



teamLab: Reversible Rotation

5 October – 2 November 2019

Tolarno Galleries in association with Martin Browne Contemporary

Australian Premiere

Presented in association with Melbourne International Arts Festival, 2 – 20 October 2019

teamLab (f. 2001) is an international art collective, an interdisciplinary group of various specialists such as artists, programmers, engineers, CG animators, mathematicians and architects whose collaborative practice seeks to navigate the confluence of art, science, technology, design and the natural world.

teamLab aims to explore a new relationship between humans and nature, and between oneself and the world through art. Digital technology has allowed art to liberate itself from the physical and transcend boundaries. teamLab sees no boundary between humans and nature, and between oneself and the world; one is in the other and the other in one. Everything exists in a long, fragile yet miraculous, borderless continuity of life.

teamLab Borderless, teamLab's permanent museum in Tokyo opened in 2018 and in its first year was the world's most visited single-artist museum, attracting 2.3 million visitors.

teamLab has been the subject of numerous exhibitions at venues worldwide, including venues in New York, London, Paris, Singapore, Silicon Valley, Beijing, Taipei, and Melbourne among others.

The new museum *teamLab Borderless Shanghai* opens in Huangpu District, Shanghai on 5 November 2019.

Tolarno Galleries will exhibit four teamLab screen works as part of Melbourne International Arts Festival:

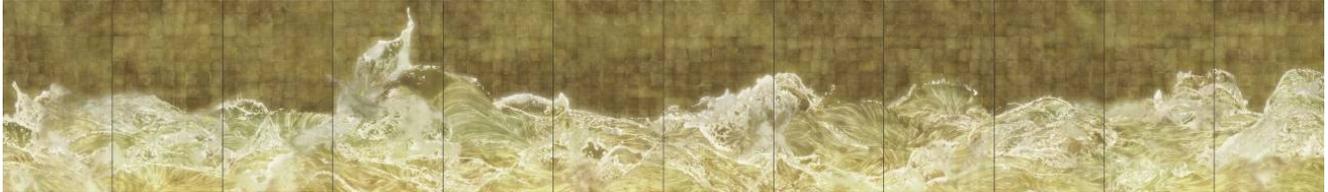
Waves of Light (12 channels)

Reversible Rotation - Black in White (7 channels)

Enso - Cold Light (single channel)

and their newest work, *Reversible Rotation - Cold Light* (single channel) – world premiere

teamLab
Waves of Light 2018
Digital Work, Continuous Loop
12 channels



The movement of waves in water is simulated in a computer-generated three-dimensional space. The water is expressed as a continuous body after calculating the interactions of hundreds of thousands of particles. To visualize the waves, the behaviour of the particles of the water was then extracted and lines were drawn in relation to the movement of the particles. The wave created in a 3-D space is then turned into an artwork in accordance with what teamLab refers to as ultrasubjective space.

In premodern Japanese painting, oceans, rivers, and other bodies of water were expressed as a series of lines. These lines give the impression of life, as though water was a living entity.

This form of expression leads us to question why premodern people sensed life in rivers and oceans. Also, why did they behave as if they themselves were a part of nature? Perhaps something can be discovered by fusing the fixed objective world of today's common knowledge with the subjective world of premodern people.

While viewing this artwork, if we feel a sense of life in the collection of lines—what can be called the subjective world of premodern people—then perhaps this is one aspect of objective recognition.

When viewing this artwork, as opposed to watching waves shot with a video camera, people may feel that the barrier between themselves and the waves disappears. They feel immersed in the work, perhaps even feeling life in the collection of lines, as if the waves are luring them in. Perhaps we can find a connection to the way premodern Japanese people perceived the world and consequently behaved toward the world.

