

EVENTS PRESS RELEASE

Noguchi

Barbican Art Gallery, London, UK

Until 23 January 2022

#Noguchi @barbicancentre

This exhibition is generously supported by the Terra Foundation for American Art

Barbican Art Gallery's *Noguchi* exhibition opened on 30 September, the first European touring retrospective of Japanese American sculptor Isamu Noguchi's work in 20 years. One of the most experimental and important artists of the 20th century, the exhibition retraces the evolution of Noguchi's kaleidoscopic career over six decades across sculpture, architecture, dance and design, celebrating the artist's inventive and risk-taking approach to sculpture as a living environment.

The exhibition is accompanied by a programme of talks, tours, and events. Check the website for the latest details www.barbican.org.uk/noguchi



EVENTS

[Conservatory x Akari Cloud](#)

Barbican Conservatory

Free, but ticketed. Tickets released on Thursday mornings at 10am for the following week
Until 9 Jan, times and dates vary. Check the website for more details

A celebration of Isamu Noguchi's visionary sculptural and civic landscapes, explore the Conservatory under a magical cloud of Akari light sculptures by Isamu Noguchi, an immersive experience combining art and nature in the heart of the city.

Like a rising mist, a weightless cloud of white paper emerges from the plants and trees in one of London's largest greenhouses. Suspended from the sky-high glass ceiling, the Akari cloud starts low over the Koi carps pond and gets higher towards the brutalist balconies. Made of Japanese washi paper and bamboo ribbing, the lights float further apart and get bigger, a little like when you blow bubbles.

[Tomoko Sauvage](#)

Thursday 11 November, 6.30pm

Barbican Art Gallery.

Tickets: Included in *Noguchi* exhibition price. Book a 6.30pm entry slot

Japanese musician and artist Tomoko Sauvage performs an electro-acoustic response to the Noguchi exhibition.

Inspired by Noguchi's interest in both classical Japanese Gagaku and the emergence of electronic instruments such as the Theremin, Sauvage will use two of the sculptures themselves - Tsukubai and Mountains Forming - as well as her ceramic waterbowl instruments to generate a soundscape accompanying the exhibition.

Over the past decade, Sauvage has been developing her unique electro-acoustic instrument, waterbowls – combining water, hydrophones (underwater microphones), porcelain and glass bowls. Her musical experimentation is grounded in a live-performance-based practice that investigates improvisation and interaction with environment. Sauvage's work contemplates, tunes and connects with both the material and the immaterial in keeping a fragile balance between hazard and mastery. Running time: 45 minutes.

[Paper Sculpting Workshop](#)

Saturday 27 November, 3pm

Frobisher Rooms 1, 2 and 3

Tickets: £30 (includes same-day entry to *Noguchi* exhibition)

Paper sculptor Richard Sweeney presents a workshop in paper folding and construction techniques. Learn the art of curved folding to create fluid, organic shapes and how to cut, pleat and slot paper together to form your own paper creations inspired by the work of Noguchi.

[Noguchi Family workshop](#)

Saturday 4 December 2021. Various times throughout the day 11am-4pm

Garden Room, Barbican Centre

Free, booking is essential (Timed *Noguchi* exhibition can be booked separately here. Usual exhibition prices apply. Under 14s go free)

Join us for a family day inspired by Noguchi. We'll explore play, materials and sculpture, and work with professional creators and craftspeople to share skills, ideas and much more! More information coming online soon.

[Young Barbican Night](#)

Thursday 18 November, 7pm

Barbican Art Gallery

Tickets £5 for Young Barbican Members

Enjoy live music and an exciting mix of cabaret, dance, workshops, poetry and much more from fellow young creatives while exploring the work of Japanese American sculptor Isamu Noguchi (1904-1988), one of the most experimental and pioneering artists of the 20th century.

Exclusive after-hours access for Young Barbican members only.

Young Barbican membership is free and gives young people aged 14-25 discounted access to unmissable art and entertainment as well as exclusive events and creative opportunities.

www.barbican.org.uk/join-support/young-barbican

TOURS

Full details of some tours to be confirmed, check Barbican website for more information.

