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OKUDA
YUTA

29 SEPT - 29 OCT 2023

MIZUMA GALLERY



Mizuma Gallery presents *Circulation*, a solo exhibition by Okuda Yuta. This will be his second presentation in Singapore, following his successful first show *With Gratitude* in January 2022.

After studying fashion design in Japan and the United Kingdom, Okuda Yuta worked as a designer for several fashion brands. In 2016, he transitioned to becoming an artist and has since been actively participating in solo and group exhibitions both domestically and internationally, building his career through continuous creation and presentation.

His works are composed of astonishingly vivid pigments. His strokes are depicted with vibrant colours, along with the resulting raised textures and the intricate line drawings done with a pen, they captivate the gaze of all viewers. Okuda's world unfolds, where the spontaneous nature born from blending of paints and the inevitable meticulousness of pen strokes are intertwined.

Okuda Yuta's paintings attempt to decode not just his own self but also the profoundness of the world reflected within it, as well as the structures of the era and society. His artworks encompass diverse characteristics, highlighted by vigorous brushstrokes emphasising the materiality of paint and intricate line drawings executed with a pen. Consequently, the painting unveils a narrative of the interplay between the delicateness of the line drawings and the intensity of the strokes. As quoted from the artist: "Creation is a means to salvage the self, and for me, the self is fluid, not possessing a singular character." When considering his words alongside his works, it can be said that behind the contradictory world of his paintings, Okuda aims to depict the ever-changing inner lives of individuals.

In terms of composition, Okuda often employs vibrant colours. His series "With Gratitude" is a representative example, featuring floral motifs in a richness reminiscent of the Azuchi-Momoyama culture. According to Okuda, this series is an expression of gratitude for the everyday aspects of life that we often take for granted. Despite the foundations of human society being shaken by catalysts such as COVID-19 and natural disasters, Okuda believes that these less noticed "ordinary" things are inherently delicate and deserving of appreciation.

While Okuda vividly narrates the nuances of the human psyche, emotional resonance, and the subtleties of Japanese spirituality, he also creates works that reflect a restrained aspect, aligning with what he describes as "a consciousness of self-regulation and a culture of form in Japanese culture," akin to Zen Buddhism and the culture of Higashiyama. His series "With Courtesy" features bonsai motifs, signifying another facet of his artistic expression. As seen in the composition of these works, the polarity of intensity and intricacy characterises his art. It is in the fluid movements between emotions and reason, and reason and emotions, without being fixed to either extreme, that Okuda Yuta's paintings possess the potential to captivate those of us who continually grapple with such contradictions.

Featuring over 30 new works by Okuda Yuta, *Circulation* presents for the first time in Singapore his portrait series and bonsai series, alongside his iconic "flower" series as the centrepiece. We hope you will have the opportunity to appreciate Okuda Yuta's expressive and colourful world through this exhibition.



Neo Bonsai (Blue Gradation x Silver)
2023
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
91 × 91 × 5 cm



Abstract Bouquet (Blue Gradation x Gold)
2023
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
162 x 130.3 x 5 cm



Abstract Bouquet (Silver x Red)
2023
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
116.7 × 91 × 5 cm



Abstract Bouquet (Black x Red)
2022
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
116.7 × 91 × 5 cm



Trimmed Neo Bonsai (Silver x Pink)
2023
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
130.3 × 162 × 5 cm



Abstract Bouquet (Copper x Pink)
2022
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
145.5 × 112 × 4.5 cm



Abstract Bouquet
(Orange Gradation x Green)
2022
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
91 × 116.7 × 4.5 cm



Abstract Bouquet (Green Gradation x Gold)
2022
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
53 × 45.5 × 5 cm



Abstract Bouquet (Salmon Pink Gradation x Red)
2023
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
53 × 45.5 × 5 cm



Abstract Bouquet (Mint Green x Orange)
2023
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
53 × 45.5 × 5 cm



Abstract Bouquet (Yellow Gradation x Red)
2023
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
53 × 45.5 × 5 cm



Abstract Flowers (Pastel Pink Gradation x Pink)
2023
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
53 × 45.5 × 5 cm



Abstract Flowers (Brown Gradation x Blue)
2022
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
53 × 45.5 × 5 cm



