

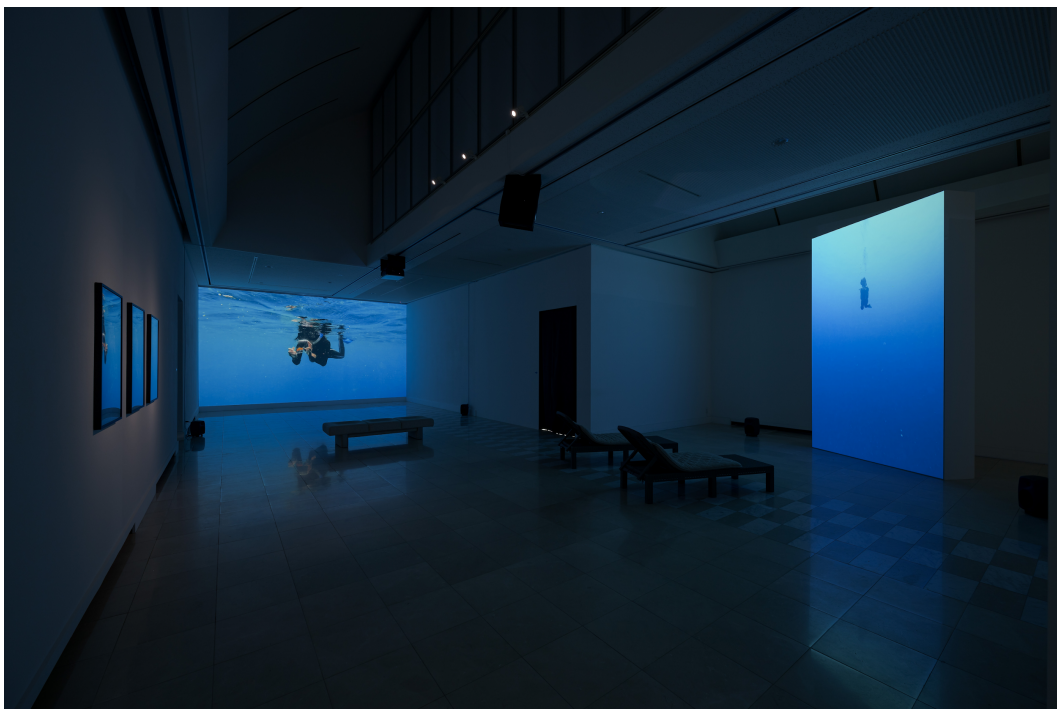
Press Release

# 'All Living Things are Breathing Now'

Solo Exhibition by  
Kyunchome

Curated by Keith Whittle

Artlink, Inishowen, Co. Donegal  
Dates: 29 March 2025 – 27 April 2025



*Blue is the color of the soul*  
Exhibition View: 2024 Photo Yanagihara Ryohei

Artlink is pleased to present *All Living Things are Breathing Now*, a solo exhibition by Japanese artist duo Kyunchome, Nabuchi (b. 1984, Mito) and Honma Eri (b. 1987, Yokohama). The focus of the exhibition is a new series of work by Kyunchome that highlights the seas and its coastal ecosystems as dynamic ecotones and contact zones where humans and multiple species interact with intertidal rhythms.

For millennia, the symbolic connection between humanity and the sea, and its diverse nautical and coastal influences have played a significant role in shaping human culture and identity. The ocean, a sublime cultural symbol, has both literal and metaphorical

associations. Echoing human consciousness, and contemporaneously serving as an indicator of the impact of conquest, slavery, colonialism, and climate change. The ocean has played a crucial role in shaping the interrelationships between human and non-human ecosystems. Coastal communities along its shorelines form the foundation of the local sociocultural characteristics. At the same time, communities that face significant challenges, such as resource depletion, and pollution, driven by various socio political movements, and economic exploitation.