[Architecture & Design Tour with Lucy Styles](#)

Thursday 28 October, 6.30pm

Meet at Barbican Art Gallery

Included in *Noguchi* exhibition price

Exhibition designer Lucy Styles leads a tour exploring how Noguchi's own designs, particularly his Akari light sculptures and architectural landscapes, informed the design of the exhibition.

[Noguchi: Citizen of the Earth](#)

Thursday 4 November, 6.30pm

Barbican Art Gallery

Included in *Noguchi* exhibition price

Curatorial Assistant Andrew de Brún explores Noguchi's extensive travels around the world and identity as a global citizen

[Relaxed Viewings](#)

Wednesday 10 November, 8.30pm & Tuesday 28 December, 10am

Barbican Art Gallery

Relaxed viewings are intended for anyone who may benefit from a very relaxed environment with reduced capacity and comfortable seating where you can enter and exit more freely. Carers visit for free. For more information visit the Barbican website.

[BSL Exhibition Tour](#)

Tuesday 2 November, 6.30pm

Barbican Art Gallery

A British Sign Language tour of the Noguchi exhibition led by John Wilson, exclusively for Deaf and hard of hearing visitors, highlighting key artworks, using BSL.

[Audio Described Exhibition Touch Tour](#)

Wednesday 27 October, 6.30pm

Barbican Art Gallery

A tour of *Noguchi* suitable for blind and partially sighted visitors, led by Lisa Squirrel who will describe key works on display, including the opportunity to touch a selection of sculptures.

ONLINE

[Digital Residency](#)

Annie Jael Kwan, a lead founder member of the network Asia-Art-Activism, curates an online series of visual, audio, and textural responses to the themes of *Noguchi*, with new contributors each month.

From October to December, independent curator and researcher Annie Jael Kwan has invited artists, curators, and thinkers from across the UK and Global Asias to reflect together on the themes related to Noguchi's artistic legacy, transnational lived experiences, and his voluntary

internment at Poston in solidarity with Japanese Americans that were forcibly relocated and incarcerated during World War II in the USA. The digital residency also offers the opportunity to delve into the rich archives related to Noguchi's artistic works, his many letters of correspondence, and photographic records of his travels.

Featuring contributions by Yarli Allison, Alexandra Chang, Youngsook Choi, Chong Li-Chuan, George Clark, Rei Hayama, Marci Kwon, Adriel Luis, Ming Tiampo, Mika Maruyama and Nine Yamamoto-Masson, this research residency uses epistolary and conversational exchanges, experimental audio and moving image works to discuss together contemporary and critical issues regarding the practice of care, questions of land, belonging, emergence, and the challenges and joys of Asian solidarity in art and activism.

www.barbican.org.uk/noguchi-resonances

Noguchi TV

In November, we will be celebrating the enduring legacy of Noguchi's work through a series of short films with artists, designers, architects, and dancers for whom the artistic polymath remains a powerful influence, including Stephen Briars, Erchen Brendan, Fernandes Chang, Shezad Dawood, Antony Gormley, Holly Hendry Lloyd Knight and Sumayya Vally. Visit barbican.org.uk/Noguchi

How to: Noguchi Inspired Family Activities

[Available on Barbican website](#)

Take inspiration for Isamu Noguchi's art and learn more about his distinctive style with these fun animated activities to make you and your family feel creative.

RESOURCES

Activity Sheet

[Available on Barbican website](#)

Explore the themes of the exhibition with our activity sheet, illustrated by James Yang, author and illustrator of the award-winning publication *A Boy Named Isamu*. Free and available in the gallery.

Squish Space

Created by artists India Harvey and Lisa Marie Bengtsson, Squish Space uses object based learning and play theories to engage creatively and have fun. Taking inspiration from Noguchi's passion for play, why not visit the space with your little one after seeing the exhibition? Squish Space is on Level G. Look online for more details.

