

Y K G

Yutaka Kikutake Gallery

YKG/ Yutaka Kikutake Gallery

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multiple—roadside tree  
Nerhol

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## Interview with Sohei Nishino



The artist, Sohei Nishino, is a Japanese contemporary artist. He is known for his large-scale, abstract works that often feature intricate, wavy, brown and gold patterns, resembling a cross-section of a tree trunk or a piece of aged paper. His work is characterized by a strong sense of organic, natural growth and decay. He has been exhibiting his work internationally since the 1990s, and his art has been featured in numerous galleries and museums. In this interview, he discusses his artistic process, his inspiration, and his views on the art world.

Nishino's work is a reflection of his deep interest in nature and the passage of time. He often uses natural materials, such as wood and paper, and his techniques are inspired by traditional Japanese crafts. His art is a testament to his commitment to his craft and his desire to create a lasting legacy. He is a true master of his art, and his work is a source of inspiration for many artists around the world.

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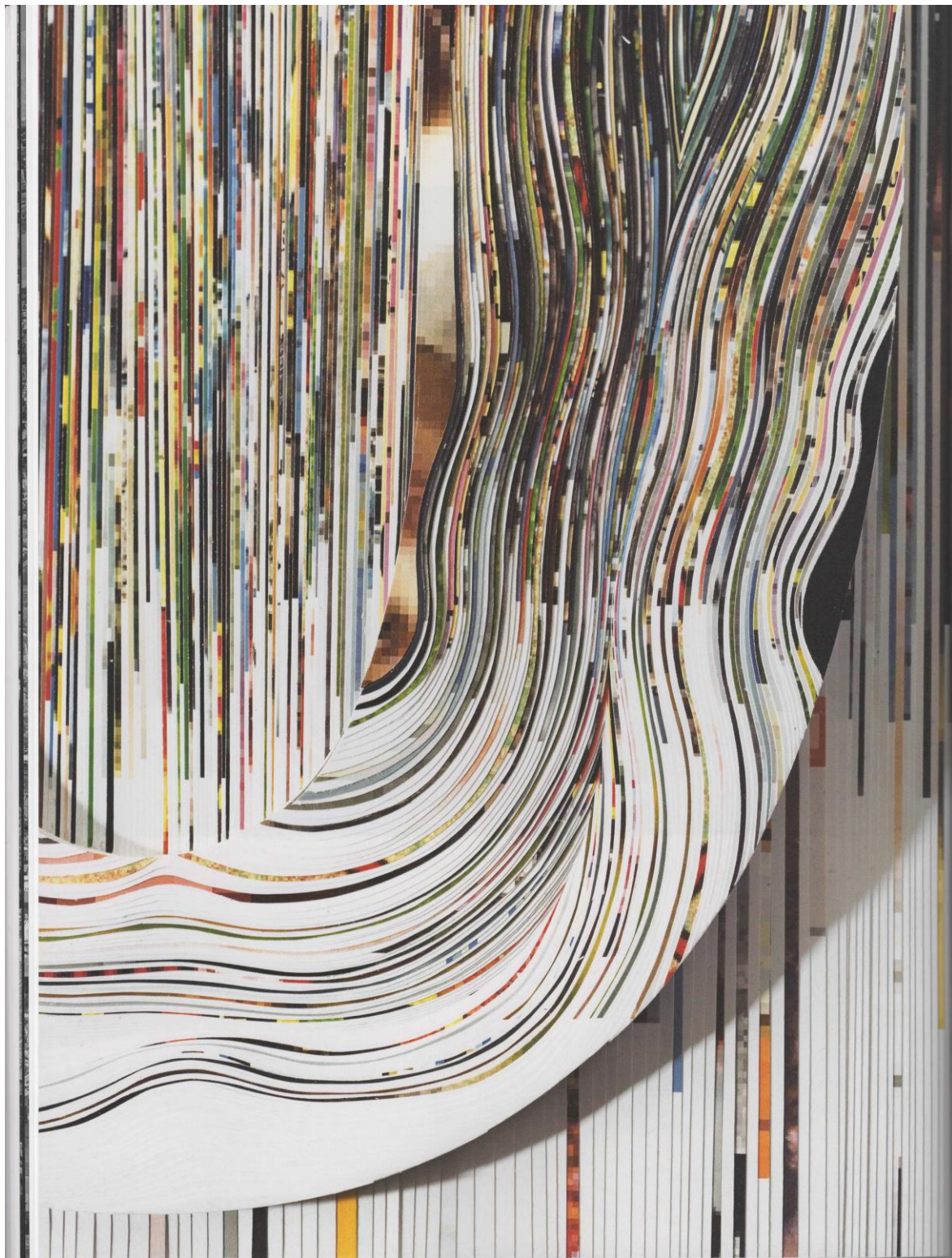
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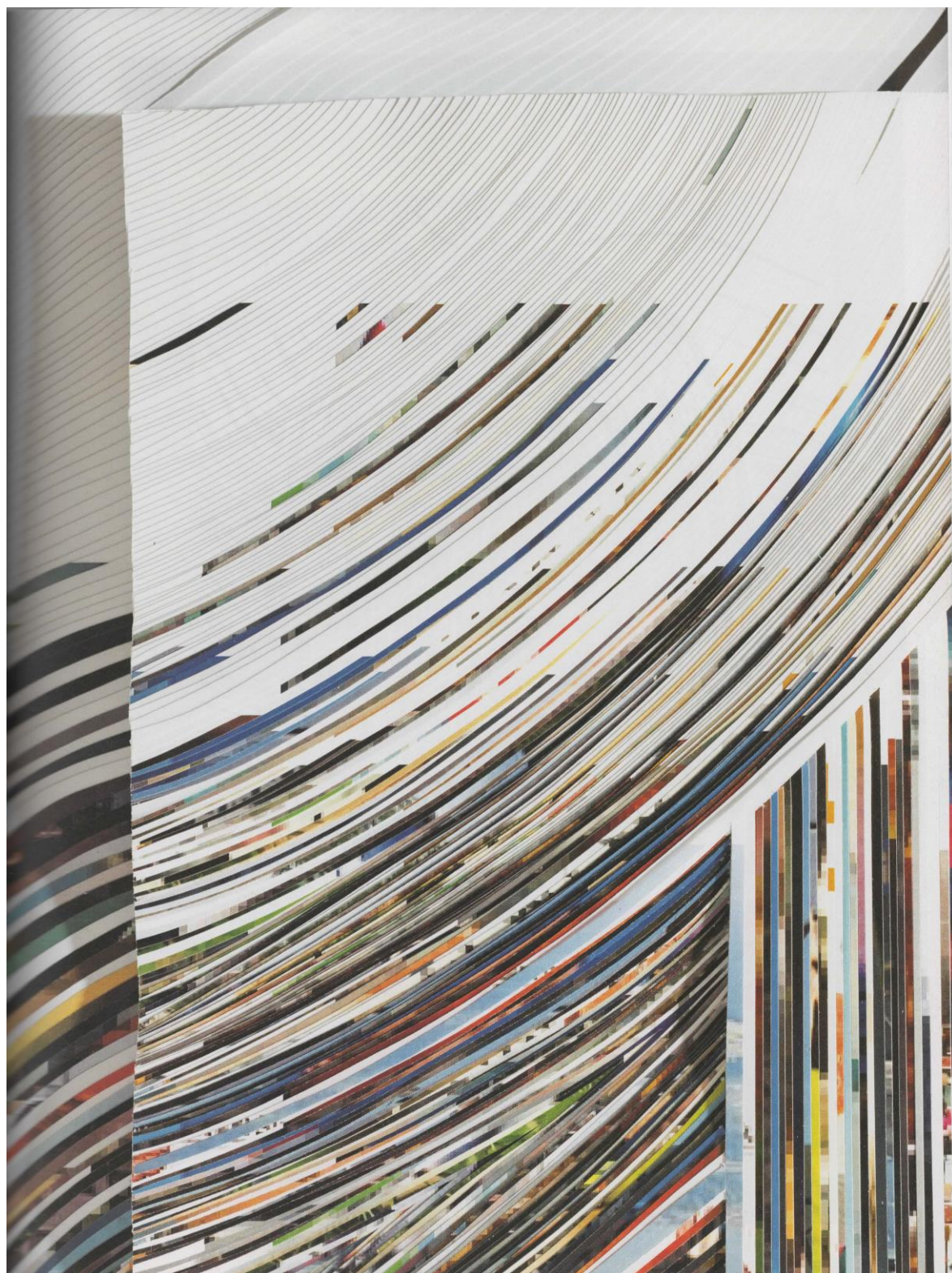
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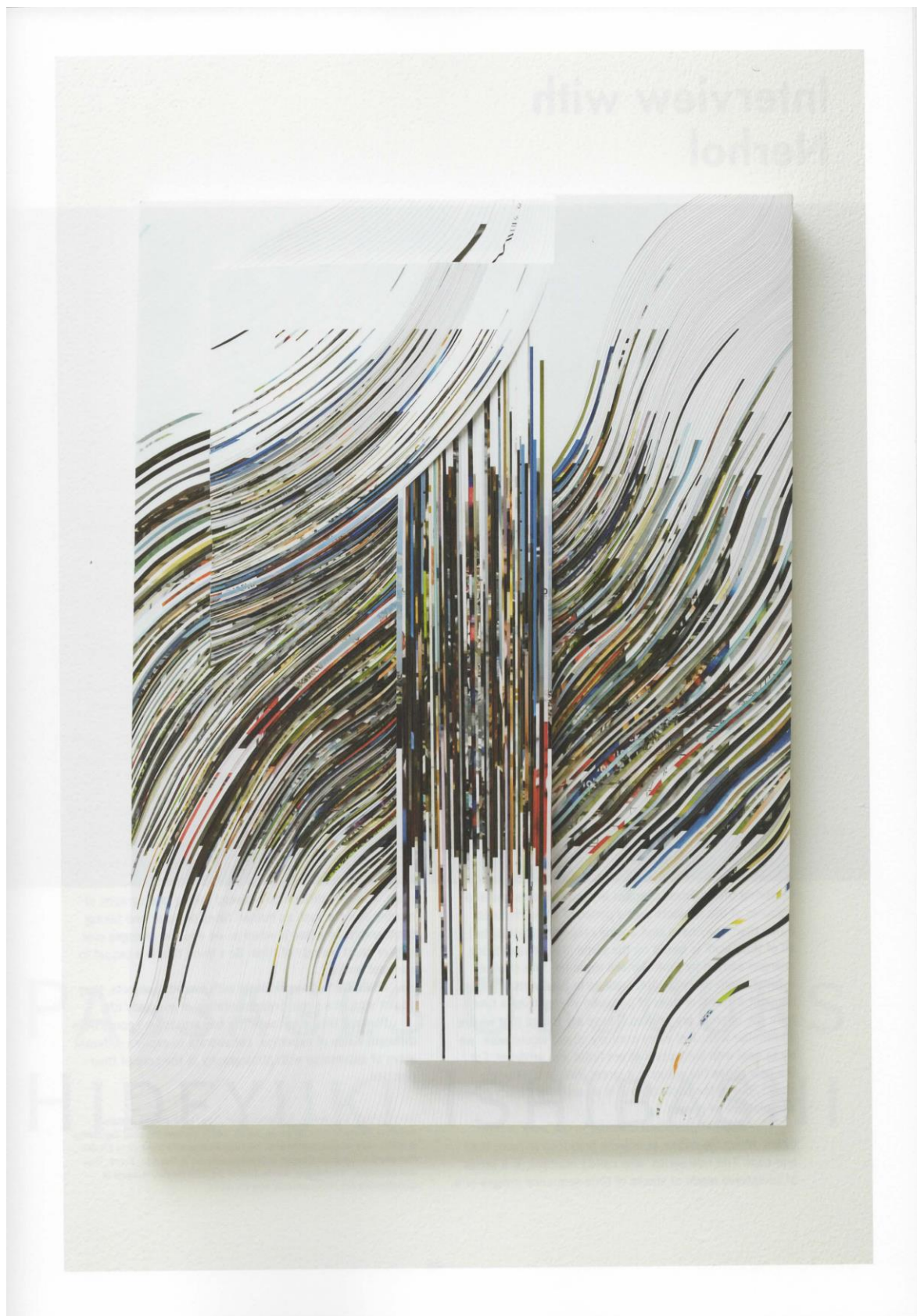
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## Interview with Nerhol

