Minneapolis Institute of Art To Present Meiro Koizumi’s ‘Battlelands’

The single-channel film examines the impact of war on the daily lives of veterans

MINNEAPOLIS—December 19, 2018— This January, the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) will present the U.S. premiere of a new version of Battlelands, a film by artist Meiro Koizumi (born 1976, Gunma, Japan). The 58-minute single-channel film installation will be on view January 26 to April 28, 2019.

Working with non-Japanese subjects for the first time, Koizumi engages U.S. veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars in Battlelands. Seven veterans—wearing body cameras that record images of their current domestic spaces and everyday landscapes in the United States—recount the traumatic experiences they faced during these military conflicts. For the artist, the medium of video is best suited to articulating these veterans’ complex inner lives, as it can, in his words, “represent the complexity of multi-layered physiological states in tangible form.” The result is a film that imbues seemingly mundane routines with underlying tension, articulating how traumatic memories of war seep into the daily lives of these individuals, creating emotional and psychological battlegrounds.

Originally commissioned by the Pérez Art Museum Miami, this updated version of Battlelands includes additional interviewees and examines elements of the Fourth of July, touching on how fireworks can trigger Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

“The perspective of the body-cam in Battlelands gives the viewer a very intimate, first-person glimpse of how trauma can dramatically alter even the most prosaic tasks of day-to-day life,” said Gabriel Ritter, curator and head of the Department of Contemporary Art at Mia. “The effect is immersive and unrelenting, giving the viewer no choice but to put themselves in the veteran’s shoes. As such, Koizumi’s film powerfully recasts the stereotypical image of the heroic soldier often found in popular culture into an infinitely more disarming, vulnerable portrait of a civilian living with past horrors.”

Accompanying exhibition programming includes an artist talk at 2 p.m. on Sunday, January 27, 2019. Tickets are $10; $5 for My Mia members, and free for members of the Photography & New Media and Contemporary Art Affinity Groups. For more information or to purchase tickets, click here.
About Meiro Koizumi

His works are included in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Kadist Art Foundation, Paris; and the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam.

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About The Minneapolis Institute Of Art

Home to more than 90,000 works of art representing 5,000 years of world history, the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) inspires wonder, spurs creativity, and nourishes the imagination. With extraordinary exhibitions and one of the finest wide-ranging art collections in the country—Rembrandt to van Gogh, Monet to Matisse, Asian to African—Mia links the past to the present, enables global conversations, and offers an exceptional setting for inspiration.

General admission to Mia is always free. Some special exhibitions have a nominal admission fee.

Museum Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday  
10am–5pm
Thursday, Friday  
10am–9pm
Sunday  
11am–5pm
Monday  
Closed

For more information, call + 1 612 870 3000 or visit artsmia.org