

Chim ↑ Pom's "scrap-and-build" project

*"So see you again tomorrow, too?"*

*report*



Over 1,200 people rushed to catch the final day of the exhibition, forming an hour-long line all around the venue! Needless to say, this kind of popularity for a Japanese contemporary art show is virtually unheard of.

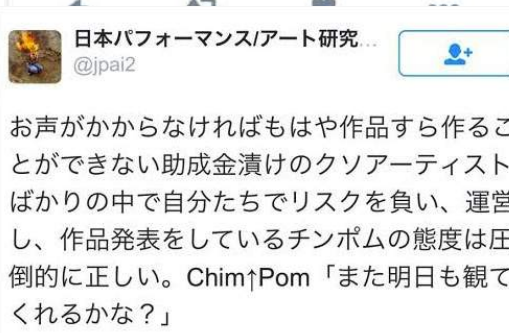


We also received an amazing response online—Twitter and Facebook feeds were filled with mentions on whether people had already checked out Chim ↑ Pom's show! Currently only a week after the closing of the show, a variety of media outlets have posted reviews.

What's interesting is that the first round of articles consists of architecture magazines, music reviews and the sociology revolving Kabukicho, showing the multidisciplinary appeal that the project holds. As we wait for art review pieces to come out, here are some impressions of the show:



#1: Tomoko Yabumae (Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Curator): "I feel pretty defeated seeing Chim ↑ Pom's incredible exhibition...Right across the police station, Kabukicho allows for this kind of expression. I'm completely blown away as someone who works at a museum by the fact that the site most suited for art, a site that guarantees true plurality exists here, and the fact that they actualized and produced this single-handedly DIY. Ends today. A must-see show."



#2: Japan Performance/Art Institute: "In the abundance of grant-addicted crap artists who can no longer produce work without commissions, Chim ↑ Pom's attitude taking on the risk themselves to operate and present their own work is overwhelmingly correct. Chim ↑ Pom 'So see you again tomorrow, too?'"



The exhibit explores the theme of Tokyo's rapid redevelopment towards the 2020 Olympics and Japanese people's method of envisioning the future by taking over an entire building that's getting demolished in Kabukicho, Asia's largest red-light district.

But the project was much larger than just the exhibition. Combining the installation with two all-night events of performances and a series of talks inviting Kabukicho experts from gay bar owners to local activists, Chim ↑ Pom managed to create a (super) site-specific, two-week only phenomenon in the center of Tokyo.

To top it off, they created this multilayered project entirely self-funded and DIY, which sparked tons of discussions online and offline on censorship and artistic freedom (as seen above).

Chim ↑ Pom nailed it—and to get ready for the second iteration at their artist-run space scheduled for January/February 2017!

Here are some sneak-preview photos from the exhibition and events:



Chim ↑ Pom members giving a toast at the opening reception



Experimental theater group Akuma no Shirushi's performance outside



Naruyoshi Kikuchi, Kan a.k.a GAMI, and DJ Baku's mind-blowing



Drawing a Blueprint Version 2 (2016) and the 2.5 square meter hole



Five Rings (2016)



SUPER RAT -Diorama Shinjuku- (2016) and Libido-Electricity



Build-Burger (2016)

