

Tatsuo Ikeda & Philippe Parreno: Field Phase

Fergus McCaffrey New York
October 30–November 21, 2020

We are in a big building and an event is taking place.

You can find this kind of architecture in many cities.

The building's original function has been forgotten but it still retains a certain aura.

It is resilient and appears to have had many different uses. It is a slightly troubled place.

You could say that the building has been preserved because of how it was designed, when really it is because of its size and location.

It has become a place for alternative events, although there is never a clear or distinct use for such a structure.

Now the building is old and belongs to the city.

Most of the time things happened here by chance.

This place could have been a hospital, a school or any other kind of municipal building. Unsurprisingly the interior is painted white. A faded white. A dirty and inconsistent white.

Shadows never really appear in this type of environment. The quality of light is uniform. Even and clear.

Bacteria
Bacteria

The overall whiteness and the number of light fixtures elude the possibility of shadows.

Bacteria
Bacteria
Bacteria

The effect is not dissimilar to the lighting on the set of a TV sit-com. You are not supposed to notice much difference among the characters. Careful consideration is required before a shadow is cast.

Shadows create the potential for disguise and can conceal or reveal the true appearance of objects and people. Shadows add complexity. The even quality of light in the building allows everyone to participate on an equal level.

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Tatsuo Ikeda (b. 1928) In 1943 at the age of 15, Ikeda was drafted by the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service and selected to be a kamikaze pilot. Spared by the ending of WWII, he pursued a strong anti-war position creating expressive realist drawings that fused reportage and satire. In the early 1960s, Ikeda set about capturing the invisible and unknowable from a celestial perspective turning inward in later years to explore the metaphysical bonds that underlie and unify the universe.

Philippe Parreno (b. 1964) is celebrated for constructing scenarios that draw from social and artistic exchanges that engage viewers' multiple senses and points of perspective. His installations maintain an engagement with the "quasi object" as each created situation is never quite realized, completed or fully articulated.

About Fergus McCaffrey

Founded in 2006, Fergus McCaffrey represents an increasingly global group of post-war and contemporary artists from the United States, Europe, and Japan. For over a decade, the gallery has developed a multifaceted program, representing over 24 artists and estates worldwide. Internationally recognized for its promotion of postwar Japanese and seminal western artists, Fergus McCaffrey has locations in New York, Tokyo, and St. Barth.

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