

**THE BAR (THE BACKERS FOUNDATION AND AIT RESIDENCE PROGRAMME) VOL. 7  
“NEW WORKS BY ALBERT SAMRETH (USA) AND GOR SOUDAN (Kenya)”  
Saturday, July 12 through Saturday, July 26 at YAMAMOTO GENDAI, Shirokane-Takanawa**



[Image A1]  
Albert Samreth, Pacific Ocean Water Colors (2014–). Watercolors / reference image.



[Image G1]  
Gor Soudan, Drawing in space (2014). Protest wire / reference image.

***The Backers Foundation and Arts Initiative Tokyo [AIT] are proud to present “New Works by Albert Samreth (USA) and Gor Soudan (Kenya)” from July 12 – 26 at YAMAMOTO GENDAI, Shirokane-Takanawa.***

The exhibition will mark the 7<sup>th</sup> time that The Backers Foundation and AIT have partnered together, having previously hosted artists and curators from Africa, Asia, South America and the Middle East. As part of the joint residency programme, the exhibition will be accompanied by research, production and cultural exchange through educational sessions.

**Albert Samreth (Born in 1987, Los Angeles, USA)** is an emerging conceptual artist who has developed a studio practice based around engaging with natural and systematic processes. For this exhibition, Samreth will present a new series of paintings created by either the effects of Tokyo's heavy summer rainfall or made by the sunlight in a natural photographic process. The remainder of his work for the show will be derived from graphic scores related to his concurrent project for the International Moscow Biennale of Young Art, where he will be teaching songs to an African Grey Parrot.

**Gor Soudan (Born in 1983, Kisumu, Kenya)** is a self-taught conceptual artist based in Nairobi, Kenya. For this exhibition, Soudan will present pieces from his “Drawing in Space” series alongside linear drawings and an installation constructed in his Tokyo studio using a variety of locally-sourced, natural materials.

**About the Exhibition**

The BAR (The Backers Foundation and AIT Residence Programme) Vol. 7  
“New works from Albert Samreth (USA) and Gor Soudan (Kenya)”  
YAMAMOTO GENDAI, 3F, 3-1-15 Shirokane, Minato-ku, Tokyo  
Saturday, July 12 – Saturday July 26, 2014 / Free Admission  
Open daily from 11am – 7pm / Closed on Sunday, Monday and National holidays  
Organised by Arts Initiative Tokyo (AIT)  
Co-organized by The Backers Foundation  
Supported by YAMAMOTO GENDAI and YOKUMOKU  
Opening Reception to be held from 6pm – 8pm on Saturday, July 12

*\*The Associate Editor of Frieze Art Magazine, Christy Lange, joins the artists as a curator-in-residence.*

**Further Information**

Press Enquiries  
Ms. Sakai at YAMAMOTO GENDAI  
Tel: 03-6383-0626 / i@yamamotogendai.org

Backers Foundation/Artist-in-Residence Enquiries  
Ms. Horiuchi, Ms. Yoda at Arts Initiative Tokyo  
Tel: 03-5489-7277 / otoiawase@a-i-t.net

**Artist Information**

**Albert Samreth (Born in 1987 in Los Angeles, USA)**



Albert Samreth is an emerging conceptual artist who has developed a studio practice based around engaging with natural and systematic processes, and was recently featured in the Singapore Biennale 2013. His recent works include “Pacific Ocean Water Colors,” a series of paintings created using the currents of the Pacific Ocean, and “The Voice,” a five-channel audio installation commissioned for the Singapore Biennale 2013, where his poetry was narrated by Carolyn Hopkins, a voice actress whose announcements are used for the entire New York City subway system and most airports worldwide. For this exhibition, Samreth will present a new series of paintings created by either the effects of Tokyo’s heavy summer rainfall or made by the sunlight in a natural photographic process. The remainder of his work for the show will be derived from graphic scores related to his concurrent project for the International Moscow Biennale of Young Art, where he will be teaching songs to an

African Grey Parrot.