Schools Programme

We are offering a programme for teachers and students to engage further with the Noguchi's practice, process and artwork through a Learning Resource, Teacher CPD, special Schools-Only Viewing Slots and free tours. Look online for more details or contact creative.learning@barbican.org.uk

A free downloadable teacher's resource, highlighting key themes and questions raised by the exhibition, is available to support school visits.

A special school group rate is available alongside free exhibition tours which are suitable for both primary and secondary school groups. Entry to Barbican Art Gallery is free for all students in Key Stages 1-3. A discounted group booking rate of £3 per student is available to

students in formal education groups up to the age of 19. For bookings and enquiries please contact the school groups booking line: 020 7382 7211 (Mon–Fri 10am–5pm) or email: groups@barbican.org.uk

Noguchi Exhibition

Noguchi is at Barbican Art Gallery from 30 September 2021 to 23 January 2022. The exhibition is organised and curated by Barbican Centre (London), Museum Ludwig (Cologne) and Zentrum Paul Klee (Bern), in partnership with LaM - Lille Métropole Musée d'art moderne, d'art contemporain et d'art brut. This exhibition would not have been possible without the collaboration of The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum, New York.

It is curated at Barbican by Florence Ostende and designed by acclaimed architect Lucy Styles with graphic design by Kellenberger-White. The exhibition will travel to Museum Ludwig, Cologne from 26 March to 31 July 2022, Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern from 23 September 2022 to 8 January 2023, and LaM, Lille from 6 April to 16 July 2023. The exhibition is generously supported by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

The Barbican believes in creating space for people and ideas to connect through its international arts programme, community events and learning activity. To keep its programme accessible to everyone, and to keep investing in the artists it works with, the Barbican needs to raise more than 60% of its income through ticket sales, commercial activities and fundraising every year. Donations can be made here: barbican.org.uk/donate.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

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Press images available online from the Barbican Newsroom

A link to the image sheets can be found in the 'Downloads' box on the top right-hand side of the page from: www.barbican.org.uk/our-story/press-room/isamu-noguchi

PUBLIC EXHIBITION INFORMATION

Barbican Art Gallery, Silk Street, London, EC2Y, barbican.org.uk

Opening Hours Sun-Wed 10am - 6pm; Thu-Sat 10am-8pm Bank Holidays: 12pm – 6pm

Closed 24-26 Dec

Ticket Prices Standard £18; Concessions £13; Under 14s: Free

Barbican Art Gallery Shop

A selection of exhibition merchandise are available from the Gallery Shop including tote bag, prints, postcard and exhibition book and poster. www.barbican.org.uk/shop

Young Barbican

Through Young Barbican we offer £5 tickets to 14-25 year olds for our paid exhibitions and free admittance for under 14s.

About the Barbican

A world-class arts and learning organisation, the [Barbican](#) pushes the boundaries of all major art forms including dance, film, music, theatre and visual arts. Its creative learning programme further underpins everything it does. Over 1.1 million people attend events annually, hundreds of artists and performers are featured, and more than 300 [staff](#) work onsite. The architecturally renowned centre opened in 1982 and comprises the Barbican Hall, the Barbican Theatre, The Pit, Cinemas One, Two and Three, Barbican Art Gallery, a second gallery The Curve, foyers and public spaces, a library, Lakeside Terrace, [a glasshouse conservatory](#), conference facilities and three restaurants. The City of London Corporation is the founder and principal funder of the Barbican Centre.

The Barbican is home to Resident Orchestra, [London Symphony Orchestra](#); Associate Orchestra, [BBC Symphony Orchestra](#); Associate Ensembles the [Academy of Ancient Music](#) and [Britten Sinfonia](#), Associate Producer [Serious](#), and Artistic Partner [Create](#). Our Artistic Associates include [Boy Blue](#), [Cheek by Jowl](#), Deborah Warner, [Drum Works](#) and [Michael Clark Company](#). The [Los Angeles Philharmonic](#) are the Barbican's International Orchestral Partner, the [Australian Chamber Orchestra](#) are International Associate Ensemble at Milton Court and [Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra](#) are International Associate Ensemble.

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