

*bystander #024*

KATAYAMA Mari

2016

120.0×90.0cm

This piece is part of the bystander series, one of the three series (shadow puppet, bystander, and on the way home) researched, created, and presented between 2015 and 2017. It was created during a residency on Naoshima Island for the Setouchi Triennale 2016, almost simultaneously with the shadow puppet series, but remained unexhibited due to spatial constraints during installation.

The photograph captures Katayama lying on Naoshima's beach with the Seto Inland Sea as a backdrop, wearing objects printed with images of the hands of female kuroko (stagehands) from the Naoshima Female Bunraku Show. The bystander series focuses on how the kuroko's hands create the sound of footsteps for the legless Bunraku puppets using instruments and clappers, while the shadow puppet series explores how hands become substitutes for Katayama's legs and are the creators of her artwork. Both series share the theme of "hands replacing feet." Katayama has mentioned that the process of incorporating the foreign objects (hand objects of others) into herself required time—a process of accepting the sense of discomfort that she likens to her experience with prosthetic legs since the age of nine: continuously walking to get used to new prosthetics and then, when they break, walking again to adjust to newer ones.