

Brainwaves Drawing | Hideki Nakazawa

Artists create pictures using their hands with brushes or pencils. In artistic creation, however, the brain activity must be more significant and essential than the hands. Therefore I decided to create pictures by controlling my own brain activity with electrodes on my head. The resulting curves known as "brainwave" (EEG - electroencephalogram) in the field of medicine will be called "drawing" made directly by the brain without the hand in the field of art.

Brainwaves Drawing was performed on 4th and 5th November, 2006, at Tokyo Fuchu Art Museum, where Nakazawa had stayed for "intensive brainwave training" to endow his brainwaves with certain artistic quality. In the exhibition announcement Nakazawa stated "needless to say, not all lines drawn by an artist become art works. Only after intensive dessin training can they have artistic value. I do not insist all brainwaves be art." As the training revealed that concentration results in mostly flat and rather boring waveforms while composure draws more dynamic and artistically interesting ones, Nakazawa tried paradoxically concentrating not to concentrate at all in the public demonstration.

There are many other music and multimedia works that use brainwaves as a parameter, but Brainwaves Drawing is unique and consciously opposite to the tradition in that it just presents his plain brainwaves as autonomous art. Nakazawa neither analyzes nor synthesizes brainwaves to something else, but attempts to remove distortion by the given hands or any other processors in order to extract the very generative moment of artistic creation.

<Brainwaves Drawing Set for The Container>

- (1) "Brainwaves Drawing No. 1-20" with artist's autograph [Anthology - Poster: A1] (Jap/Eng)
- (2) "Studies for Brainwaves Drawing" [Anthology - Booklet: B5] (Jap/Eng)
- (3) "Brainwaves Drawing" [Cartulary - Leaflet: A4] (Jap/Eng) Fuchu Art Museum
- (4) "Brainwaves Drawing" [Announcement - Flyer: B5] (only Jap) Fuchu Art Museum
- (5) "Note for Brainwaves Drawing Set" [Leaflet: A4] (only Eng)

<Artist Introduction>

Hideki Nakazawa is one of Japan's most important conceptual artists. Influenced by systemic painting and conceptual art of the 60s and 70s, Hideki Nakazawa's works forge a connection between structures, mathematics, digital technology and graphics to create pieces that have been challenging the Japanese art scene since the early 1990s. His persistent preoccupation with the systematic techniques he develops and explores to produce his art, established a new movement in contemporary Japanese art coined by Nakazawa as "Methodicism". These inventions, taking form in method paintings, patents, writings, and software invention have been fuelling Nakazawa's art ever since and eloquently bridge between Dadaist notions such as Kurt Schwitters' cut and paste techniques and his Ursonate music compositions, Sol Lewitt's conceptual structures, and the Superflat works of the likes of Murakami.

<Credits>

Artist:
Hideki Nakazawa
(Courtesy of Gallery Cellar)

Curation:
Shai Ohayon

Text:
Ryoko Kamiyama - Essay in (3)
Masamichi Tamura - Introductory Note in (5)
Shai Ohayon - Artist Introduction in (5)