

Arario Gallery Seoul RYSE HOTEL presents Japanese artist Kohei Nawa's solo exhibition VESSEL from March 20th, 2019 to July 21st. This exhibition is the artist's first solo exhibition in Korea in seven years. It will introduce approximately 30 new works, from the VESSEL series, installed on a large scale theater stage, to the Throne series, in a larger scale work previously exhibited at the pyramid of the Louvre in 2018.

The highlight of the exhibition, the VESSEL series, was made as part of a performance of *VESSEL*, a creation developed with choreographer Damien Jalet (b. 1976). For this exhibition, a 30 meters stage is constructed to present all the sculptures together with a soundscape specially-produced for the show by Japanese composer Marihiko Hara (b.1983). Expanding from material to surface, from surface to form, and from form to space, VESSEL also presents Nawa's persistent endeavor of nearly twenty years in transcending genre limitations of performance, dance, theater, sound, and video, in addition to exploring the potentials of media. Sculptures capturing the piercing intensity of human body, music that fills and condenses the air around the stage, offer new sensations to the viewer, crossing the limits of cognition and presenting an experience beyond the boundaries of reason and perception.

Born in Osaka, Japan in 1975, Kohei Nawa has developed a body of work that, together with his unique treatment of sculptural surface, poses phenomenological questions on the essence of the subject. His large-scale installation exhibition at the Louvre in 2018, Throne and his solo exhibition Kohei Nawa - SYNTHESIS, held at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo in 2011, were met with great success. His works may be found in the collections of international institutions such as the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo (Tokyo, Japan), Mori Art Museum (Tokyo, Japan), Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art (Seoul, Korea), the Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, USA), An Associate Professor at Kyoto University of Art and Design, he is also the director of SANDWICH, a creative platform for art, design and architecture.