NEW YORK

SPLIT IDENTITY

"Duality of Existence—Post-Fukushima," a group exhibition of emerging Japanese artists, comes to Friedman Benda June 26 through August 9. Despite its ominous title, the show's subject is not directly the nuclear meltdown tragedy of March 2011. Rather, its participants are suggesting that Fukushima marks a collective emotional rupture between "an essentially physical and tactile existence, and another existence brought into being by the processes of remote communication, which sometimes relies on information, image, and memory," according to the show's curator Reiko Tsubaki, who is also an associate curator at the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo. The featured works vacillate between responses to and triggers of this phenomenon, including Yusuke Suga's hollow humanoid sculpture constructed of a racing suit and helmet with an internal projector flashing vacuous-looking images through its face shield as a comment on Google Glass. Meanwhile Motohiko Odani, Japan's representative at the 2003 Venice Biennale (who will have a solo exhibition at Friedman Benda in 2015), presents the haunting 2013 film Dead Man Sleeping. Through depictions of a red iron pendulum swinging between water and glass, the film argues that existence, as a philosophical state, is known only in relation to death.

—DARRYL JINGWEN WEE