



Kazuko Miyamoto in front of *The Arch and the Holeway to the Cellar* (later retitled "Archway to Cellar"), 1978  
Installation view MoMA PS1, New York City, 1978, Courtesy Kazuko Miyamoto and EXILE, Photographer unknown

September 11, 2024

Belvedere 21

Arsenalstraße 1  
1030 Vienna

**Opening hours**  
Tuesday to Sunday  
11 am to 6 pm  
Late night: Thursday  
11 am to 9 pm  
Open Mondays on  
holidays

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## KAZUKO MIYAMOTO

September 12, 2024–March 2, 2025

An exhibition conceived by MADRE · museo d'arte contemporanea Donnaregina, Naples.

**With her ephemeral, sometimes radical works, Kazuko Miyamoto expands the boundaries of Minimal Art and defies simple categorizations. The Belvedere is honoring the Japanese American artist's oeuvre with the largest international retrospective to date.**

Stella Rollig, general director of the Belvedere: *Belvedere 21 is the first Viennese museum to exhibit the impressive work of Kazuko Miyamoto, which deserves a permanent place in the history of art. The retrospective highlights the bridges Miyamoto has forged between the Japanese and Western art worlds as well as her roles as an activist and feminist.*

Kazuko Miyamoto's network extends from Tokyo to New York and all the way to Linz. Born in the Japanese capital in 1942, Miyamoto emigrated to the USA in 1964 in order to study art and soon settled in the Lower East Side of New York. She became an early member of the feminist A.I.R. Gallery, the first art space in the USA to be run exclusively by women artists. In 1986, she founded the gallery Onetwentyeight, where she promoted the exhibition of (post-)migrant art. In 1980, Miyamoto came to Austria for the first time to execute works by the US artist Sol LeWitt for the *Forum Design* exhibition in Linz. Since then, her commitment to various communities has extended to Linz, where she has cultivated enduring artistic and friendly relationships.

Kazuko Miyamoto occupies a unique position in the New York art scene. While she is closely aligned with the pioneers of Minimal Art, her works transcend the strict geometric abstraction of Minimalism and never deny their handmade nature. Despite their ephemeral character, they have a strong, physically defined presence in the exhibition space. In the 1970s in particular, Miyamoto created numerous two- and three-dimensional *string constructions*—impressive temporary installations consisting of hundreds, sometimes thousands of nails and cotton threads. From 1980 onwards, her works became more organic: Miyamoto twisted paper into ropes and used twigs to connect them to form bridges, ladders, and nests. Her later works frequently feature kimonos, which she wears to perform and dance. The artist thus addresses themes such as identity and belonging in a globalized world.

Eva Fabbris, curator of the exhibition: *Following its initial release at MADRE in Naples and ongoing research, this exhibition further expands the number of works and documents on display, offering viewers an even more comprehensive view of this artist's practice, which is significant from the perspective of her contribution to Minimalism, her feminist activism, and her extraordinary sensitivity straddling Eastern and Western cultures.*

Miyamoto is a close observer of her surroundings and is firmly rooted in them. She focuses on working in her communities and largely keeps her distance from the commercial art world. It is only in recent years that her works have gained wider recognition as a result of international exhibitions and acquisitions by major museums in the USA and Europe.

#### ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

The solo exhibition on the upper floor of Belvedere 21 is the largest international retrospective of Kazuko Miyamoto's oeuvre to date. Eva Fabbris, the director of MADRE in Naples, presented Kazuko Miyamoto's work at her institution in 2023 and has provided the concept for the exhibition at the Belvedere, which she is also curating; assistant curator Andrea Kopranovic is supporting the project on site in Vienna. In the circular and symmetrical exhibition architecture, seven short texts provide guidance for visitors, who are free to choose their own paths through the show without following a predetermined, strictly chronological or thematic sequence.

The exhibition comprises around 120 exhibits from the late 1960s to the 2010s, including loans from renowned institutions such as the Met, the Guggenheim, Lentos, SFMOMA, and MADRE. On display are the artist's early paintings, photographs, drawings, installations, and iconic *string constructions*—including the approximately three-meter-high, two-part work *Black Poppy*, or the equally large-format work *Trail Dinosaur*, which was first shown in 1979 together with a performance by Japanese dancer Yoshiko Chuma and is now being presented for the first time since then. A special program at Belvedere 21 in February will also feature performers who will bring the works to life.

## CATALOGUE

The exhibition is accompanied by a comprehensive publication.



KAZUKO  
MIYAMOTO

Kazuko Miyamoto

Editors: Stella Rollig, Eva Fabbris, Luca Cerizza, Zasha Colah

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## BIOGRAPHY

### 1942

Kazuko Miyamoto is born in Tokyo. Her mother is a dancer and her father is an art dealer. At an early age, she begins learning traditional Japanese dance, painting and kimono sewing.

### 1962–64

Visits the art program run by the study and discussion group Gendai Bijutsu Kenkyūjo (Contemporary Art Research Studio) in Tokyo.

