

Akari: Sculpture by Other Means
Akari Unfolded: A Collection by YMER&MALTA

COMPANION EXHIBITIONS AT THE NOGUCHI MUSEUM
EXTENDED THROUGH MAY 5, 2019



Installation view, *Akari: Sculpture by Other Means*. (From left) Isamu Noguchi, *Akari PL1* (c.1973), and *Akari PL2* (c.1973). Wood enclosure by The Noguchi Museum (2018). Photo by Nicholas Knight. ©The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum, NY / Artists Rights Society (ARS).

WHAT

The Noguchi Museum announces a fourteen-week extension of its two exhibitions devoted to Isamu Noguchi's iconic Akari light sculptures—*Akari: Sculpture by Other Means* and *Akari Unfolded: A Collection by YMER&MALTA*. Together, they present a series of immersive installations that shed light on various material, aesthetic, and technical aspects of Akari, both as executed by Noguchi and as the foundation for new designs. Having opened on February 28, 2018 and originally scheduled to close on January 27, 2019, the popular exhibitions will now remain on view through May 5, 2019.



Installation view, *Akari Unfolded: A Collection by YMER&MALTA*. YMER&MALTA / Benjamin Graindorge, *edaLight*, 2018. Paper, metal, concrete, LED. YMER&MALTA / Sylvain Rieu Piquet, *Galet*, 2018. Resin, linen fiber, LED. Photo by Nicholas Knight. ©The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum, NY / Artists Rights Society (ARS).

WHEN **Extended through May 5, 2019**
Wednesday–Friday 10 am–5 pm
Saturday and Sunday 11 am–6 pm

WHERE **The Noguchi Museum**
9-01 33rd Road (at Vernon Boulevard)
Long Island City, NY

EXHIBITIONS *Akari: Sculpture by Other Means* occupies the Museum’s second-floor galleries, with three distinct areas that together explore the versatility, impact, and flexibility of Noguchi’s exquisite paper-bamboo-and-wire lanterns. Including more than 100 Akari, representing about forty individual models, the exhibition allows visitors to experience the ways that Akari can create and transform space. Several installations, including a floor-to-ceiling Akari “cloud” and three Akari “rooms,” create a series of environments that convey the essential values of Akari, drawing on the organizational, structural, and ephemeral qualities of nature, and exemplifying Noguchi’s concept of light as both place and object. A substantial selection of archival material comprises vintage photographs, advertisements, and Akari brochures, all suggesting Noguchi’s thinking about the presentation of Akari as a continually shifting enterprise.

Akari Unfolded: A Collection by YMER&MALTA presents 26 lamps created by this leading French design studio. Six designers were tasked with exploring

the essential values of Akari and how Noguchi might work with new materials and processes to expand the wider universe of his light sculptures. The resulting designs are not variations on Akari, but an exciting proof of how Noguchi's sophisticated hybridities, such as craft and industry, and tradition and progress, continue to provide a powerful model for contemporary design.

ORGANIZATION The exhibitions are organized by The Noguchi Museum. *Akari: Sculpture by Other Means* is curated by Senior Curator Dakin Hart; *Akari Unfolded: A Collection by YMER&MALTA* is curated by Mr. Hart in collaboration with YMER&MALTA Director Valérie Maltaverne.

SUPPORT The exhibitions are supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. Additional support for *Akari Unfolded: A Collection by YMER&MALTA* is provided by Van Cleef & Arpels and FACE (French American Cultural Exchange) Foundation; through Oui Design, a program supported by Institut Français-Paris, the French Ministry of Culture and Communication, FACE Foundation, the Florence Gould Foundation, and Van Cleef & Arpels. Funding has also been provided by Fondation Chanel.

YMER&MALTA Founded by Valérie Maltaverne in 2009, the design firm YMER&MALTA occupies the crossroads of design, art, and craft, creating timeless contemporary pieces by marrying traditional materials and techniques with new technologies. Thematic collections have been developed around glass, wood marquetry, marble, leather, resin, and tapestry. YMER&MALTA pieces are in numerous collections, including that of the prestigious Musée des Arts Décoratifs and the Centre Pompidou, in Paris. For one of its most celebrated collections, the studio worked with the Cité Internationale de la Tapisserie D'Aubusson (a center for traditional Aubusson tapestry that includes a museum) to create eight pieces that drew on the 600-year-old tapestry tradition of Aubusson. ymeretmalta.com | **Instagram: @valeriemaltaverne**

NOGUCHI MUSEUM Founded in 1985 by Isamu Noguchi (1904–1988), one of the leading sculptors and designers of the twentieth century, The Noguchi Museum was the first museum in America to be established, designed, and installed by a living artist to show their own work. Widely viewed as among Noguchi's greatest achievements, the Museum comprises ten indoor galleries in a converted factory building, as well as an internationally acclaimed outdoor sculpture garden. Since its founding, it has served as a global hub for Noguchi research and appreciation. In addition to housing the artist's archives and the catalogue raisonné of his work, the Museum exhibits a comprehensive selection of sculpture, models for public projects and gardens, dance sets, and his Akari light sculptures. Provocative, frequently-changing installations drawn

from the permanent collection, together with diverse special exhibitions related to Noguchi and the milieu in which he worked, offer a rich, contextualized view of Noguchi's art and illuminate his enduring influence. Highlighting Noguchi's role as a category-defying, multicultural, cross-disciplinary innovator, the Museum works with a diversity of contemporary practitioners, from visual artists, to designers, to musicians, dancers, poets, and more, to develop exhibitions and public programs.

The Noguchi Museum is located at 9-01 33rd Road (at Vernon Boulevard), Long Island City, New York. It is open Wednesday–Friday, 10 am–5 pm (until 8 pm on first Fridays May through September); Saturday and Sunday, 11 am–6 pm. General admission is \$10; \$5 for seniors and students with a valid ID. New York City public school students, children under 12, and Museum members are admitted free of charge. Admission is free on the first Friday of every month. Public tours in English are available daily at 2 pm, and in Japanese on the first Friday and second Sunday of every month.
718.204.7088 | noguchi.org | [@noguchimuseum](https://www.instagram.com/noguchimuseum)

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