**Selected Exhibitions:**

- “Bring Your Own Beamer, TRANSMISSION” (MoCA, Los Angeles, USA / 2012)
- “Singapore Biennale 2013” (Singapore Art Museum, Singapore / 2013)
- “Poster Problem” (Otras Obras, Tijuana, Mexico / 2013)
- “The Joy of Fear” (The Impermanent Collection, Los Angeles, California / 2013)
- “...Know Know” (SA SA BASSAC, Phnom Penh, Cambodia / 2013) \*Solo Exhibition
- “Non-Profit, Self-Titled, Solo-Projects” (CalArts, Valencia, California / 2012) \*Solo Exhibition



[Image A2]  
“Pacific Ocean Water Colors” (2014–). Watercolors / reference image.



[Image A3]  
“Continuity Drift” (2013). Natural pigment dyes / reference image.



[Image A4]  
“The Voice” (2013). Five-channel audio installation / commissioned for the Singapore Biennale 2013.



[Image A5]  
“Civilization” (2011). Birdseed, pigeons / reference image.

**Gor Soudan (Born in 1983 in Kisumu, Kenya)**



Gor Soudan is a self-taught conceptual artist based in Nairobi, Kenya. With a background in sociology and philosophy, Soudan approaches issues relating to the rapid socio-political changes that Africa, and Kenya in particular, is currently undergoing. His ongoing series "Drawing in Space" comprises works made from *protest wire* – a tangled, black mass of wire salvaged from car tyres burnt during the civil unrest that accompanied the last elections in Kenya. Soudan more recently produced sculptural works from old bicycle brake cables that he gathered during his time in Freetown, Sierra Leone. For this exhibition, Soudan will present pieces from his "Drawing in Space" series alongside linear drawings and an installation constructed in his Tokyo studio using a variety of locally-sourced, natural materials.

**Selected Exhibitions:**

- "Angry birds" (Kuona Trust, Nairobi, Kenya / 2012) \* Solo Exhibition
- "At a glance" (Kenya Cultural Centre, Nairobi, Kenya / 2013)
- "The poetic line" (The Goethe Institute, Nairobi, Kenya / 2013)
- "Always searching for something; drawings in space" (Freetown pop-up gallery, Freetown, Sierra Leone / 2014)



[Image G2]  
"Drawing in Space" (2014). Bicycle cables / reference image.



[Image G3]  
"Drawing in Space" (2014). Protest wire / reference image.



[Image G4]  
"Eatings" (2012). Protest wire / reference image.



[Image G5]  
"Untitled," from the Angry birds series (2012). Used cardboard, automotive paint / reference image.

**Backers Foundation**

The Backers Foundation is a private group of patrons from the business world who first joined together in 1994 to provide support for the Japan Animal Welfare Society. Since then, the 60 members have funded a variety of organisations. They also participate in self-organised committees set up for projects to which they volunteer their personal time under the motto of *enjoying the good things*. One of these efforts is a *terakoya*, or after-hours school for children, that the foundation has operated since 2005. Through the BAR (Backers and AIT Residence Programme) series, 12 artists and six curators have been invited from countries including the USA, the Netherlands, Afghanistan, Brazil, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Argentina, India, Morocco and Indonesia.

**Arts Initiative Tokyo [AIT]**

Arts Initiative Tokyo is a non-profit organisation that was founded in 2002 in Tokyo by six art curators and organisers with the goal of providing opportunities to think, learn and discuss about contemporary art and visual culture. AIT collaborates with individuals, corporations, foundations and the government to teach people about the complexity, diversity, surprise and fun of contemporary art. At the same time, it promotes the exchange of cultural ideas through the independent contemporary art school MAD that it operates, AIR programs for international artists and curators, and exhibitions and lectures by artists. [www.a-i-t.net](http://www.a-i-t.net)