

## **A Solo Exhibition by Kohei Nawa**

**Kohei Nawa - TRANS | Cheonan**

**Kohei Nawa - TRANS | Cheongdam**

Period | Wednesday, September 05th – Sunday, November 04th, 2012

Venue | Arario Gallery cheonan, Seoul cheongdam

**Opening Reception | 6pm, Wednesday, September 05th, 2012**

**A solo exhibition by the Japanese artist Kohei Nawa (b. 1975), the first young artist to hold a solo exhibition at Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo in 2011, is opening jointly at Arario Gallery Seoul Cheongdam and Arario Gallery Cheonan. *Kohei Nawa-TRANS*, the artist's first large-scale exhibition in Korea, presents over 40 of his representative works from the *Pixel* series and his recent *Trans* series.**

Kohei Nawa is acclaimed for his *PixCell* series, which is a word that integrates 'pixel', which demonstrates digital image resolution, and the biological 'cell'. While the subject in each work connotes its own attributes such as weight, smell and color, its essence is lost or distorted through the production process in which glass, crystal and urethane coats covers its surface. *PixCell-Deer*, the representative work of the *PixCell* series, is the most celebrated work from the BEADS series that cover taxidermied animals with clear crystal beads. The composite of taxidermied animal and crystal beads is like a completely new organism that entirely deconstructs the initial color, texture and form of the original taxidermied animal and creates a new experience. While the beads in different sizes seem to interfere with the precise reading of the subject, they gain a new function as lens, maximizing color and form, and seducing the viewer. This reminds the viewer that the world which the human senses perceive as the truth is actually ambiguous and uncertain. Through an extensive medium of expression, Kohei Nawa sheds light on the human desire to embrace, cherish and possess the uncertainty.

A part of *PixCell* Series, *PRISM* is a sculptural embodiment of motifs collected through the internet. Prism sheets enwraps cell holding an object, and various images appear and disappear according to the actual perspective of the viewer. Through this process, the subject which should remain in the box (cell) loses its sense of realness, lingers as a virtual image, and is reduced of its meaning and

symbolic aspect as its perception and its sense of distance are unified. The viewer starts to feel numbness in sense of touch, and prompts the viewer to reflect on the implications this has for other things that we believe we can see, touch, or feel.

Exhibited for the first time through this solo exhibition, Nawa's recent work *TRANS* has been produced through cutting-edge sculptural technique using computer and scanner. This process involves a 3D scanning of a person or an object, then applying computer graphics to create work using the scanned data. Applying a computer technique called 'texture mapping', Nawa would magnify or diminish the 3D data, or repeat the process of smoothing out the surface. In reference to his *TRANS* series, Nawa expressed that "the completed form of the model with fluid three-dimensional surface is like a form that is parallel with this world, or a form which any subject or being can have." In progress since 2012, this new series of work will be exhibited in the form of 9 sculptures juxtaposed in a row in Arario Gallery Seoul Cheongdam.

The large-scale sculpture *Manifold* signifies many different forms, or pipe structures. An integration of various cells of information, matters and energy, each cell pulls on each other, configuring in space as a sculptural work. Each entity shows a process of evolution, transforming its form for a smooth surface. The sculpture swelling in a threatening way portrays systems in society and nature gradually collapsing due to problems related to information and energy. Measuring 13m in height and 15m in width, *Manifold* is currently under production in Japan, and will be installed in the outdoor sculpture park in Arario Gallery Cheonan. *Manifold* is an unparalleled super-scale public art project, with sporadically swelling geometrical shapes of circular forms that overwhelm and awaken the dormant anxiety in the viewer's subconsciousness. Gradually, however, the work leads the viewer through the experience of overcoming his fears and arriving at a sublime state.

The coherent idea which Nawa tries to express through a series of works using completely different types of various materials, is dangers of environmental system inherent in the massive information society, and the feeling of fear, emptiness and anxiety lurking in human subconsciousness. These ideas manifest into works with atypical and irregular forms suggesting an organic entity of cells, through the integration of biological research and high technology. By creating virtual entities that reveal the structure of contemporary social systems, Nawa's work sheds light on the issues in contemporary social structure and system.

