

PHOTO LONDON 2019

METRONOM | Booth D16

May 16th – 19th, 2019

Preview by invitation: May 15th 2019

Somerset House, London

For Photo London 2019, METRONOM proposes a selection of works by the Japanese artist **Kenta Cobayashi** and the German duo **TILO&TONI**. The combination of two different researches aims to offer a complementary vision of the artists' approaches to the photographic medium.

TILO&TONI has designed a specific set-up that put *Im Walde rauscht der Wasserfall* and *Summer Collection* series into dialogue. The first one, outcome of the most recent duo's reflections, is composed of black and white analogical prints, made from original negatives through manipulation processes in the darkroom, as scratching, over-painting, over-exposing or 'drawing' on prints with pocket lights. Always reflecting on the process of image creation, thought by artists as an infinitely act of appropriation, TILO&TONI presents a series as a collection of varied and mixed images of natural landscapes and outdoor activities, on one hand playing with the contemporary obsession and ostentation of originality, uniqueness and self-discovery, on the other appropriating of Romantic themes, Pictorialist and Surrealist experimentations, in a continuous vortex of high and low references and quotations. Starting from the concept of authenticity behind the analogical technique, TILO&TONI produces its own unique one-offs, giving itself over to the contingency of experiment – no doubt authenticity's twin double.

Summer Collection, the other series presented, appears literally as a 'collection' of coloured and impact images from multiple and different contexts, mixed through a meticulous constructions of subjects and objects which test the production methods and use of contemporary photography, both professional and amateur. Pictures digitally photographed, photoshopped, and then printed, scanned, edited and printed again are the materials of this series which represents at the best the approach by TILO&TONI of taking an ordinary object and make art through placing it in a different context.

The work of Cobayashi puts together pictures related to digital and pixel aesthetics. His images are composed by distortion areas of 'error', made ad hoc to mimic the speed of data transmission through the network, in a process that becomes both a formal act and a result of image creation. Even if the work of Cobayashi appears as carried away by a technological flow that seems to tend towards fading, he's aimed by a

personal and conceptual research, capable to create a perfect synthesis between physical and digital. Images representing an extremely modern and urban world, deformed as scratched, symbolize Cobayashi's intention to express how photography is the result of the interference of several dimensions, going far beyond its two-dimensional structure. The artist's research is grounded in a conception of photography as a tool that produces unstable and constantly changeable images – the opposite of the fixed and static quality traditionally associated with the medium. Thanks to digital manipulation software, every photographic shot has transformed itself into the basis for the production of a potentially infinite quantity of variations; a process of constant reimagining of reality.

TILO&TONI is an artist duo founded in 2015 in Siegen, Germany. After an apprenticeship in stonemasonry, they studied Sculpture, Painting and Photography at University of Siegen, and graduated in 2017 at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie in Amsterdam. TILO&TONI's works were selected for international exhibitions as *NAK Benefit Auction*, Neuer Aachener Kunstverein, Aachen, DE (2018); *Die Grosse*, Kunstpalast Düsseldorf (2017); *plat(t)form*, Winterthur (2017) European Photography Award, Modena (2016); Art Award of University Siegen (2012 e 2014) and winner of *fotopub festival prize*, Novo Mesto (SLO) (2015). TILO&TONI exhibited their work in important institutions, such as KKunstpalast, Düsseldorf (2017); Fondazione Fotografia, Modena (2016); Metronom, Modena (2016); Studio47 and puntWG Amsterdam (2016). TILO&TONI launched its own first artist book *U can't touch this* with Skinnerboox at MoMA PS1 in 2016, during Printed Matter Inc and in 2018 presented at Unseen Amsterdam 2018, the premiere series *Im Walde rauscht der Wasserfall*.

Kenta Cobayashi (1992, Japan) is based in Shibuya, Tokyo. He received a BA at Tokyo Zokei University, Tokyo (2015). He has had solo exhibitions as *Photographic Universe*, Fotografia Europea, Reggio Emilia (IT) (2019); *Rapid Eye Movement*, IMA Gallery, Tokyo (2019); *From My Point of View*, METRONOM, Modena, IT 2018; *Insectautomobily / What is an aesthetic?*. His works have been featured in major group exhibitions such as *PHOTO Playground #005*, Ginza Sony Park, Tokyo (2019); *From My Point of View*, METRONOM, Modena (2018); *GIVE ME YESTERDAY* at Fondazione Prada, Milan (2016); *New Rube Goldberg Machine*, KAYOKO YUKI-KOMAGOME SOKO, Tokyo (2016); *New Material*, Casemore Kirkeby, San Francisco (2016); *Close to the Edge: New Photography from Japan*, MIYAKO YOSHINAGA, New York (2016). In 2018 he became campaign artist for Unseen Amsterdam.