

Press Release
January 8, 2009

CONTACT: Amanda Mott
Director of Communications
Tel. 215-965-4068
Cell 267-259-8610
amott@moore.edu

Yumi Kori: utatane

January 30 – March 14, 2009

Opening reception: Thursday January 29, 6 – 8 pm

Using the ephemeral and transcendental qualities of light, Tokyo-based architect-artist Yumi Kori affects the way we see and feel the world. Her art installations and architecture challenge our conventional sense of space and the relationship of our physical “self” to the space around us. In her new project created specifically for Moore’s Goldie Paley Gallery, Kori employs video projections and sound to create a multi-sensory, interactive environment that evokes what the artist calls, *utatane*. *Utatane* is a word that has no equivalent in English, but is described as a state between sleep and vigil where the mind travels and is absent from the body.

The exhibition is organized by The Galleries at Moore and curated by Lorie Mertes, Rochelle F. Levy Director and Chief Curator and presented with support from The Japan Foundation, New York and *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Gallery Sponsor’s of Moore’s 160th Anniversary Year. The exhibition is on view from January 30 through March 14, 2009 in Moore’s Goldie Paley Gallery. A reception for the artist will be held Thursday, January 29 from 6 to 8 pm. Admission is free and open to the public.

About the Project

For Kori, light and shadow imply the passage of time, induce human activities, and deconstruct and construct space. In her project at Moore, the artist uses video, for the first time, to extend her use of light into literal images projected onto two 9 x 12 foot screens. For Kori, light is a medium for transcending the measurable world to a sensual, visceral, and subliminal experience.

Based on video the artist filmed during her recent residency in Bahia, Brazil, the dual-screen projections in *utatane* depict figures who appear to dissolve into light as they walk towards the expansive emptiness of the sea and sky. The visitor encounters the images after being guided through a space designed by Kori. Following this path, visitors will ultimately interact with the screen and become a part of the image. *utatane*, is inspired by the artist’s experience in Brazil: “Every morning, I got up at sunrise, I practiced yoga and meditation on the beach, and then I swam under the beautiful morning light. It was such a precious moment. I felt like I was dissolving into light and water. I wanted to find a way to capture this in film and translate it into an architectural space.”

About Yumi Kori

Having studied architecture both in Japan and the US, Kori established the architects' office Studio MYU Co. Ltd., in Tokyo with her partner Endo Toshiya in 1991 where she continues to serve as Principal Architect. She has since designed many residences and buildings in Japan and was recently nominated as the prizewinner as an Emerging Architect 2008 by JIA, Japan Institute of Architects and was the 2005 MODERN LIVING Award recipient. Presently she is a Lecturer at Nagoya Institute of Technology and Principal Architect at Studio MYU Architects Tokyo. She received her M.S. in Architecture from Columbia University in 1995 and Bachelors in Architecture from Kyoto Prefecture University in 1983.

Selected Art and Architectural Installations: "Kanata", light sounds system, group exhibition *Inner and Outer Space*, Mattress Factory, Pittsburgh, 2008; "Jukai", architectural environment, David Winton Bell Gallery, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI, 2007; "Infinitation/ SESC", audio-architectural installation, SESC PINHEIROS, San Paulo, Brazil, 2007; "shinkai", audio-architectural installation, ISE CULTURAL FOUNDATION, New York, 2006; "Green Box / VT", installation, Firehouse Gallery, Burlington, Vermont, 2006; "B^B", audio-architectural installation, LMCC, Swing Space, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, New York, 2005; "Infinitation", audio-architectural installation, Center of Contemporary Art, Seattle, 2005; "Defragmentation/iscp", installation, International Studio & Curatorial Program, New York, 2005; "Defragmentation/krems", audio-architectural installation, Minoriten Church Kapitelsaal, Krems-Stein, Austria, 2005.

Kori served as an Assistant Professor at Barnard and Columbia College from 1996 – 2006, Lecturer at Yale University, School of Architecture in 2003, Adjunct Assistant Professor at Parsons School of Design in 1997, and Design Consultant, Nationality room Japan section, Pittsburgh University in 1997.

ORGANIZATIONAL CREDIT:

Yumi Kori: utatane is organized by The Galleries at Moore and curated by Lorie Mertes, Rochelle F. Levy Director and Chief Curator. The exhibition is presented with support from The Japan Foundation, New York.

Moore's 2008-09 exhibition season is presented with support from *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Gallery Sponsor's of Moore's 160th Anniversary Year.

Photos available upon request

About the Curator

Lorie Mertes has more than fifteen years of curatorial and museum experience with a focus on international art of the 20th and 21st centuries. Mertes has curated numerous solo and group exhibitions featuring such artists as: Janine Antoni, Russell Crotty, Dara Friedman, Anna Gaskell, Jim Hodges, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Ann Hamilton, Alfredo Jaar, Sarah McEneaney, Vik Muniz, Oscar Munoz, Paul Pfeiffer, Miguel Angel Rios, James Rosenquist, George Segal, Shahzia Sikander, Lorna Simpson, and Bill Viola.

Moore's 160th Anniversary Sponsors:

Moore is grateful to the following sponsors of its 160th anniversary: Marguerite and Gerry Lenfest (160th Anniversary Presenting Sponsor); *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (160th Anniversary Galleries' Presenting Sponsor); Fran Graham '66 and Bill Graham (*Moore Footsteps* Alumnae Exhibition Sponsor); Charming Shoppes (160th Anniversary Fashion Show Patron); Wilmington Trust Company (160th Anniversary Lecture Series Sponsor); Comcast (160th Anniversary Senior Show Sponsor); Blank Rome LLP (WHYY 160th Anniversary Video Sponsor); Phoebe W. Haas Charitable Trust B as recommended by David Haas; Michael Fell and M&M Displays; Phoebe W.

Haas Charitable Trust A as recommended by Carol Haas Gravagno; David's Bridal; Frances and Bayard Storey; and The Four Seasons Hotel.

The Galleries at Moore receives generous support from Moore College of Art & Design and the Friends of The Galleries at Moore. The Galleries also receive state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency as well as program support from the Philadelphia Cultural Fund and the Barra Foundation. In addition, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, an independent federal grant-making agency dedicated to creating and sustaining a nation of learners by helping libraries and museums serve their communities, supports The Galleries at Moore. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The Galleries at Moore

Moore College of Art & Design
20th Street and The Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1179

All exhibitions are open to the public, free of charge.

Contact: 215.965.4027 / galleries@moore.edu
www.thegalleriesatmoore.org / www.moore.edu

—END—

Moore College of Art & Design sets the standard of excellence in educating women for careers in art and design. The nation's first and only art college for women, Moore offers a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with ten majors. The award-winning faculty, 8:1 student-to-faculty ratio and central location in Philadelphia, place Moore BFA students at the center of a vibrant, supportive community of artists, designers and scholars. In addition, Moore provides many unique opportunities in the arts through The Galleries at Moore, continuing education programs for professional adult men and women, the acclaimed Young Artists Workshop for girls and boys grades 1-12, The Art Shop and Sculpture Park. For more about Moore, visit www.moore.edu.

#