

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



MASAAKI NODA
FROM FORM TO FORCE
October 8 – November 5, 2026

GOCA by Garde presents *FROM FORM TO FORCE*, a solo exhibition by Masaaki Noda, on view at the gallery's Chelsea space from October 8 through November 5, 2026. Centered on new cast stainless steel sculptures and paintings made for this occasion, the exhibition surveys a career of nearly half a century that began with printmaking in the 1970s. It is one of the few large-scale gallery presentations in New York in recent years by the artist — awarded the Gold Cross of the Order of Honour by the Hellenic Republic in 2023 — and his first solo exhibition with GOCA by Garde.

The exhibition's title, *FROM FORM TO FORCE*, names a single movement that runs through the artist's work. Its point of departure is the rigorous construction of geometric form. In the 1970s silkscreen series *Expression*, Noda developed a method of layering multiple color printings so that form sinks into, and resurfaces from, strata of color. After he moved to the United States in 1977, that form ceased to be still and began to move. In the watercolor *Gravity* (1981), lines of force cut across the picture plane and draw the form along with them; by *Forefront* (1994), form has come to enact collision and counterpoise among multiple layers. The new works in this exhibition stand at the far end of that process, in which form gives way to the description of force.

Sculpture is the physical consequence of that movement. Having tested the relationship between light and color in the stained glass *Rising to the Firmament* (1997) at Keihan Uji Station, Noda adopted mirror-finished stainless steel as his principal material from the 2000s onward. Through a collaboration of more than a quarter century with a metalworking factory in Osaka, taking measurements repeatedly at every stage of fabrication, he established a method for determining the precise angles at which a curved surface takes in the surrounding sky and architecture.

His public sculptures are permanently installed in cities across Japan, Greece, China, Mongolia, and the United States, among them *Perpetual Flight VI: The Rising to the Firmament* (2003, stainless steel, 3.5 m high) at the Shenzhen Art Museum, China; *Apollo's Mirror* (2005, 3.8 m high) at the European Cultural Centre of Delphi; *The Spirit of Hermes* (2010, 5 m high), installed at the Marathon stadium to commemorate the 2,500th anniversary of the Battle of Marathon; *The Spirit of Hermae* (2009, 4m high), The American College of Greece, Athens, Greece; *Lafcadio Hearn: Odyssey of an Open Mind* (2014, 2.2m high) in Lefkada, Greece; and *Eternity: Resting Place of Lafcadio Hearn* (2019, 2.8m high) at the Koizumi Yakumo Memorial Park in

Shinjuku, Tokyo. The sequence of sculptures devoted to Lafcadio Hearn (Koizumi Yakumo) constitutes a thirty-year response to a writer who moved between the two cultures of Greece and Japan.

The new works presented here are sculptures cast in stainless steel. Casting makes possible complex interior spaces that forging could not achieve: the mirrored surface not only draws in the surrounding light, but light reflected again and again within the intricate interior raises the inside of the work itself into a space of its own. Shown alongside them, the paintings of the *Evolution* and *Spiral Interaction* series build up translucent layers of color, unfolding on a two-dimensional surface the same principle as the sculptures — making energy visible through light and space.

Having come to the United States in 1977 to study at the Art Students League, Noda has worked in New York for close to fifty years, making him one of the very few Japanese-born artists to have watched this city's art scene transform at first hand over so long a span. This exhibition presents where that career stands today, together with new work.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Since I moved to the United States in 1977, my life as an artist has been a succession of days in which, drawn out of an imagined world and set before the reality of an art scene that never stops changing before my eyes, I have been asked how I should live as an artist. A career that began in printmaking moved from two-dimensional painting to three-dimensional sculpture, and in passing back and forth between the flat surface and the solid object I awoke to a boundless world of expression beyond any single medium. Public monumental sculpture has become the keystone of international exchange, and in concert with painting it has made it possible to pose questions of the universal.

I regard this exhibition as the culmination of half a century of work, and I hope visitors will sense the “new breath” that arises from the contrast between sculpture and painting.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Masaaki Noda (b. 1949, Fukuyama, Hiroshima) graduated from Osaka University of Arts in 1972. In 1976 he was selected for *Art Now '76* at the Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Modern Art, and in 1977 he moved to the United States, studying at the Art Students League of New York on the Elizabeth Carstairs Scholarship. He has been based in New York ever since, working across printmaking, painting, and sculpture. He has held solo exhibitions in New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Texas, Chicago, and Washington, DC; in France, Greece, China, and Taiwan; and in Japan in Tokyo, Nagoya, Kyoto, Osaka, Himeji, Okayama, Fukuyama, Hiroshima, and Sendai. His work is held in the collections of the Philadelphia Museum of Art; the Brooklyn Museum; the Albright–Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo; the Portland Art Museum; the Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki; the European Cultural Centre of Delphi; the Taipei Fine Arts Museum; the Shenzhen Art Museum; the Fukuyama Museum of Art; the Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art; the Hiroshima Prefectural Art Museum; and the Hyogo

Prefectural Museum of Art, among others. He received the Medal with Dark Blue Ribbon from the Government of Japan in 2017, and the Gold Cross of the Order of Honour from the Hellenic Republic in 2023. In 2025 he presented a sculpture at the Healthcare Pavilion of Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan.

ABOUT THE GALLERY

GOCA by Garde is a gallery dedicated to contemporary art from Japan and Asia, occupying approximately 2,400 square feet (about 223 square meters) in New York's Chelsea district. The first gallery of its kind in the city, it introduces artists from Japan and across Asia — from emerging to established — working in painting, sculpture, and ceramics, to American and international audiences.

Founded in 2025 to build international recognition for Japan's most compelling artists, GOCA serves as a platform for cross-cultural exchange and creative innovation. It is the newest project of GARDE, a Japanese creative company working across architecture, design, and the visual arts under the mission of enriching the world through creativity.

NOTE

Exhibition: Masaaki Noda, *FROM FORM TO FORCE*

Dates: Thursday, October 8 – Thursday, November 5, 2026

Opening Reception: Thursday, October 8, 2026, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Venue: GOCA by Garde, 515 W 23rd St, New York, NY 10011

Website: goca.gallery / Instagram: [@goca.garde](https://www.instagram.com/goca.garde)

Artist website: masaakinoda.com

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A full checklist is available upon request.