

MAC

Press Release

VAL

**Le nouveau souffle juste
après la tempête**

**The second wind right after
storm**

**Meiro Koizumi exhibition
starting on 14 April 2018**

**Opening on
Friday 13 April, 6:30pm**

**Curator Valérie Labayle
assisted by Fati Konate**

Paris-Tokyo Tandem is an initiative of the City of Paris, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the French Institute in partnership with the French embassy of Japan.



In partnership with the City of Chevilly-Larue



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In the framework of the France-Tokyo Tandem and residency program, the MAC VAL has invited Japanese artist Meiro Koizumi from January to April 2018. The artist has spent many years working around the figure of soldiers, traditional or modern warriors like samurais and kamikazes, heroic characters still associated with the emperor today. Meiro Koizumi is now investigating the motivations and representations of 16 to 20-years old in order to question the impact of social conditioning and media propaganda on military commitment among youth. A project he develops in France as well as Japan and the United States.

During his residency, he extended his knowledge of French History through visiting to the collections and exhibitions of the Army Museum of Paris, especially from a military point of view. To complement his researches, Meiro Koizumi consulted the career program of the Cité des métiers of Choisy-le-Roi on army careers, in which certain required qualities are emphasized and praised in the context of military careers, such as adventurous spirit, appetite for risk, desire to give meaning and find values in one's life.

During his French residency, the Japanese artist met teenagers in collaboration with the Service Municipal de la Jeunesse of Chevilly-Larue. Some of them wonder about their professional future and think about joining the army. For the exhibition we are presenting at the museum, Meiro Koizumi proposed them to take part in a collaborative work based on interviews and workshops.

Born in 1976 in Gunma (Japan), Meiro Koizumi currently lives and works in Yokohama (Japan). After studying at the International Christian College of Tokyo (1996-1999), he continued his education at the Chelsea College of Art and Design of London (1999-2002) and the Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten of Amsterdam. His direct exposure to European culture during his studies led him to focus his personal work around identity issues. Through various media like video, installation, photography or collage, Meiro Koizumi looks into the taboos and hidden traumas of Japanese society in relation to national history. He also explores the unspoken of WWII as well as Japanese colonization.



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- 1 Meiro Koizumi, *Double Projection #1 (Where the Silence Fails)*, 2013. Video installation.
- 2 Meiro Koizumi, *Portrait of a Young Samurai*, 2009. Video installation.
- 3 Meiro Koizumi, *Rite for a Dream (Today My Empire Sings)*, 2016. Video installation.
- 4 Meiro Koizumi, *In the State of Amnesia*, 2015. Video installation.