

# Mungo Thomson

## *Background Materials*

Artist | Mungo Thomson  
Exhibition Title | Background Materials  
Dates | November 8 (Sat.) – December 20 (Sat.), 2025  
Location | MAKI Gallery / Tennoz, Tokyo



*Big American Apples*, 2025

Lenticular print in artist's frame, 100.8 x 77.9 x 5.1 cm

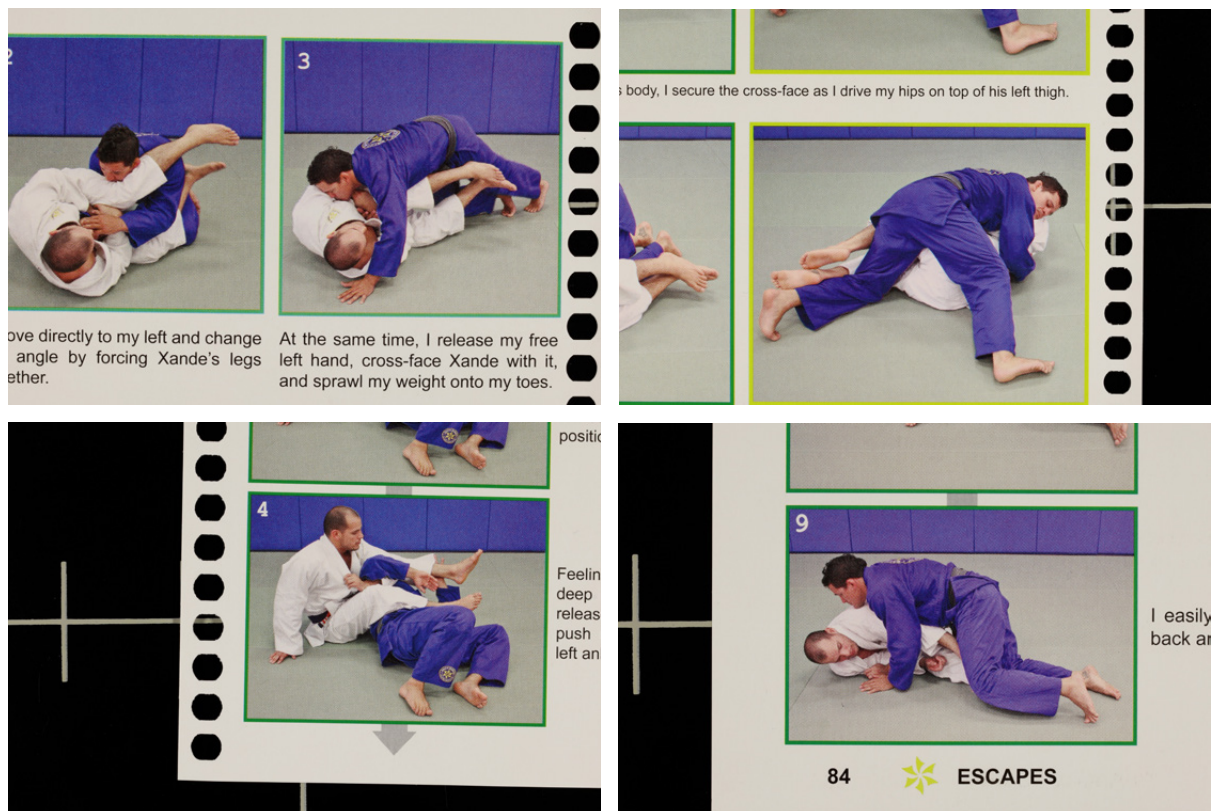
Photos by Jeff McLane

MAKI Gallery is pleased to announce *Background Materials*, an exhibition of new work by Los Angeles-based artist Mungo Thomson, in coordination with his concurrent exhibition *Walking Pictures* at Isetan Shinjuku and his collaboration with fashion label sacai.

Thomson's practice fuses film, sound, sculpture and photography. His work is known for its engagement with cultural signs and analog materials, and repurposing them into immersive, optical and kinetic experiences.

*Background Materials* takes as its starting point a new series of wallpaper works. These room-filling installations are built from the pages of the books Thomson uses to make his celebrated *Time Life* video animations. The *Time Life* videos use how-to guides, reference encyclopedias, and production manuals as their raw material. The walls of MAKI Gallery will be papered with the pages from books on Auguste Rodin, physical fitness manuals, Ikebana instruction, wine and spirits guides and catalogs of candles.

