

AKINORI MATSUMOTO
SOUND  GARDEN

ARTIST BIO

AKINORI MATSUMOTO began creating 'sound objects' (ongu) in his native Japan 40 years ago. A self-taught artist whose early career encompassed the realms of oil painting and video, he was drawn to the power of sound as a mode of artistic expression. The earliest influences on his explorations with sound were drawn from Western Conceptual artists such as Marcel Duchamps, John Cage's 'chance operation' and Steve Reich's Minimalism, and he was member of a performance group led by Butoh dancer Seisaku Murata. Inspired by ethnic folk arts and his extensive travels throughout Asia, Matsumoto's work reflects his own cultural roots, evoking traditional village festivals that seamlessly blend visual art, music and performance in a complete art experience.

Made primarily of bamboo, wire and paper entirely of his own invention, Matsumoto's whimsical creations hum, clack, flutter, spin, whiz and whirl; an organic orchestra of sounds generated by wind, motion or tiny concealed motors. His installations harmoniously bridge visual and sound art, incorporating found objects, natural plant matter light and screens that cast shadows in random patterns to create an interactive and changing environment that is both sublime and playful.

Matsumoto has received numerous grants and awards, has exhibited extensively at museums and galleries throughout Asia and Japan, and is a part-time lecturer at Joshibi University of Art and Design in Tokyo. He currently lives in Yokohama with his wife and occasional collaborator, artist Michiko Matsumoto.