The sea's historical representation and importance in art, literature, and film has been transformative, one that continues to this century with contemporary artists bringing attention to the ocean as a place that reflects the pervasiveness of life, beliefs, fragility and tragedy. Complex coexistence and transformations that have inspired Kyunchome to engage with and explore such narratives, and language of the seas as a pathway for ideas, exchange, livelihood and survival. The sea, as a poetic trope, shaping perceptions of humanity and civilisation, a natural aquatic environment, and a repository of collective and personal histories. Symbolising a longing and desire for the here and elsewhere, informing a sense of nationhood, national identity, and inward and outward movements.

Kyunchome's reflections thoughtfully explore and highlight the ocean's connections to humanity across generations, cultures, and history, exploring complex relationships and entanglements of life and matter, and the historical and contemporary ties between humans, land and sea.

All Living Things are Breathing Now is curated by Keith Whittle and produced by Artlink, Inishowen, County Donegal, Ireland.

## Artists

Kyunchome is a Japanese artist duo based in Tokyo, consisting of Nabuchi (born in 1984 in Mito) and Honma Eri (born in 1987 in Yokohama). They formed the art unit after the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011 and gained recognition by winning the 17th Taro Okamoto Art Award in 2014. Kyunchome specialises in creating video installations and often undertakes residencies in socially divided regions to highlight the "core reality" of specific places and issues. Their work addresses socio-political problems both in Japan and internationally, including natural and man-made disasters, immigration, national history, and gender identity.

They have participated in numerous group exhibitions outside of Japan, including events in Taiwan, South Korea, Thailand, the USA, Denmark, the UK, and France. Notable group exhibitions include their involvement in the Reborn-Art Festival in 2017 (Oshika Peninsula), the Gangwon International Biennale in 2018 (Gangwon Province), and the Aichi Triennale in 2019 (Aichi Prefecture). They have also exhibited at the Contemporary Art Museum Kumamoto and the Hirosaki Museum of Contemporary Art.

Additionally, they have held solo exhibitions at Kunstquartier Bethanien in Berlin in 2015, Deptford X in London in 2016, and Komagome Soko in Tokyo in 2016, among others.

## Venue

Artlink is the longest-established professional visual art organisation in Inishowen, Co. Donegal. Artlink Office, Studio and Workshop spaces are currently based at the historical and coastal location of Fort Dunree, Republic of Ireland.

### **Venue Address**

Artlink, Fort Dunree, Buncrana, County Donegal, Ireland

### **Opening Times**

10.30am - 4.30pm

### **For more information or press images please contact:**

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## Works Exhibited

### Prayers Dissolved in the Sea

2022-2023

Video 12min. 23sec.

As I sank into the sea, I repeatedly chanted wishes and prayers. My voice turned into bubbles that rose to the surface, and my prayers dissolved into the sea.

### Floating with Sighs

2022

Video 4min. 36sec.

One day, feeling overwhelmed by constant sighing, I sought a way to lift my spirits. I started filling balloons with my sighs, hoping that once they were full, I might be able to fly. Of course, I soon realized that flying wasn't possible. So, I decided to jump into the sea that lay before me and try floating on my sighs. As I floated in the water, gradually supported by my sighs, I began to enjoy myself and forgot all about the reasons for my earlier sighs.

### Crossing the Ocean with a Goldfish

2022

Video 6min. 2sec.

Neither the goldfish nor I can survive in the sea, but together, I felt we could cross the ocean.

### Walking with a drop of the sea

2023

Sea water and glass bowl

I placed a drop of the sea on my fingertip and gazed at it intently, feeling a sense of wonder that this tiny drop was still the sea. The weather was so nice that I decided to take a walk with the sea on my finger. It was my first time meeting this tiny sea, and perhaps it was the sea's first time encountering tall buildings and flowers. With each step, the sea on my fingertip sparkled and swayed. Would you like to try walking with a drop of the sea on your finger too?

## A Stone That Fits a Belly Button

2023

Stones and drawing

On April 24, 2023, I spent the entire day lying down and watching the sea. When I picked up a stone from the beach, it was round and smooth, and it felt pleasant to the touch. I picked up the stone and, on a whim, placed it in my navel, where it fit perfectly. The warmth of the stone, heated all day by the sun, transferred to me through my navel, giving me a strange feeling. As I slowly inhaled and exhaled, the stone in my navel gradually became more attuned to my body, and I felt as though I had formed a special connection with the Earth.