ALMINE RECH

Ryoji Ikeda
Solo exhibition

Nov 2, 2024 — Mar 2, 2025 | Eesti Rahva Museum, Estonian National Museum, Tartu, Estonia

On November 2nd, as part of the European Capital of Culture Tartu 2024 main programme, the Estonian National Museum (EMN) opened a solo exhibition by acclaimed Japanese artist and composer Ryoji Ikeda.

The artist has created two new works specifically for the Estonian National Museum's spaces for this exhibition, which promises to showcase the intersection of art, music and science in a unique way. Exhibition continues to explore the synergy between art and science, as Ikeda collaborates with the University of Tartu Institute of Genomics and Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir for his new pieces.

"Ryoji Ikeda is celebrated for his large-scale spatial installations, often based on scientific data," explains Kati Torp, curator of the exhibiton. "His ability to merge art with scientific concepts in a meticulous and visually captivating manner is truly remarkable. This exhibition allows us to present world-class art that draws inspiration directly from Estonian culture and science," added Torp.

The exhibition features three artworks. The multi-channel sound installation *vox aeterna* (2024), which translates from Latin to "Eternal Voice" or "Timeless Voice", incorporates various human voices, with the complete vocal range provided by the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir. At the heart of this work lies the human voice, the most primal sound since the existence of humankind.

the critical paths (2024), set within a corridor-like structure and inspired by research conducted by the Estonian Biobank, features LED screens displaying a vast flow of genomic data. Visitors can walk through this stream of human history, from the dawn of time, creating a sublime experience. "Through art created using Estonian biodata and a piece created with the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, Ikeda demonstrates what Estonia excels at: the fusion of science and culture," states Kertu Saks, director of ENM. "We are excited to host these groundbreaking works at the ENM, which we believe will attract significant international interest."

In addition to the new works, Ikeda will also present his installation *data-verse 1/2/3* (2019–2020), which has been internationally acclaimed for its ability to present data in a novel and creative way. The "data-verse" series highlights the vastness and complexity of data, transforming scientific and numerical concepts into artistic experiences. This work has previously been exhibited in leading cultural institutions around the world, including 180 The Strand in London and Copenhagen Contemporary in Copenhagen.

Ryoji Ikeda's solo exhibition, part of the main program of Tartu 2024 European Capital of Culture, will be on display at the Estonian National Museum from November 2 until March 2, 2025. The exhibition invites all art and science enthusiasts to experience something extraordinary, offering a chance to immerse themselves in Ikeda's unique world.