### **Artist Biography**

Kohei Nawa received his BFA, MFA, and Ph.d. in Fine Arts from the Kyoto City University of Art. He is currently the Assistant Professor in Department of Fine Art at Kyoto University, and the director of the platform SANDWISH, a production house for art, design and architecture. Having launched his artistic

career in 1999, Nawa has participated in various group exhibitions including a show at SCAI The Bathhouse in 2004, Galerie Kashya Hildebrand in Switzerland in 2008, The Ueno Royal Museum in 2009, and Saatchi Gallery in London in 2010. His art has been collected by prestigious art galleries in museums around the world, including Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo, Mori Art Museum, and The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Nawa had a solo exhibition in 2009 with funding from Hermés Foundation, and recently finished a successful large-scale solo exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo. Nawa was named in the list of "50 Next Most Collectible Artists" by the American monthly art magazine Art + Auction in the June issue, 2012.

Image



PixCell-Double\_Deer#6, 2012, mixed media, 229.7x190x160cm

Photo by Nobutada Omote (SANDWICH GRAPHIC)



PixCell-Double\_Deer#6, 2012, mixed media, 229.7x190x160cm  
Photo by Nobutada Omote (SANDWICH GRAPHIC)





PixCell-Double\_Deer#6, 2012, mixed media, 229.7x190x160cm  
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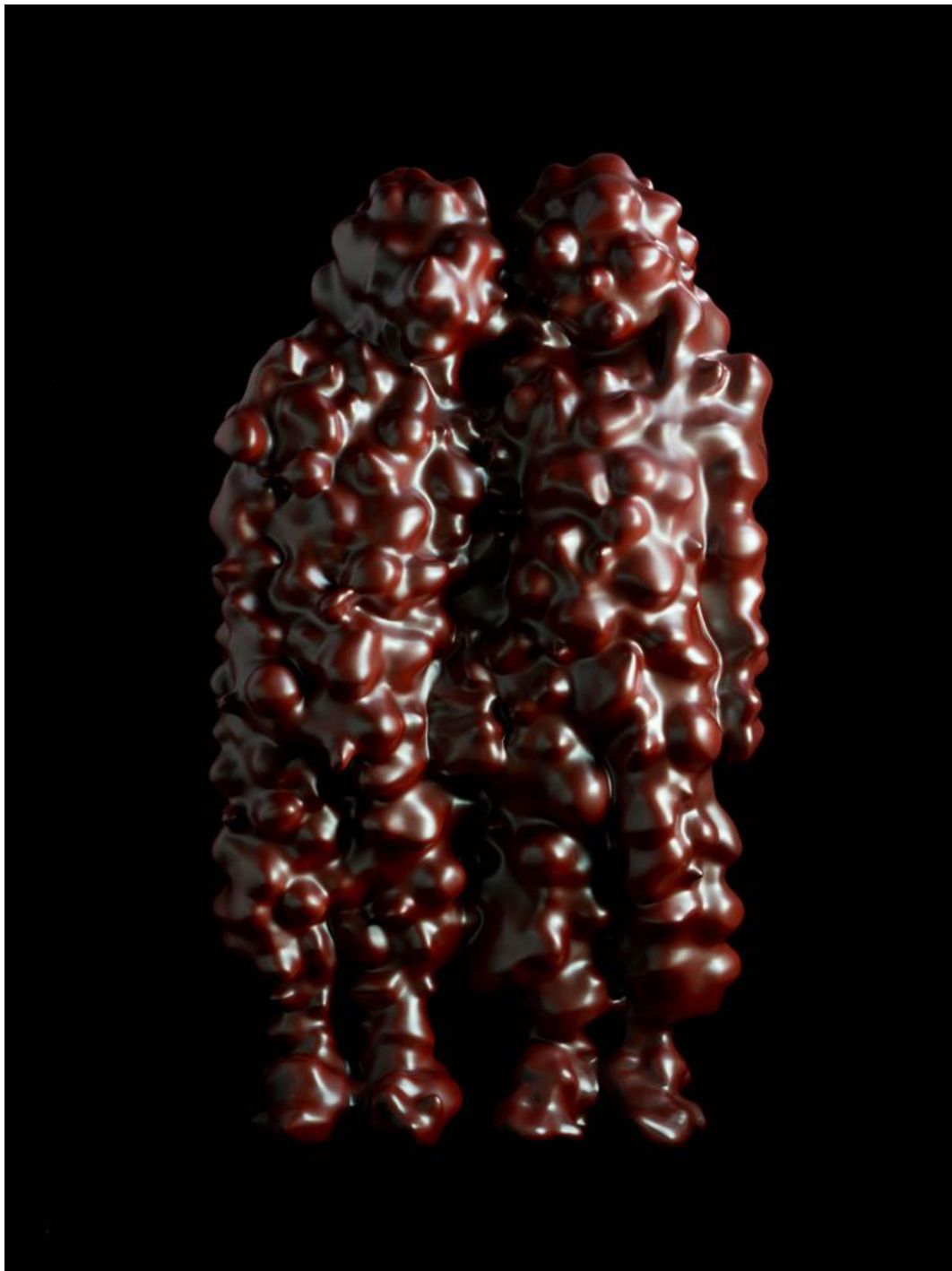