### A fresh look at everyday objects

Interview & Text: Futoshi Hoshino Translation: Yuka Katagiri

Nerhol is an artist duo consisting of graphic designer Yoshihisa Tanaka and sculptor Ryuta Iida. Both were already well established in their fields when they founded Nerhol in 2007. Since their 2012 exhibition, *Misunderstanding Focus*, they have come to the attention of the photography and contemporary art scenes in Japan, regularly exhibiting their work at several galleries. In 2015 they exhibited at Foam Photography Museum in Amsterdam and the Youngeun Museum of Contemporary Art in Korea.

Nerhol's latest series, *multiple-roadside tree* is made up of photographs of the street trees which we see everyday. The series features their signature style integrating sequence photography and sculpture. The duo produces and stacks hundreds of shots which capture external and internal changes to the subject over time which they then carve into a sculpture. For *multiple*, the duo acquired a street tree which they cut into 5 mm pieces. They then photographed the entire process, making huge prints (2.4 x 3.0 metres) of these images, which they transformed into a three-dimensional sculpture.

Nerhol's most iconic work, *Misunderstanding Focus* is also an extraordinary example of sequence photography, capturing the slightest changes in facial expressions and postures of the subjects over a period of three minutes. Since then, they have shot a wide range of subjects, but all of their work is based on the same idea of visualizing changes caused by time. Tanaka explains: "We choose subjects from everyday life, such as bottled water, the gas flame of a stove, or piles of paper on which images taken from the internet are printed. These are things that we are all familiar with. Not every ordinary object would work, we try to deal with subjects that are finite and artificial. For the new series the subject, a street tree, is a natural object, but at the same time it is an artificial object grown and planted by people."

"Another important concept in our work is multiples, which we define as objects produced in more than one copy. The new series, also called *multiple*, is a series of sculptures made of stacks of time-sequence images of a

street tree. The street tree itself is a unique object, but the photographs of it are multiples. However, each sculpture Iida creates has its own character and is created in such a way that no two are the same. So each of the resulting artworks are unique."

Their new series, *multiple-roadside tree* will be exhibited at the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art in Kanazawa, Japan. To convey the above concepts to the viewer, Tanaka has found an effective way to exhibit their artwork.

"For the upcoming show, we will display a huge 2.4 x 3.0 metres piece on the wall. We will also show books of the same series. Books are also multiples, but in a way each book is unique as it shows a different face each time a different page is viewed. By displaying the original artwork and books of the artwork, we seek to expand the meaning of multiples."

Iida, who makes Tanaka's ideas into sculptures, added: "Trees don't move as fast as we do, but maybe it's that they move so slowly that we don't even notice. I think it is a very sculptural approach to visualize movements that took place over a long period of time in the form of annual rings. The only difference between taking photographs of moving objects such as human faces or water and taking photographs of a tree is whether we observe changes over long or short periods of time. So I think this is a sequel to our past works."

While Nerhol's work deals with everyday objects, they do not stop at a simple representation of everyday life.

Perhaps this is because the two artists who come from different fields of expertise, collaborate to explore different areas of expression with photography at the core of their practice.

Sculptor Ryuta Iida (born in Shizuoka, Japan, 1981) and graphic designer Yoshihisa Tanaka (born in Shizuoka, Japan, 1980) founded the artist duo Nerhol in 2007. They recently exhibited at the Foam Photography Museum in Amsterdam and the Youngeun Museum of Contemporary Art in Gwangju, Korea. Their solo exhibition, "Promenade" will be held at the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa from May 21, 2016.