
Special Exhibition:

Raphaël Zarka—Geometry, Time and Skateboarding

**The practice of a contemporary French artist working fluidly across diverse fields—
including the history of science, art history, and street culture—through
photography, sculpture, video, and writing.**

February 6 (Sat.) – May 5 (Wed., National Holiday), 2027

Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art will present the exhibition, *Raphaël Zarka—Geometry, Time and Skateboarding*, the first major solo exhibition in Japan by Paris-based artist Raphaël Zarka (1977-). While working across diverse fields including geometry, mathematics, sculpture, architecture, and skateboarding, Zarka has explored the relationships between form and space, and between movement and time. By researching geometric forms and principles found in the history of art, mathematics and science, and reinterpreting them from his own unique perspective, he develops these concepts into a wide variety of works such as sculpture, photography, video, drawing, and writing.

In Zarka's practice, skateboarding is a crucial theme that originated from his personal experience. Through physical engagement with urban and architectural spaces via skateboarding, he draws attention to geometric forms embedded in steps, slopes, curved surfaces, and other structures, reinterpreting existing spaces in ways that differ from their intended use. This approach raises questions not only about the relationship between bodily movement and space, but also about access to public space and how it is used.

In addition to key works from his career to date, this exhibition will feature a new body of work created during Zarka's residency and production period in Kyoto. Through sculpture, photography, video, drawing, and maquettes, it offers an overview of his practice, grounded in the discovery of forms and their transformation into artworks through research and reflection.

Throughout his career, Zarka has developed his work through an ongoing dialogue with forms and artworks created in the past, spanning different eras and locations. This exhibition traces the trajectory of this ongoing research and dialogue, while showcasing works that have emerged from his encounter with Kyoto as a new site of exploration.

*The exhibition was initially conceived under the provisional title "The Thinking Sculptors — Raphaël Zarka and Horiuti Masakazu: A Dialogue on Geometry and Modernity." Due to various circumstances, however, it will now be presented as a solo exhibition by Raphaël Zarka.

Profile

Raphaël Zarka (1977-)

Born in France, Zarka graduated from the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris (France) and from the Winchester School of Art (UK). His work in the expanded field of sculpture also includes photography, drawing and writing. He is notably the author of three essays on forms and spaces of skateboarding. Zarka's working method resembles that of a researcher or an archaeologist, he even describes his works as "documentary sculptures." He is particularly interested in the migration of certain geometric forms often borrowed from the margins of history of art in the fields of science and technology. Zarka is currently pursuing a PhD in practice focused on the evolution of 17th century European freestanding sundials.

From April to July 2026, the artist resided in Kyoto, where he conducted research and developed new work.



Raphaël Zarka

Photo : Maxime Verret

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Exhibition Information

Special Exhibition: Raphaël Zarka—Geometry, Time and Skateboarding

Website: <https://kyotocity-kyocera.museum/en/exhibition/20270206-20270505>

Period: February 6 (Sat.) – May 5 (Wed., National Holiday), 2027

Venue: Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art, Higashiyama Cube

Hours: 10:00 – 18:00 (Last admission at 17:30)

Closed: Mondays *Open on March 22 and May 3

Organized by City of Kyoto; Sony Music Entertainment (Japan) Inc.; Kansai Television;
The Mainichi Newspapers

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In Cooperation with: Sokyō Gallery

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Tickets go on sale at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, December 1!

Ticket Prices

Adults: 1,800 (1,600) yen

University and High School Students: 1,600 (1,400) yen

Junior High School Students and under: Free

Ticket Sales: Available at the museum's official online ticketing website.

*All prices include tax.

*Prices in parentheses are for groups of 20 or more.

*Free admission for visitors with a disability certificate and one accompanying caregiver (proof required).

*Students must present a valid student ID for admission. *Advance ticket pricing is not available.

Press Inquiries:

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