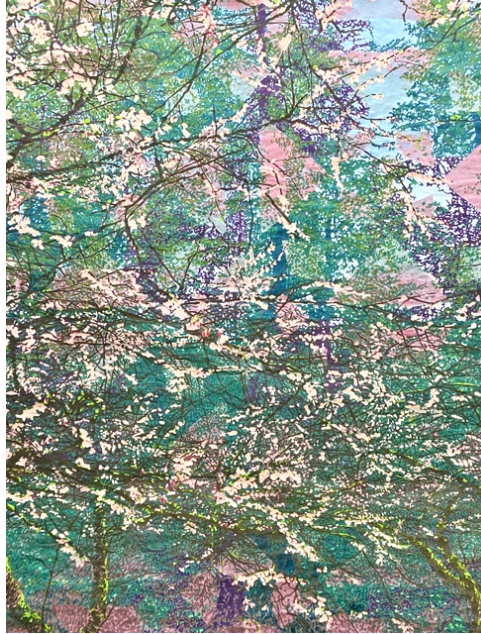


Kenji FUJII Solo Exhibition *Color/Emptiness*

Date: June 16th Fri. – July 15th Sat., 2023

Opening Reception: June 16th Fri. 16:00~19:00 at Wada Garou Tokyo *No reservation required



Sounds of One Hand 2023

Japanese ink, lapis lazuli, colored ink, Japanese paper,
160 x 120 cm

Wada Garou Tokyo and AMMON TOKYO are pleased to announce the solo exhibition "Color/Emptiness" by Kenji Fujii, starting Friday, June 16, 2023.

The artist currently lives and works in Yokohama and Vancouver. His art practice rooted in his childhood fascination with Asian traditional ink paintings and mandalas. The exhibition will focus on two series: Sounds of One Hand, which is about the "Looking Sekishuonjo (The sound of one hand)", and Nirvana, which is an attempt to create a "Colors of Nirvana". We are looking forward to your visit.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Putting colors on an empty sheet of paper. It is as if I am imagining of the view from the summit of an unexplored mountain, but keep looking at the surface of the ground while climbing up.

The exhibition consists of two main series: 'Sounds of One Hand' and 'Nirvana'. 'Sounds of One Hand' is the series intended to create the situation to viewers 'Looking Sekishuonjo(The sound of one hand),' with which I combined several different images drawn on both sides of a sheet of paper in black and colored sumi inks. 'Nirvana' were made for 'Colors of Nirvana' by applying leftover 'once-in-a-lifetime colors' created for 'Sounds of One Hand' exhibited in the show. In that respect, two series in the exhibition are linked to each other. Main image of the exhibition, "Sounds of One Hand," was painted after being impressed by the cherry blossoms in the forest in Vancouver this spring. When my fatigue was reaching its peak from gradual development of brushstrokes, I realised that "These cherry blossoms bloom not in red, blue or yellow, but in 'cherry blossom' throughout its lifetime." I was overwhelmed and then inspired from this reality.

PROFILE

Kenji Fujii

Born in 1981 in Tokyo, Japan. Studied Japanese Painting at Musashino Art University, but did not complete degree program. Based in Yokohama and Vancouver since 2011. He was fascinated by Asian traditional ink paintings and mandalas around his kindergarten student time, and aspired to create paintings that have essence of mandalas of nature. As an art school student, he became interested in the term 'Kannon (Avalokiteshvara or Looking Sound)' when he perceived the sound as a visual image while playing percussion instruments. In his mid-twenties, he was greatly influenced by a Zen priest who asked him about Ekaku Hakuin's koan (Zen question), 'Sekishuonjo or The Sound of One Hand'. Since then, 'Kannon' and 'The Sound of One Hand' became the core of his art works. Major exhibitions include 'NIHONGA Painting' (Yokohama Museum of Art, Yokohama, 2006), 'Hear nature for a while' (Seoul Artspace Geumcheon, Korea, 2011), 'Spectrum File14' (Spiral, Tokyo, 2016), 'Nothingness' (Park Hotel Tokyo, Tokyo, 2020), Art Gallery Kan-Kan Kyo (Tokyo, 2008-) and Galerie Paris (Yokohama, 2018-). His emaki (picture scroll) 'Scene of Penang' (2006) is in the collection of the Yokohama Museum of Art.

INFORMATION

***Please note that opening hours and closing days vary depending on the venue.**

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Special Event: every Saturday 13:00-18:30 at Wada Garou Tokyo (Ginza) 17 Jun, 24 Jun, 1 Jul, 8 Jul, 15 Jul (planned)

*The artist will turn over small works one by one for your viewing pleasure. Please enjoy the DJ-mix-like sensation created by the quiet movements of the artist's hands and the works that appear before your eyes one after another. This event is open to everyone.

◆Venue#1: Wada Garou Tokyo

Hours: Tuesday - Sunday 13:00 - 18:30

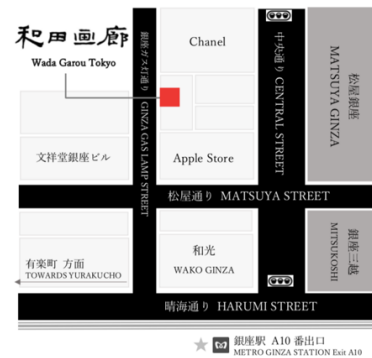
Closed: Monday and National Holiday

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◆Venue #2: AMMON TOKYO

Hours: Monday - Sunday 10:00~18:30

Closed: National holiday

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