PixCell-Double\_Deer#6, 2012, mixed media, 229.7x190x160cm  
Photo by Nobutada Omote (SANDWICH GRAPHIC)



Stroke-Rio, 2012, mixed media, 98.6x30.9x24.5cm  
Photo by Nobutada Omote (SANDWICH GRAPHIC)





Trans-Kids (Bump), 2012, mixed media, 220×126.4×60.8cm  
Photo by Nobutada Omote (SANDWICH GRAPHIC)



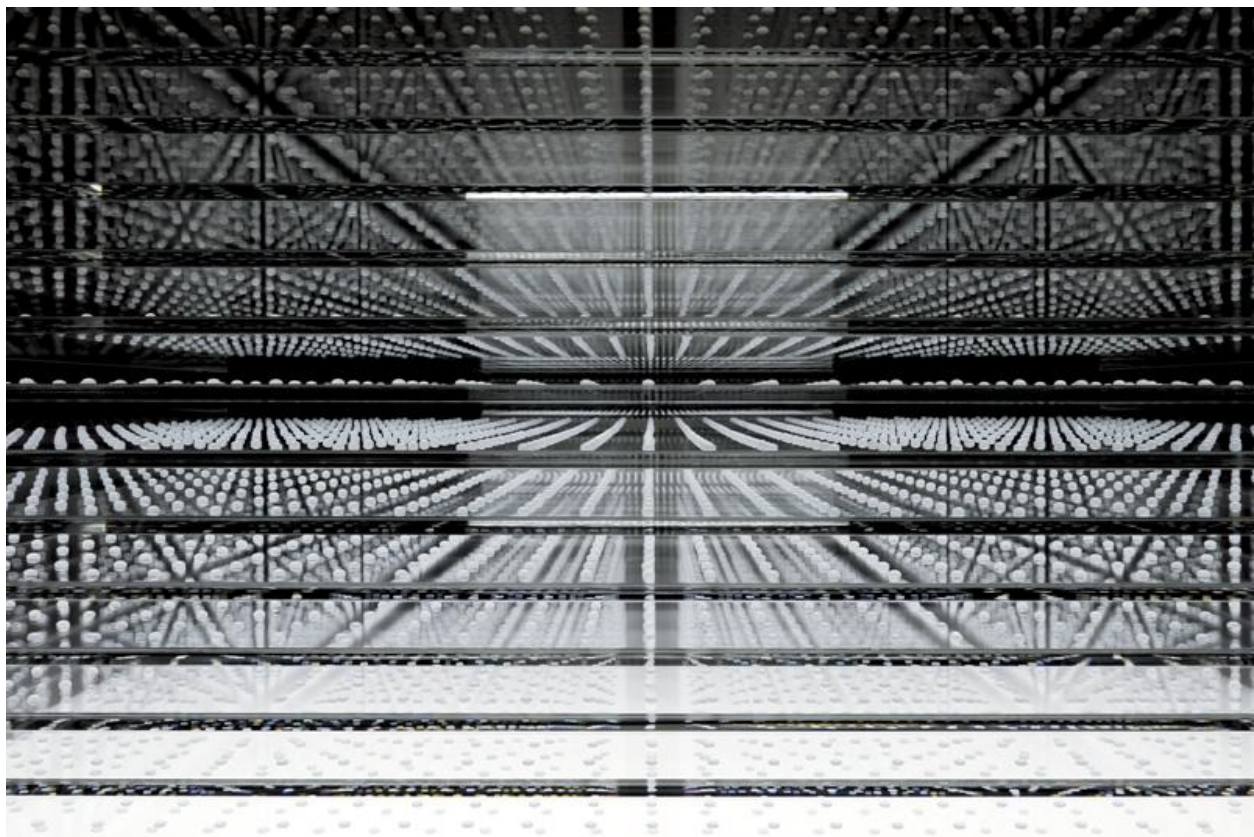
Stroke-Yana, 2012, mixed media, 195.8×66.2×72.6cm  
Photo by Nobutada Omote (SANDWICH GRAPHIC)



