

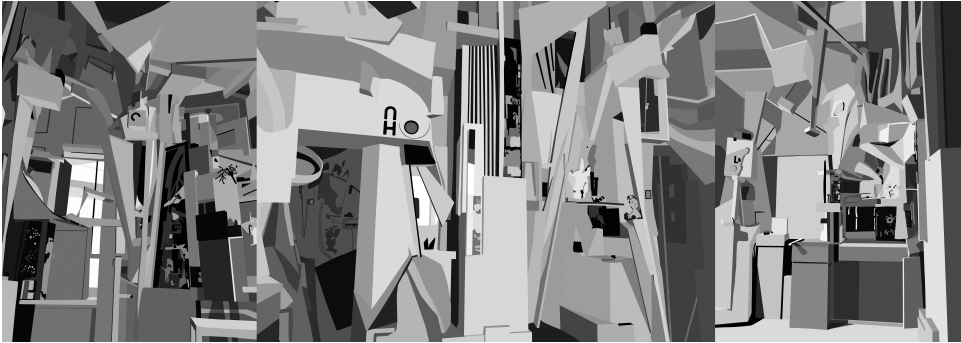
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Kota Ezawa / Sean Raspet

October 11 through December 15, 2019 | Opening Reception: Friday, October 11, 6 to 8pm

/ 687 Minna Street, San Francisco CA 94103 | Open Wed through Sun, 11am - 6pm

www.slashart.org info@slashart.org



Kurt Schwitters' *Merzbau* was a sculptural environment that the dadaist methodically installed over twelve years in his family home in Hanover. By 1937, when he and his family were forced to flee fascist Germany, the ongoing work had spread to two rooms of his parents' apartment on the ground floor, the adjoining balcony, two rooms of the attic and part of the cellar. The *Merzbau* was destroyed in 1943 during an

Allied bombing raid and only three photos of the original work, from 1933, remain. They picture the sculptured environment as a series of angled surfaces aggressively protruding into rooms painted largely in white. For this exhibition, Kota Ezawa has appropriated these three photos in order to compose a large scale vector graphic that papers the gallery's exhibition space walls. The physical language space of dada is thus flattened to create an all encompassing graphic space. This construction mimics our contemporary culture of holistic screen architecture while simultaneously suggesting a sense of ludic resistance in the tradition of the classical avant garde.

For his part, Sean Raspet will present the opening stage of an ongoing project that will culminate in a carbon sequestration forest planted in Michigan using seeds that have been irradiated. Exhibited in the gallery before being utilized for the planting, these irradiated seeds will produce random and mostly invisible mutations in the trees and plants to potentially increase their resistance to disease and foster adaptation to changing climate conditions, creating an aesthetic plasticity in this living system. Drawing on the Miyawaki Method, this forest as artwork will eventually achieve a negative carbon footprint that will remove 2.2 to 9.5 metric tons of CO2 from the atmosphere per year.

Kota Ezawa was born in Cologne, Germany, and currently lives and works in Oakland, CA. His work has been exhibited at galleries and institutions including the Museum of Contemporary Art, Santa Barbara, SITE Santa Fe, Mead Art Museum, Amherst, Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, Vancouver Art Gallery, St. Louis Art Museum, Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid, Queensland Art Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, and San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. His work is held in public collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Museum of Modern Art, New York, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C., J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, Art Institute of Chicago, Musée D'Art Contemporain de Montréal, and the Baltimore Museum of Art. He received the SECA Award in 2006, a Eureka Fellowship in 2010, and his work was included in the 2019 Whitney Biennial.

Sean Raspet was born in Washington, D.C. and currently lives and works in Detroit, MI and Los Angeles, CA. His work has been exhibited at galleries and institutions including The Artist Institute, Hunter College, New York, The Okayama Art Summit, Japan, The Kitchen, New York, The Museum Of Contemporary Art Chicago, The de Young Museum, San Francisco, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, M. Woods Museum, Beijing, The Swiss Institute, New York, Halle für Kunst & Medien, Graz, M-ARCO Foundation, Marseille, Sculpture Center, New York, Museum of Contemporary Art Miami, and Artist's Space, New York. His work was included in the 2016 Berlin Biennial.

Kota Ezawa / Sean Raspet is the last of a year-long series of two-person exhibitions, curated at / by Los Angeles based film-maker Drew Heitzler. A limited edition zine-style catalog will be published for the occasion.

/ is a nonprofit visual art space founded in 2018 to advance and promote the expanding field of contemporary art in the city of San Francisco through exhibitions, publications, and public programming.