

Wall Maria. Isamu Nasu Styrofoam, mortar, single channel video

This work is a current division and one of the walls of shame scattered throughout the world, and it represents both a "wall" and our way of being. This wall always stands before us. It emits light, shakes the air, and speaks to us an almost infinite amount of emotions arising from various divisions such as culture, politics, and gender, causing people to amplify and project their feelings while attempting to overpower their opponents. However, their opponents are merely walls, despite their desperate attempts to communicate with them. I, too, have found myself desperately speaking to the wall and fearing its demonic nature. Nonetheless, are there really humans on the other side of the wall who will speak and listen to our words?

The person reflected on the wall is Tisbe, a mythological figure from John William Waterhouse's painting "Tisbe," which depicts the myth of Pyramus and Thisbe. Tisbe yearns for her beloved Pyramus, who is on the other side of the wall. However, their parents disapprove of their relationship and are at odds with each other. As a result, the two lovers can only whisper secret messages to each other through a small opening in the thick wall. Unable to endure such a situation, they plan to elope and separate from their families. Unfortunately, due to an absurd twist of fate, they cannot meet each other directly and both pass away. This myth later transformed into Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" and became the basis for the famous musical "West Side Story" nearly 400 years later. The story of love obstructed by walls reflects the changing concept of walls throughout history and the social divisions of each era. In this work, this story serves as the backbone connecting historical vertical lines.