AirCell\_A\_37mmp, 2011, mixed media, 112.1x96.2x59.2cm\_photo by Seiji Toyonaga (SANDWICH GRAPHIC)



AirCell\_A\_37mmp, 2011, mixed media, 112.1x96.2x59.2cm\_photo by Seiji Toyonaga (SANDWICH GRAPHIC)



AirCell\_A\_37mmp, 2011, mixed media, 112.1x96.2x59.2cm, detail

Photo by Seiji Toyonaga (SANDWICH GRAPHIC)



PixCell[Ram skull], 2011, mixed media, 29.1x81.3x39.3cm  
Photo by Nobutada Omote (SANDWICH GRAPHIC)



PixCell[Ram skull], 2011, mixed media, 29.1x81.3x39.3cm, detail  
Photo by Nobutada Omote (SANDWICH GRAPHIC)





PixCell[Stool], 2011, mixed media, 64.6x51.3x51.3cm  
Photo by Nobutada Omote (SANDWICH GRAPHIC)



PixCell[Stool], 2011, mixed media, 64.6x51.3x51.3cm, detail  
Photo by Nobutada Omote (SANDWICH GRAPHIC)



Polygon- Double Yana, 2010, mixed media, 400x270x69cm  
Photo by Nobutada Omote (SANDWICH GRAPHIC)



Polygon- Double Rio A, 2011, mixed media, 370x110x189cm  
Photo by Seiji Toyonaga (SANDWICH GRAPHIC)



Throne, 2011, mixed media, 300x90.5x145.3cm  
Photo by Nobutada Omote (SANDWICH GRAPHIC)





Manifold\_Model, 2011, mixed media, 43.9x52.5x41.3cm

Photo by Seiji Toyonaga (SANDWICH GRAPHIC)



Manifold\_Model, 2011, mixed media, 43.9x52.5x41.3cm

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Manifold\_Model, 2011, mixed media, 43.9x52.5x41.3cm

Photo by Seiji Toyonaga (SANDWICH GRAPHIC)



Manifold\_Model, 2011, mixed media, Virtual Installation View at ARARIO Sculpture Garden, Cheonan

**[Image courtesy of the Artist and Arario Galley](#)**



# Kohei Nawa

(b. 1975, Japan)

Associate Professor at Kyoto  
University of Art and Design  
Director of SANDWICH



## Education

- 1994-1998 Kyoto City University of Arts, B.A. Fine Art Sculpture
- 1998-1999 Royal College of Art, Sculpture course, Exchange program
- 1998-2000 Kyoto City University of Arts, M.A. Fine Art Sculpture
- 2000-2003 Kyoto City University of Arts, Ph.D. Fine Art Sculpture

## Solo Exhibitions

**2012 TRANS, ARARIO GALLERY, Cheonan & Seoul cheongdam, Korea (Upcoming)**

- 2011 Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan
- 2010 Synthesis, SCAI THE BATHHOUSE, Tokyo, Japan
- 2009 Cell, Vera Munro, Humburg, Germany  
L\_B\_S, Maison Hermes, Tokyo, Japan
- 2008 Miro Foundation, Barcelona, Spain  
TORSO, Nomart Edition/Project Space, Osaka, Japan
- 2007 PixCell, ierimonti gallery, Milan, Italy
- 2006 GUSH, SCAI THE BATHHOUSE, Tokyo, Japan  
AIR, Nomart Edition / Project Space, Osaka, Japan
- 2005 Show window art direction, Maison Hermés, Tokyo, Japan  
Drawings, studio J, Osaka, Japan
- 2004 0409 science fiction, INAX GALLERY 2, Tokyo, Japan  
Catalyst, Nomart Edition / Project Space, Osaka, Japan
- 2003 PixCell, Nomart Edition/Project Space, Osaka, Japan  
PixCell, Studio J, Osaka, Japan  
CELL-osmosis, UPLINK GALLERY, Tokyo, Japan
- 2002 CELL, Nomart Edition / Project Space, Osaka, Japan