### 1964–68

Moves to the United States, first to Philadelphia and soon after to New York. Studies painting under Charles Henry Alston and Larry Poons at the Art Students League in Manhattan.

### 1968–69

Miyamoto meets the US conceptual artist Sol LeWitt and proceeds to assist him with the execution of his sculptures and *Wall Drawings*. At the same time, she spends a year studying printmaking at the Pratt Graphic Art Center.

### 1970–72

Intensive exploration of geometry, patterns and grid structures. Miyamoto's works become increasingly detached from the canvas as an image carrier: she creates her first *string constructions*.

### 1972

Miyamoto takes part in the group exhibitions *Thirteen Women Artists* and *Ten Artists* curated by Lucy Lippard. Some of the participating artists found A.I.R. Gallery, the first all-female cooperative art space in the United States.

### 1973

First solo exhibition at 55 Mercer Gallery. Miyamoto presents a *string construction* and receives an invitation to install another work in the MoMA cafeteria. First solo exhibition in Europe featuring two new *string constructions* at Marilena Bonomo's gallery in Bari.

### 1974

Miyamoto becomes a member of A.I.R. Gallery, where she exhibits and curates regularly, including the show *Dialectics of Isolation: Third World Women Artists of the United States* (1980) together with the artists Ana Mendieta and Zarina Hashmi. Miyamoto realizes a three-dimensional *string construction* for the first time.

### 1979

Participates in the exhibition *A Great Big Drawing Show*, curated by Alanna Heiss, at P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center (now MoMA PS1).

### 1980

Miyamoto visits Austria for the first time, where she executes Sol LeWitt's work in situ for the *Forum Design* exhibition in Linz. This year marks a turning point in her artistic practice: she uses organic

materials in her new body of work, which she increasingly presents in public spaces as well as in the exhibition *Nesting* at A.I.R. Gallery.

Birth of her son Eizan Miyamoto.

#### 1981–85

Miyamoto presents the work *Nine Bridges* in Bryant Park. She is well connected to the communities in the Bowery neighborhood and participates in events organized by the Rivington School artists' association. She leaves A.I.R. Gallery in 1983.

#### 1986

Miyamoto founds the gallery Onetwentyeight, establishing a space for her friends, artists from the neighborhood, BIPOC artists, and people living in the diaspora to exhibit their work. Between then and 2018, she organizes numerous exhibitions, some involving artists and musicians from Linz, whom she integrates into her extensive New York network of artists including Jean-Michel Basquiat, David Hammons, Sol LeWitt, and Nancy Spero, among others.

#### 1987

Peter Baum invites Miyamoto to hold her first solo exhibition at the Neue Galerie (now the Lentos Kunstmuseum) in Linz, where she presents her kimono objects and other works.

#### 1990–99

Miyamoto increasingly devotes her attention to performance and staged performance photographs. Parallel to this, she continues to work on her *string constructions*, organic "bridges," kimonos, and drawings.

#### 2000–12

Miyamoto undertakes several trips to Europe, especially Austria. In 2002 she gives a lecture with Sol LeWitt at the University of Art and Design in Linz. She has numerous exhibitions in Austria, including *Black & White* (2007) at the Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz and a solo presentation at the Factory at the Kunsthalle Krems (2008). She participates in the Łódź Biennale (2004) and the Kingston Sculpture Biennale (2009). In 2009, Miyamoto exhibits her work at the EXILE gallery in Berlin for the first time, which represents her from then on.

#### 2013–22

Her first monograph is published by EXILE in 2013, followed by international exhibitions, including *Bodily Tactics* at the Japan Foundation in New Delhi (2015), a solo presentation at Circuit in Lausanne (2016), multiple exhibitions at Zürcher Gallery in New York (2017, 2018, 2021), Paula Cooper Gallery in New York (2019), and Take Ninagawa in Tokyo (2018, 2020). The first institutional retrospective of her work takes place at the Japan Society in New York in 2022.

#### 2023

Her first museum retrospective in Europe is held at MADRE · museo d'arte contemporanea Donnaregina, Naples.

#### 2024

Belvedere 21 presents the most comprehensive international retrospective of Miyamoto's work to date, conceived by MADRE.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Exhibition title	Kazuko Miyamoto
Curator	Eva Fabbris
Assistant curator	Andrea Kopranovic
Duration	12 September, 2024 to 2 March, 2025
Location	Belvedere 21 Arsenalstraße 1, 1030 Vienna
Opening hours	Tuesday to Sunday 11 am to 6 pm Late night: Thursday 11 am to 9 pm Open Mondays on holidays
Tickets	Regular   €9.30 online, €11 on-site Discounted   €6.90 online, €8 on-site Belvedere Annual Ticket   €44 Children and youth up to the age of 18   free
Web	belvedere.at facebook.com/belvedere21 X.com/belvedere21 instagram.com/belvedere21wien  #KazukoMiyamoto

For more information on the exhibition and high-resolution press photos, please visit [belvedere.at/en/press](https://belvedere.at/en/press).