The latest video in Thomson's *Time Life* series, *Volume 17. Survival Manual*, 2025, is a video animation of a jiu-jitsu match taken from a martial arts instruction manual owned by the artist's son, Emit Thomson-Tribe, 15, a jiu-jitsu practitioner and drummer. Thomson-Tribe also provides the percussion soundtrack. The exhibition at MAKI Gallery will be the video's world premiere.





Distributed around the spaces of MAKI Gallery are new, unique lenticular prints, also known as *Walking Pictures*, an optical photographic technology that embeds multiple images into a single artwork that “animates” as the viewer walks past. These works continue Thomson’s interest in making artworks that are both pictorial and structural, using the kinetics of the viewer/artwork encounter to embed time into the static object. The subjects of Thomson’s *Walking Pictures* include apple varieties, cocktail mixing, fitness workouts, throwing pottery, the sculptures of Auguste Rodin, step-by-step Ikebana assembly and a candle burning down.

Several of Thomson’s iconic TIME mirror works are also on view, and for the first time, studies for these made from vinyl and reflective mylar on paper. Together these works shuffle and remix cultural signs into immersive optical experiences, whether in towering video animations, room-filling wallpaper installations, individually animating lenticular prints or space-and-viewer-reflecting mirror works.

Mungo Thomson has had recent solo exhibitions at the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; The Aspen Art Museum; and Karma, New York and Los Angeles; and group exhibitions at MUDAM Luxembourg; The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; and the Orange County Museum of Art. He has been included in Pacific Standard Time, the Istanbul Biennial, The Whitney Biennial, The Performa Biennial, and the Biennial of the Moving Image. Thomson’s work is held in the public collections of Museo Jumex, México City; FRAC Île-de-France, Paris; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Pérez Art Museum, Miami; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. Thomson’s work was featured in the 2025 New York Film Festival, and he is the recipient of a 2025 Guggenheim Fellowship.



*Background Materials (Rodin)*, 2025  
Wallpaper, 457.0 x 305.0 cm



*Hand of a Pianist, 2025*

Lenticular print in artist's frame, 100.8 x 77.9 x 5.1 cm

Photos by Jeff McLane

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*June 19, 1972 (The Occult Revival), 2025*

Enamel on low-iron mirror, poplar, and aluminum, 188.0 x 142.0 x 6.5 cm

Courtesy of the artist and MAKI Gallery

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Mungo Thomson

*July 3, 1989 (The Sun)*, 2025  
Courtesy of the artist and MAKI Gallery

Born in 1969 in Woodland, CA and currently based in Los Angeles, Mungo Thomson is known for a diverse body of conceptual work that challenges everyday perceptions and conventions through film, sound, sculpture, installation, and other media. Often engaging with printed and archival materials such as magazines, advertisements, wall calendars, and cardboard delivery boxes, his ambitious practice incisively yet playfully dissects the anatomy of mass-media and consumerism while examining their effects on our collective existence through a cosmic lens.

The artist's recent solo exhibitions include *Time Life* and *A Universal Picture*, Karma (New York, 2025); *Collection in Focus: Mungo Thomson*, Walker Art Center (Minneapolis, 2023); *Sculptures*, Aspen Art Museum (Aspen, CO, 2022); *Sideways Thought*, galerie frank elbaz (Paris, 2022); *Nagori Yuki*, ISETAN The Stage (Tokyo, 2021); and *Archives*, MAKI Gallery (Tokyo, 2020). Thomson's work has been part of group shows at major institutions across the globe, as well as numerous public collections such as the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; Los Angeles County Museum of Art [LACMA]; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles [MOCA]; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; and Museo Jumex, Mexico City. He has also participated in the 2nd CAFAM Biennale, Beijing; the Pacific Standard Time Performance and Public Art Festival, Los Angeles; the 12th Istanbul Biennial; and the 2008 Whitney Biennial. The artist's work was featured in the 2025 New York Film Festival, and he is the recipient of a 2025 Guggenheim Fellowship.

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Closed on Sundays and Mondays

\*For further inquiries, please contact the above.