

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For broadcast inquiries, contact:

Lauren Green 443-263-4310

All other media inquiries, contact

Barbara Hauck 443-263-4315



“SHADED REMNANTS” EXHIBITION OPENS AT THE GALLERY IN THE SKY

BOPA announces Kei Ito’s solo show at the Top of the World Observation Level

(Baltimore, MD) **The Gallery in the Sky** at Top of the World Observation Level in the Baltimore World Trade Center is pleased to present “**Shaded Remnants**,” a solo exhibition by Baltimore-based artist **Kei Ito** which will be on view from **September 8–November 20, 2022**. **The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA)** is producing this exhibition with the generous support of the **Maryland State Arts Council**.

“Shaded Remnants” is a multimedia exhibition featuring two new bodies of works that examine the lingering impressions of memories. Along the gallery walls is a series of large graphite rubbings, also known as Frottage, made on the large limestone blocks taken from the site of the 9/11 Pentagon attack and currently on view outside of the Baltimore World Trade Center. By focusing on different materials and textures, Ito creates a contemplative space for reflection and examination of our own relationship with collective memory.

Working primarily with installation art, photography, and sculpture, Ito holds a BFA from Rochester Institute of Technology and an MFA from Maryland Institute College of Art. Ito’s work addresses issues of deep intergenerational loss and connection as he explores the conceptual elements found in both extraordinarily charged and banal objects. By excavating and uncovering hidden histories connected to his own, Ito utilizes his generational past as a case study for current and future events.

Ito’s artwork has the power to transform both art and non-art spaces into temporal monuments. By examining the past and refocusing on the present, “Shaded Remnants” invites the viewer to experience the impressions, both hard and soft, left behind by all of us. “Although my practice originates in my own history and heritage,” Ito says, “the new direction I am moving in examines larger contexts shared beyond cultural and geographic boundaries.”

Curator Kirk Shannon-Butts is proud to present Ito’s work at the Gallery in the Sky, “The artist’s creative contemplation of the past that allows us to recognize its influence in the present makes this body of work Ito’s most powerful, most thought provoking, and most connective to the viewer. Ito incorporates his identity and ancestral roots in the international and contemporary art scene with deeply personal artwork that is rich in history, vision, and process. This is what makes Ito an important part of the ‘Baltimore Movement.’”

With internationally recognized exhibitions, Ito has been featured in the Washington Post, Hyperallergic, BmoreArt, ArtMaze Magazine, and BBC Culture & Art. His works are included in major institutional collections such as the Museum of Contemporary Photography, Norton Museum of Art, Chroma at California Institute of Integral Studies, and Candela Collection.

“Shaded Remnants,” an exhibition by Kei Ito, will be on view at The Gallery in the Sky from September 8–November 20, 2022. There will be an opening reception on Thursday, September 8, 2022, from 6:00–8:00 p.m. To RSVP, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shaded-remnants-tickets-403194344137>

For more information about the artist, visit www.kei-ito.com. To schedule an interview with the artist or curator Kirk Shannon-Butts, please contact Lauren Green or Barbara Hauck at The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts.

The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, which serves as Baltimore City’s arts council, events center, and film office. By providing funding and support to artists, arts programs, and organizations across the city, and by producing large-scale events such as Artscape, Baltimore Book Festival, and Light City, BOPA’s goal is to make Baltimore a more vibrant and creative city.

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