallery supports and promotes the work of more than 60 international artists across two spaces in London, two in New York and one in Shanghai. Established in 1967 by Nicholas Logsdail, Lisson Gallery pioneered the early careers of important Minimal and Conceptual artists, such as Art & Language, Carl Andre, Daniel Buren, Donald Judd, John Latham, Sol LeWitt, Richard Long and Robert Ryman among many others. It still works with many of these artists as well as others of that generation from Carmen Herrera to the renowned estates of Leon Polk Smith, Ted Stamm and Roy Colmer.

In its second decade the gallery introduced significant British sculptors to the public for the first time, including Tony Cragg, Richard Deacon, Anish Kapoor, Shirazeh Houshiary and Julian Opie. Since 2000, the gallery has gone on to represent many more leading international artists such as Marina Abramović, Ai Weiwei, John Akomfrah, Susan Hiller, Tatsuo Miyajima and Sean Scully. It is also responsible for raising the international profile of a younger generation of artists led by Cory Arcangel, Nathalie Djurberg & Hans Berg, Ryan Gander, Haroon Mirza, Laure Prouvost, Pedro Reyes and Wael Shawky.

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