Abstract Flowers (Turquoise Blue x Red)
2023
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
53 × 45.5 × 5 cm



Abstract Flowers (Glitter White x Blue)
2023
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
53 × 45.5 × 5 cm



Neo Bonsai (Pastel Yellow x Pink)
2023
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
53 × 45.5 × 5 cm



Neo Bonsai (Purple Gradation x Blue)
2023
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
53 × 45.5 × 5 cm



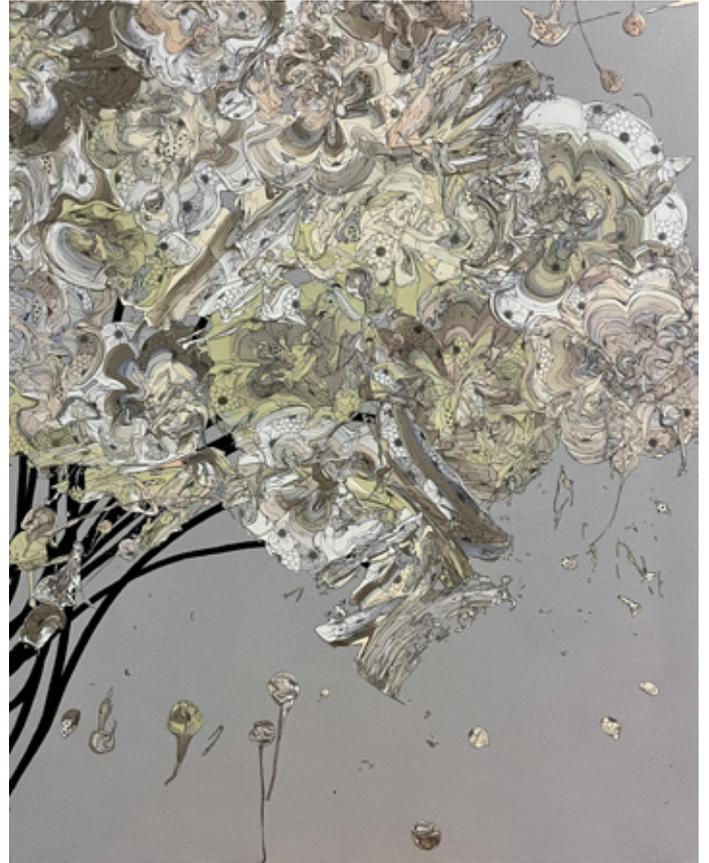
Neo Bonsai (Pastel Pink x Red)
2023
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
53 × 45.5 × 5 cm



Neo Bonsai (Colourful Random Gradation x Gold)
2023
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
53 × 45.5 × 5 cm



Trimmed Neo Bonsai (Pearl White x White)
2023
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
72.7 × 116.7 × 5 cm



Trimmed Bouquet A
(Glitter Pearl White x White)
2023
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
91 × 72.7 × 5 cm

Trimmed Bouquet B
(Glitter Pearl White x White)
2023
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
91 × 72.7 × 5 cm



Abstract Bouquet
(Pastel Pink x Yellow Green)
2023
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
91 × 72.7 × 5 cm



Abstract Flowers (Pastel Pink x Yellow Green)
2023
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
91 × 72.7 × 5 cm



Neo Bonsai (Pastel Pink x Yellow Green)
2023
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
91 x 72.7 x 5 cm



Shaped Bouquet (White x Colourful)
2023
acrylic, pigment ink on wooden panel
88 × 85 × 5 cm



Abstract Flowers
(Random Smoked Silver x Yellow Green)
2023
acrylic, pigment ink, silver leaf on wooden
panel
81.5 × 200 × 5 cm



*Abstract Flowers & Neo Bonsai (Orange
Gradation x Pink)*
2023
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
145.5 × 112 × 5 cm



Abstract Flowers & Neo Bonsai
(Purple Gradation x Turquoise Blue)
2023
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
145.5 × 112 × 5 cm



A Girl Watching You (Silver x Blue)
2023
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
65.2 × 65.2 × 5 cm



A Girl Watching You (Silver x Purple)
2023
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
91 × 91 × 5 cm



