

PRESS RELEASE 2026.1.〇〇.

Véronique Joumard

The Substance of Light



Véronique Joumard

MOMENT Contemporary Art Center is pleased to present *The Substance of Light*, a solo exhibition by French artist Véronique Joumard, on view from Friday, February 13 to Sunday, April 5, 2026.

Born in Grenoble in 1964 and based in Paris, Joumard has been active since the mid-1980s, creating works that use light itself as a material and make its mechanisms and flows of energy visible. In recent years she has been actively engaged in projects in public space, including a contemporary stained-glass commission for the *Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Bayeux* in Bayeux, France, a public commission for Line C of the Toulouse Metro (*Ligne C du métro de Toulouse*), and *Welcome & Funny Blue* at Takamatsu Airport as part of the *Setouchi Triennale*.

This exhibition, her first substantial solo show in the Kansai region in nearly thirty years since her solo exhibition at the Ashiya City Museum of Art and History, is structured around the motif of the “window” and consists of photographic works and new installations. Alongside a large-format series of photographs capturing light spilling from building windows at night, the exhibition features a new curtain installation that treats MOMENT’ s large street-facing glass façade as a single window, as well as images related to her ongoing stained-glass project for the cathedral in Bayeux.

Joumard is scheduled to undertake a residency in conjunction with the exhibition from late January to early March. Further details will be announced on MOMENT’ s website and social media.

In art, light has traditionally played a crucial role both as an expression of religious spirituality and as a means of structuring space. The halo or the beam of light from above in religious painting has been depicted as a sign of divine presence or salvation, while doctrine itself has been experienced through the light passing through church stained glass. Incorporated into the pictorial surface as light and shade, light has also served to draw the viewer's gaze toward the subject, reinforcing narrative and emotion.

By contrast, the light that Joumard works with invites viewers to apprehend it not as a secondary, supporting device, but as a phenomenon that is happening here and now. Often using concrete devices such as light bulbs, resistors, cables and sockets, her works focus on presenting, in their entirety, the physical events by which electricity flows, glare and reflection arise, and the brightness of a space shifts. As she has stated, she seeks “to make light itself and the elements necessary for its appearance visible at the same time” ; her aim is not to treat light merely as a precondition for the emergence of artworks or any visual experience, but to present it as a work in its own right.

In recent years, she has been actively developing projects in public space. Notable examples include her ongoing contemporary stained-glass commission for the *Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Bayeux* in Bayeux, France (since 2013) and the documentary film that follows its process, a public commission for Line C of the Toulouse Metro (*Ligne C du métro de Toulouse*), and *Welcome & Funny Blue* at Takamatsu Airport for the *Setouchi Triennale* (Takamatsu, Japan).

In *Traces of Light* (working title), her practice, which spans both studio-based works and site-specific projects, is reconfigured through the motif of the “window.” We invite you to experience the new configurations of light and space that Joumard's works bring into being at MOMENT.



Véronique Joumard

Véronique Joumard

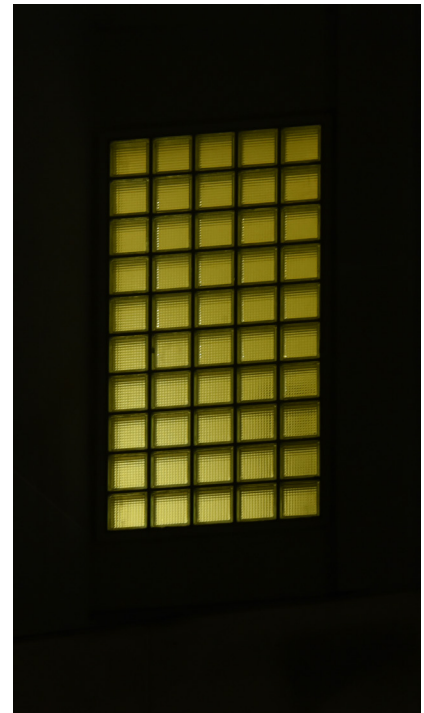
Véronique Joumard was born in Grenoble, France, in 1964 and lives and works in Paris. She graduated from the École supérieure d' Art de Grenoble (now ÉSAD Grenoble–Valence). Working across a wide range of media including photography, sculpture, and installation, she creates devices that make energies such as light and electricity visible, exploring the relationship between the body and space.

Her recent exhibitions include *Vertigo* (2025, Fondation Carmignac, Île de Porquerolles); *Reinventing Landscape*, featuring works from the Centre Pompidou collection (2025, West Bund Art Museum, Shanghai); *Pump Up, Imaginaires techniques et utopies sociales* (2024, Le Grand Café, Saint-Nazaire); *Varnelis dans l'hexagone* (2024, Fondation Vasarely, Aix-en-Provence); *Chaleur humaine* (2024, FRAC Grand Large, Dunkirk); *Amitiés, créativités collectives* (2023, Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg); *Avril* (2023, BF15, Lyon); and *Paravents, table et couleurs* (2022, Gilles Drouault galerie/multiples, Paris).

Her relationship with Japan began in earnest in 1996, when she took part in a residency at *Villa Kujoyama*, the French government–run artist-in-residence program in Kyoto. That same year, she participated in *Hiroshima Art Document '96* at the Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art. Her work *Tsunan*, produced between 1999 and 2000, was presented at the inaugural *Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale* in 2000 (Tsunan, Niigata) and has since been permanently installed there. In 2002, she presented the project *TGV* in Hiroshima. From the 2010s onward, she has continued to present multiple projects in Japan, including *Welcome & Funny Blue* at Takamatsu Airport for the *Setouchi Triennale*, and *Café de la Plage (Yellow)* (2019) on Megijima Island.

She is currently participating in the curated exhibition *In the mood...* and the collection exhibition *Le Silo* at FRAC Normandie Caen (Caen and La Marine). Since 2013, she has been engaged in a project to create contemporary stained-glass windows—becoming the first woman artist to do so—for the *Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Bayeux* in France, accompanied by the production of a documentary film. Since 2022, she has also been continuing a public commission for Line C of the Toulouse Metro (*Ligne C du métro de Toulouse*).

Artist website: <http://www.veronique-joumard.net>



Véronique Joumard

Véronique Joumard *The Substance of Light*

Exhibition period: February 13 (Fri) – April 5 (Sun), 2026

*Opening day only: 14:00 – 19:00

Venue: MOMENT Contemporary Art Center

Opening hours: 11:00 – 19:00

Closed: Monday and Tuesday

Organized by: MUZ ART PRODUCE

Special cooperation: Mori Manufacturing Research and Technology Foundation

Admission: Free

Opening reception: February 13 (Fri), 14:00 – 19:00

Contact

MOMENT Contemporary Art Center

1F, Marushin bldg., 484-1-1, Sanjo-cho, Nara, 630-8244 Japan

Opening Hours | 11:00 – 19:00

Closed | Mondays and Tuesdays

Sae SHIMAI CARDONNEL, Director Naho FUJIMURA, Manager

HP <https://momentcac.jp/>

mail info@momentcac.jp