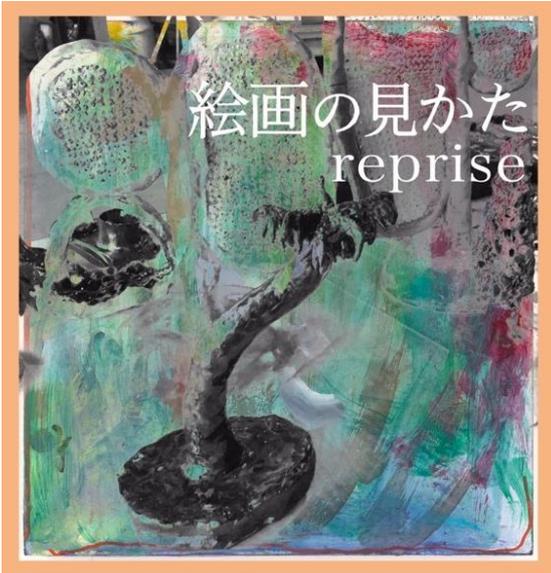


“Approaches to Painting - reprise” A Group Show Curated by Yoichi Umetsu

An exhibition of over 100 works, available for purchase, by approx. 30 post-war to contemporary artists.

sqrt k Contemporary is pleased to announce, “Approaches to Painting - reprise”, a group exhibition curated by Yoichi Umetsu, which will be on view through to January 31 (Sun).



Curated by the artist, Yoichi Umetsu, the exhibition elaborates upon Umetsu’s opening feature article for the 2020 December issue of Bijutsu Techo, “Approaches to Painting”. An opportunity to view and purchase the works by the artists highlighted in Umetsu’s article, the exhibition offers and presents approx. 100 works by approx. 30 post-war to contemporary artists.

Drawing works from various genres and periods, the exhibition seeks to unravel the ways art is viewed. The exhibition defies the singular, often redundant approach, and offers a view from multiple angles while re-examining the associated traits, histories and customs surrounding painting.

With the coronavirus pandemic, the art world was forced to undergo a reform and, while online viewings have increased, opportunities to view art directly has grown more valuable and rarified. As the world plunged into a crisis, a new consciousness has emerged and drew attention to how paintings are viewed by spectators and in relation to one another.

Gathering works from various genres and periods, Yoichi Umetsu, the planner and curator of the exhibition, “(hopes) this exhibition will compel viewers to reconsider their “Approach to Painting”.”

【Yoichi Umetsu | Exhibition Planner and Curator】

Born in Yamagata, 1982. Currently lives and works in Kanagawa, Japan. Graduated from the Department of Oil Painting, Fine Art, Tokyo Zokei Art University.

Umetsu is best known for his self-portraits and paintings that reinterpret early modern Japanese yoga paintings, such as, *Floréal (Me)* (2012-2014), where he takes Louis-Joseph-Raphaël Collin's painting, *Floréal* (1886) and replaces the female nude with himself, or *Wisdom, Impression, Sentiment - A* (2014), a four-panel painting inspired by Seiki Kuroda's iconic painting, *Wisdom, Impression, Sentiment* (1897–1900).

Fascinated by the places where art continually occurs, Umetsu addresses, both, the work of art and its surrounding institutions. Evincing this, his other works include video recordings of his performances, drawings, ceramic work, the founding and management of "Parplume Preparatory School" (2014-), a private school for artists in their twenties who are invited to live together and produce art, the supervision, management and planning of Parplume Gallery and writing.

Major exhibitions include the solo exhibition, "APMoA Project, ARCH vol.20 Umetsu Yoichi" (Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Aichi, Japan, 2017), "Parplume University and Yoichi Umetsu" (The Watari Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, 2017), "Purple-ism in Purple Town" (Parplume Preparatory School and more, 2018), "Weavers of Worlds – A Century of Flux in Japanese Modern / Contemporary Art" (Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, 2019), "Full Frontal Nude Circulator" (Nihonbashi Mitsukoshi, MITSUKOSHI CONTEMPORARY GALLERY, 2020) and "Bubbles / Debris: Art of the Heisei Period 1989–2019" (Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum, 2021). Other works include "From Lamb to Mutton" (ART DIVER), a collection of his works, and the authoring of the special feature article, "Approaches to Painting", in the Dec 2020 issue of Bijutsu Techo.

【Bijutsu Techo’s Special Issue, “Approaches to Painting”, on Sale at the Exhibition Venue】

The December 2020 issue of Bijutsu Techo will be on sale at sqrt k Contemporary.