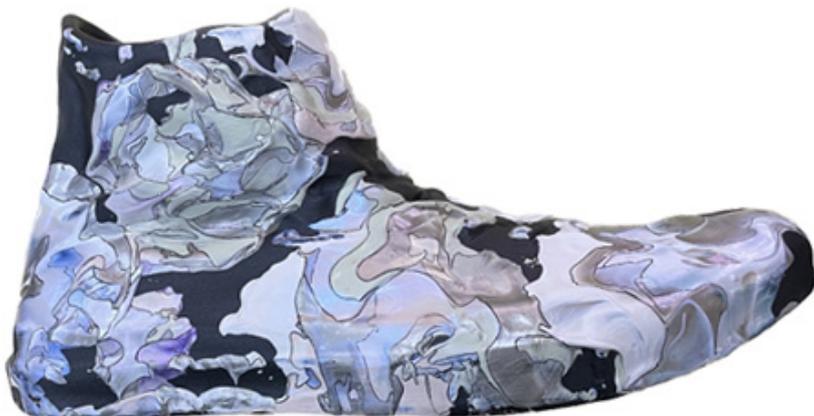
A Girl Watching You (Silver x Blue)
2023
acrylic, pigment ink on canvas
65.2 × 65.2 × 5 cm



Converse Flower (Black x Colourful)
2022
acrylic, pigment ink on ceramic
14 x 30.5 x 10.5 cm



Converse Flower (White x Colourful)
2022
acrylic, pigment ink on ceramic
14 x 30.5 x 10.5 cm



Converse Flower (Black x Silver)
2022
acrylic, pigment ink on ceramic
14 x 30.5 x 10.5 cm



Okuda Yuta (b. 1987, Aichi, Japan) graduated in 2010 with MA in Fashion Design from Instituto Marangoni, London, UK. After working as a designer for the fashion brand “TAKEO KIKUCHI” (2012-2016), he began his art practice in 2016. Developing from early ink drawings of miniature paintings, his practice in the last year encompasses to larger-scale acrylic paintings – all throughout an unconscious self-projection of his own experiences that come naturally to him. Flowers and living things, their beauty and ugliness, life and death, are often seen depicted in his motifs. Okuda’s exhibitions include *Circulation* at A/D Gallery, Tokyo, Japan, and Mizuma Art Gallery, Tokyo, Japan (both 2023), *With Gratitude* at Humanish Club, Macau, and Art Gallery Isetan Shinjuku 6F, Tokyo, Japan (both 2022); Mizuma & Kips, New York, USA, and Elephant Studio, Tokyo, Japan (both 2021); *Black to Colourful* at Gallery ISHIKAWA, Tokyo, Japan (2020).

Solo Exhibitions

- 2023** *Circulation*, Mizuma Gallery, Singapore
Circulation, Hankyu Men’s Osaka, Osaka, Japan
Okuda Yuta Solo Exhibition, Soft Corner, Seoul, South Korea
Circulation, DDDART, Tokyo, Japan
Circulation, Roppongi Hills A/D Gallery, Tokyo Japan
Circulation, Mizuma Art Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 2022** *With Gratitude*, Hwa’s Gallery X Humarish Club, Shanghai, China
With Gratitude, Humarish Club, Macau
With Gratitude, Art Gallery Isetan Shinjuku 6F, Tokyo, Japan
With Gratitude, Roppongi Hills A/D Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
With Gratitude, Mizuma Gallery, Singapore
- 2021** *With Gratitude*, Mizuma & Kips, New York, United States
With Gratitude, Elephant Studio, Tokyo, Japan
Gallery 201, Tokyo, Japan
- 2020** *Black to Colourful*, Gallery ISHIKAWA, Tokyo, Japan
With Gratitude, Ellipse Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
eplus LIVING ROOM CAFE & DINNING, Tokyo, Japan
Gallery 201, Tokyo, Japan
- 2019** Gallery Blanka, Aichi, Japan
Interior cafe & gallery World Times, Hyogo, Japan
Ellipse Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
NishiikeMart, Tokyo, Japan
Kiriko THE Museum, Tokyo, Japan
REFECTOIRE, Tokyo, Japan
The Micro Museum, Tokyo, Japan
Boundary line of bleeding, Gallery 201, Tokyo, Japan
- 2018** Ichibata Store, Shimane, Japan
- 2017** SPOON BILL Minami Aoyama, Tokyo, Japan
Gallery Blanka, Aichi, Japan
Nanten cafe, Tokyo, Japan
- 2016** Ellipse Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
SPACE M, Tokyo, Japan
Colourful Black, REFECTOIRE, Tokyo, Japan
Colourful Black, Gallery 201, Tokyo, Japan
Line’s Creature, Ellipse Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
Line’s Creature, HOT BUTTERED CLUB, Tokyo, Japan