If we regard ourselves as a part of nature, and consider nature not just as something to be observed, we might join premodern people in perceiving rivers and oceans as living entities. This is a way of seeing the world that lures us in and allows us to feel that there is no boundary between ourselves and nature.

teamLab
Reversible Rotation – Black in White 2019
Digital work, continuous loop
7 channels



The Spatial Calligraphy rotates in the artwork space, every aspect rotating in the same direction. But because of the special characteristics of Ultrasubjective Space, it can appear to be rotating clockwise or counterclockwise. Spatial Calligraphy is Japanese sho (calligraphy) drawn in space.

The artwork reconstructs sho in three dimensional space to express the depth, speed and power of the brush stroke, and that sho is then flattened using the logical structure teamLab calls Ultrasubjective Space.

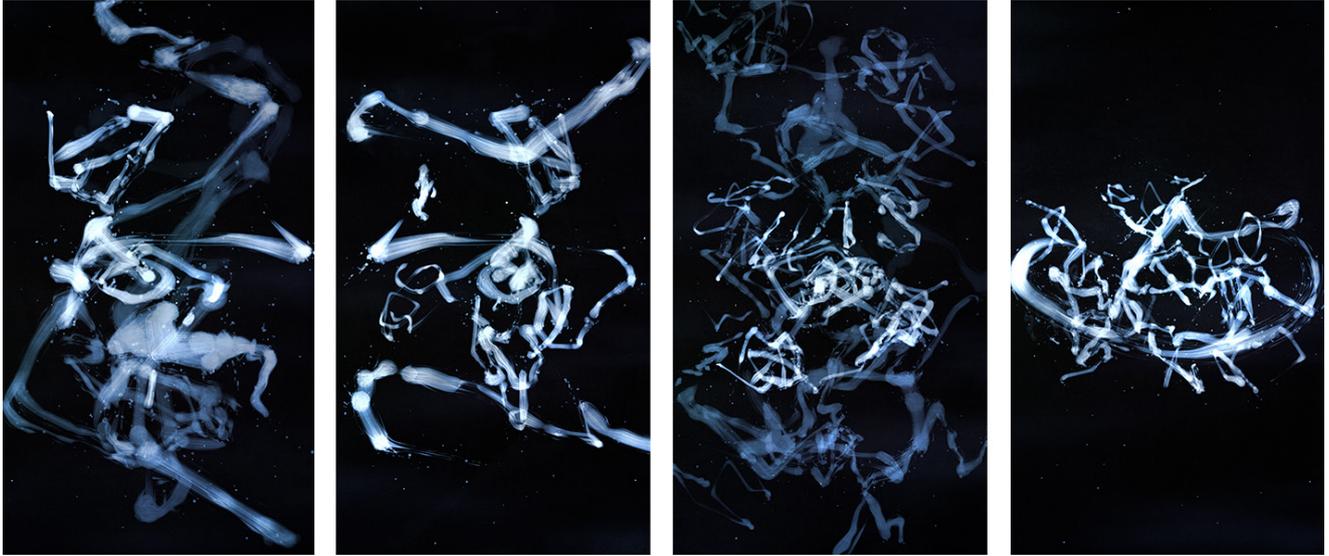
teamLab
Enso – Cold Light 2018
Digital Work, Continuous Loop
Single channel



Enso is the Zen practice of drawing a circle with a single brush stroke. This artwork depicts an Enso drawn as Spatial Calligraphy. The brush stroke is suspended in space but the viewpoint changes to reveal the circle Enso. teamLab has been working on Spatial Calligraphy since the collective formed. A new interpretation of traditional calligraphy, Spatial Calligraphy reconstructs calligraphy in three-dimensional space and expresses the depth, speed and power of the brush stroke.

In Zen, enso is a circle that has since ancient times been written with canes or sticks in mid-air. It is said to represent enlightenment, truth, the entirety of the universe, and equality. The circle also reflects the hearts and minds of those who view it, with its interpretation left to the individual.

teamLab
Reversible Rotation – Cold Light 2019
Digital work, continuous loop
Single channel



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