- NAWA Kohei , Kyoto Art Map, Gallery MARONIE, Kyoto, Japan  
2001 NAWA Kohei, Art Synapse, Gallery MARONIE, Kyoto, Japan

### **Group Exhibitions**

- 2011 Bye Bye Kitty, Japan Society, New York, USA
- 2010 Busan Biennale, Busan, Korea  
Great New Wave: Contemporary Art from Japan, Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, British Columbia, Canada  
Franks-Suss Collection, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK  
Bangladesh Biennale, Dhaka, Bangladesh  
CITY2.0, EYE OF GYRE, Tokyo, Japan
- 2009 VOCA 2009, The Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo, Japan  
MOT Field of Dreams, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan  
Renewal Open Memorial Exhibition -Reborn-, Gallery Nomart, Osaka, Japan  
WORK IN PROGRESS, Kyoto University of Art and Design, Kyoto, Japan  
neoteny japan, The Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo, Japan  
The 6th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Brisbane, Australia  
First Passage, ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka, Japan  
Animamix Biennial-Visial Attract & Attack, Museum of Contemporary Art Taipei, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2008 Vivid Material, Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo, Japan  
Great New Wave: Contemporary Art from Japan, Art Gallery of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada  
SENJIRU - INFUSION, GALERIE KASHYA HILDEBRAND, Zurich, Switzerland  
PARALLEL WORLD an Exhibitions by Hugues Reip, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan  
The Echo, ZAIM, Kanagawa, Japan  
Black State, studio J, Osaka, Japan
- 2007 ArtScope, DaimlerChrysler contemporary, Berlin, Germany  
SHANGHAI ART FAIR, ShanghaiMART, Shanghai, China  
ROPPONGI CROSSING 2007: FUTURE BEATS IN JAPANESE CONTEMPORARY ART, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
- 2006 Art Scope 2005/2006, Hara Museum, Tokyo, Japan  
Banquet: A Feast for the Senses, Pacific Asia Museum, Pasadena, USA  
Smooth Sailing for BEARING, NSK Bearing Art Exhibition, spiral, Tokyo, Japan  
Amuse Land 2007: Beautiful Dreamer, Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art, Sapporo,

Japan

Material:White Book, Nomart Project Space cube & loft, Osaka, Japan

**Award / Grant**

- 2007 Jury's Prize of ROPPONGI CROSSING 2007
- 2006 Art Scope 2005-2006, DaimlerChrysler Foundation in Japan, residency in Berlin,  
Germany  
Kyoto Cultural award 2006, Kyoto, Japan
- 2005 The Japan-United States Arts Program, Asian Cultural Council, residency in New York,  
USA
- 2004 Sakuya Kono Hana Prize (Art), Osaka, Japan
- 2003 Selected Artists in Kyoto 2003, highest award, Kyoto, Japan  
Kirin Art Award 2003, encouragement prize, Osaka, Japan

## © INFORMATION

### **Inquiry**

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### **Image**

Image data or caption can be downloaded from Arario webhard.

[www.webhard.net](http://www.webhard.net)

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### **Visitors**

#### **Arario Gallery Cheonan**

354-1, Shinbu-dong, dongnam-gu, Cheonan, Choongnam, Korea

Exhibition Hour : Tue - Sun 10:00 am - 07:00 pm (closed on Mondays)

Contact Information: T) 82 41 551 5100 F) 82 2 551 5102

#### **ARARIO GALLERY SEOUL cheongdam**

(135-100) #99-5 #99-5 Cheongdam-dong, Kangnam-gu, Seoul, Korea

Exhibition Hour : Tue - Sun 10:00 am - 07:00 pm (closed on Mondays)

Contact Information: T) 02 541 5701 F) 02 541 5704