< Bijutsu Techo Dec 2020 Special Issue “Approaches to Painting” >

Price: 1,600 yen plus tax *Japanese only

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See the link below for this issue’s Editor’s Note by Kaoru Mochizuki, the editor-in-chief. *Japanese only

<https://bijutsutecho.com/magazine/insight/23043>

【Exhibition Highlights】

1. An Opportunity to View and Purchase Works by Acclaimed Postwar Artists to Mid-Career and Upcoming New Artists
Transcending categorical assumptions on genres and periods, the exhibition examines the great depths and possibilities of painting by offering a wide selection of works by a diverse range of post-war to emerging artists.
Exhibiting works includes works by established masters, such as Tadashi Sugimata, Shikanosuke Oka, Susumu Kinoshita, to acclaimed mid-career artists, Yoichi Umetsu and Yusami Kanji, and upcoming contemporary artists, such as Kosuke Ikeda, Yumi Ando and more.
2. An Opportunity to View and Purchase Works from the Private Collection of Art Collectors
Thanks to the generosity and support of art collectors, works from private collections featuring artists such as Koji Nakazono and Richard Aldrich will be on display.

【Event Details】

Exhibition Title: “Approaches to Painting – reprise” A Group Show Curated by Yoichi Umetsu

Dates: Jan 16 (Sat) to Jan 31 (Sun), 2021. *Closed on Mondays.

Venue: √K Contemporary (Root K Contemporary)

Address: 6 Minamicho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 162-0836

Tel: (+81) (0)3-6280-8808

Email: info@root-k.jp

URL: <https://root-k.jp/en>

Exhibiting Artists: Asako Hoshikawa, Takatoshi Shiokawa, Shozo Shimada, Yoku Takamatsu, Yumi Nishimura, Kazuki Umezawa, Kazuki Umezawa, Yoichi Umetsu, Ryoko Aoki, Koichiro Wakamatsu, Kazi Ghiyasuddin, Yoko Ochida, KOURYOU, Yumi Ando, Tadashi Sugimata, Shusuke Tanaka, Tanpakushitsu, Shihori Hattori, Hiroshi Fujimatsu, Amane Ishii, Pelonmi, Koji Nakazono, Kanji Yumisashi, Susumu Kinoshita, Isao Ebisawa, Kosuke Ikeda, Hitoko Tsuzukibashi, Rie Ono, C-Botsu, Richard Aldrich and Shikanosuke Oka.

Organizer: “Approaches to Painting – reprise” Executive Planning Committee

Planner/Curator: Yoichi Umetsu

Co-operator: Bijutsu Techo

Venue Co-operator: √K Contemporary

Exhibition Homepage:

Bijutsu Techo (Japanese only) → <https://bijutsutecho.com/exhibitions/7176>

√K Contemporary → https://root-k.jp/exhibitions_en/approaches-to-painting-reprise-curated-by-yoichi-umetsu/

※Depending on the state of COVID-19, business days and hours are subject to change.

【On Visitation and Entry】

In order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, admission may be restricted to avoid overcrowding. We ask for your understanding and thank you for your co-operation.

【On the Venue: √K Contemporary】

√K Contemporary (Root K Contemporary) is an art gallery in Kagurazaka that opened March 2020. The gallery is located on the 1st and 2nd floor of a new art complex owned by Kashima Arts and amounts a total of 300-square-meters in space. Amidst the tightly clustered buildings of central Tokyo, it is one of the largest exhibition spaces that allows visitors to experience art without spatial constraints.

Founded by Japanese calligraphy and old painting specialists, √K Contemporary aspires to establish and support new art scenes by building on the foundations of predecessors. Aspiring to create the next art scene, the founders designed the gallery with the hopes of establishing a spatially and temporally neutral and universal place. The gallery’s futuristic aesthetic complements the sizable space and liberates the artworks and interiors from any sociohistorical associations.

In hosting exhibitions by post-war to present-day artists, √K Contemporary seeks to bring a new culture of Japanese modern art into fruition. In addition to presenting works by emerging artists, √K Contemporary aims to organize original events that introduces art to a wider audience.

【“Approaches to Painting – reprise” Press and Media Preview】

The preview schedule is as listed below.

Yoichi Umetsu, the exhibition curator and supervisor, and other exhibiting artists will be present on the day of the preview.

In light of the coronavirus pandemic, the reservations are required to ensure the safety of all.

If you would like to attend, please contact below with details on your desired time and number of attendants.

【Exhibition Preview Details】

Date and Time: January 15, 3pm to 8pm. (Reservations required, duration of entry limited)
Venue: √K Contemporary (6 Minamicho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 162-0836)

【For Preview Reservations & All Media and Press Inquiries】

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