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2022** *Summer Show*, Mizuma Art Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
NIJIGEN-HA Exhibition, N&A Art Site, Tokyo, Japan
SIGNS OF A NEW CULTURE vol.7, Art Glorieux, Tokyo, Japan
- 2020** *Food chain*, TOMOHIKO YOSHINO GALLERY, Tokyo, Japan
- 2019** *Monochrome*, Binokigen, Tokyo, Japan
Le cial blue, Tokyo, Japan
- 2018** *SKULL*, Ellipse Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
work in progress, Gallery KUBOTA Annex, Tokyo, Japan
GOLD CHILD CAFÉ, Aichi, Japan
Smiles Nakameguro, Tokyo, Japan
Homage, Sansiao Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2017** *L'illustre Galerie LE MONDE*, Tokyo, Japan
Over the MINIATURE, Art Complex Center, Tokyo, Japan
work in progress, TOMOHIKO YOSHINO GALLERY, Tokyo, Japan
868788, Art Complex Center, Tokyo, Japan
Gallery 201, Tokyo, Japan
SOCIAL SPACE KIYOSUMI, Tokyo, Japan
- 2016** *Over the MINIATURE*, Art Complex Center, Tokyo, Japan
GARDEN, Gallery Conceal Shibuya, Tokyo, Japan
ACT ART COM, Art Complex Center, Tokyo, Japan
Mode Mood, Omotesando ROCKET, Tokyo, Japan

Publication

- 2017** *Hana to Kimono Utsukushiku Sensaina Nurie Colourful Black*, Kawade Shobo Shinsha



MIZUMA GALLERY

Executive Director Sueo Mizuma established Mizuma Art Gallery in Tokyo in 1994. Since its opening in Gillman Barracks, Singapore in 2012, the gallery aims for the promotion of East Asian artists in the region as well as the introduction of Southeast Asian artists to the international art scene. From 2014 to 2019, the artist residency space “Rumah Kijang Mizuma” operated in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, providing a new platform for dialogue by supporting exchanges between East Asia and Southeast Asia. In 2018, a new gallery space, “Mizuma & Kips” in New York, USA, as a shared collaboration between Mizuma Gallery from Tokyo and Singapore, and Kips Gallery from New York.

Mizuma Gallery features the works of Japanese artists including Aida Makoto, Aiko Miyanaga, Amano Yoshitaka, Ikeda Manabu, Tenmyouya Hisashi, and Yamaguchi Akira. Moreover, it showcases the works of renown East Asian artists such as Ai Weiwei, Du Kun, Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba, Ken + Julia Yonetani, and Zhao Zhao. The gallery also features the creations of prominent and emerging artists from the region including Agan Harahap, Albert Yonathan Setyawan, Ari Bayuaji, Ashley Yeo, Ben Loong, Budi Agung Kuswara, Entang Wiharso, Gilang Fradika, Heri Dono, I Made Djirna, indieguerillas, Iwan Effendi, Kemalezedine, Made Wianta, Mark Justiniani, Nasirun, and Robert Zhao Renhui.

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Tue-Sat: 11am - 7pm
Sun: 11am - 6pm
Closed on Mondays and Public Holidays

Facebook.com/mizumagallery
Instagram @mizumaartgallery

GILLMAN BARRACKS

Set in a former military barracks dating back to 1936 and surrounded by lush tropical greenery, the Gillman Barracks visual arts cluster was launched in September 2012. Gillman Barracks' vision is to be Asia's destination for the presentation and discussion of international and Southeast Asian art. Today, Gillman Barracks is a place for art lovers, art collectors, and those curious about art. The cluster is a focal point of Singapore's arts landscape, and anchors the development of visual art in the region and beyond.

Executive Director
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Fredy Chandra

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Design
Raissa Ali

Published in Singapore, 2023.

Artwork Images © Okuda Yuta

Exhibition Views: Photography by Wong Jing Wei

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