

Kosai Hori Retrospective

Dates | February 13, 2021 (Sun) to March 6 (Sat), 2021

Venue | √K Contemporary (6 Minamicho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo)

√K Contemporary (*Root K Contemporary*) is proud to present *Hori Kosai Retrospective*, an exhibition of approximately 30 of Kosai Hori's early to recent works, from February 13, 2021 (Sun) to March 6 (Sat), 2021.



Recognized for leading the liberal artistic movements of his era, Kosai Hori has immersed himself in various forms of artistic expression since the '70s. Tracing the artist's development from his early to recent career, the exhibition consists of two sections, PART I (Early to Mid-Period Paintings) and PART II (Recent Paintings) with a showcase of works that have been widely exhibited domestically and worldwide, as well as never-before exhibited works in Japan.

This exhibition will be held in conjunction with another Kosai Hori exhibition and an installation, and as such, this will be the first-ever attempt to a comprehensive display of Kosai Hori's work.

Hori's paintings are inherently evocative. With strength and lyricism, Hori's lines superimpose upon one another like a ritual recitation. As each line develops into an obscured interlaced surface, each passing gesture embroiders into the composition and, despite its turbulence, transforms into something tranquil and pacified. With this, the exhibition welcomes you to experience and celebrate Hori's earnest exploration of painting.

【Exhibition Highlights】

PART I | Early to Mid-Period Paintings: 1978-1991



To the Portrait of Erize-No.9 1980

"Following the "avant-garde" of the 60s, the rise of anti-art, minimalism, and conceptual art in the 70s compelled the reassessment and complete reconstruction of artistic theory. While also creating various performances and installations, I continued to paint with that mindset... Eventually, I arrived at the 1980 *Portrait of Erize* series (Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art, etc.), one of which is on view at this exhibition.

In 1984, I exhibited my paintings at the Venice Biennale. What is exhibited here is a time when I was entirely devoted to painting." (Kosai Hori)



Voice of Wind-50 1990

PART II | Recent Paintings, The Garden of the Fall and Rebirth: 2015-2019



The Garden of the Fall and Rebirth-13, 2015

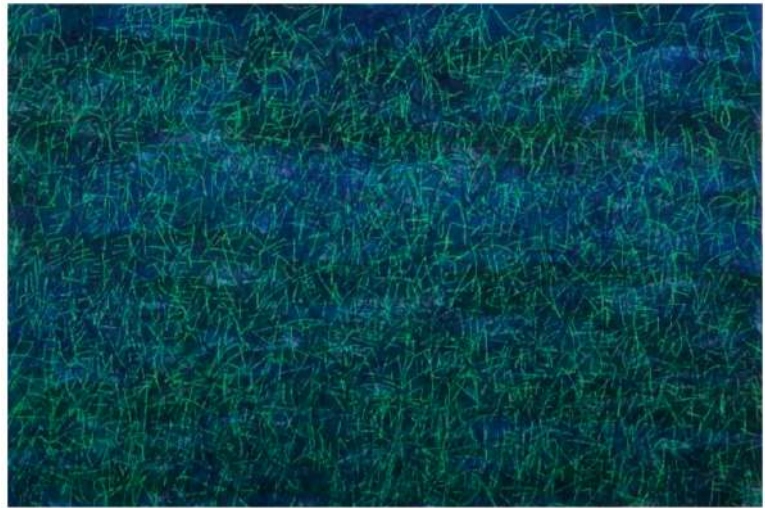
"It was a mysterious garden. I planted various seeds and plants from all over the world. Most of them failed to grow and quickly perished. However, some could adapt to their environment and survived by hybridization, through mating with other plants. While these plants were compelled to crossbreed to survive, the garden was undeniably sensual... My wife said to J, "This is the garden of fall and rebirth". For a moment, J was confused, but nodded and said: "that's a good phrase" and continued, stating "Kosai's endless drawing, that too is an undeniable act of fall and rebirth."

(Kosai Hori)



The Garden of the Fall and Rebirth-32, 2017

(First exhibition in Japan)



The Garden of the Fall and Rebirth-29, 2016

Image credit: Photography by MIYAJIMA Kei © HORI Kosai, Courtesy of Mizuma Art Gallery

【Related Exhibitions】

Kosai Hori's exhibition of new works at Mizuma Art Gallery, *Touching so close and having an openness*, and Kosai Hori + Erize Hori's installation piece at Space \sqrt{K} , *To Remember — Who am I?*, will be held simultaneously with this exhibition. Covering a wide spectrum of Kosai Hori's oeuvre, this is a rare chance to experience the vast breadth of Hori's art through his early paintings, new paintings and installation work.

For details on *Touching so close and having an openness*, please contact Mizuma Art Gallery.

Kosai Hori + Erize Hori Installation Exhibition

Exhibition Title | *To Remember- Who am I?*

Schedule | February 13 (Sat)- March 26 (Fri), 2021. 11am to 7pm (Closed on Sundays and Mondays)

Venue | Space \sqrt{K} (\sqrt{K} Contemporary B1F, 6 Minamicho, Shinjuku-ku)

Admittance Fee | 800 yen (Part of the proceeds will be donated towards supporting the Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction)

Organizer | Japan Art Inheritance Association

Co-operators | Maruki Gallery for the Hiroshima Panels, Mizuma Art Gallery and SEI-RIN Co., Ltd.

Technical Support | Tomotaro Kaneko and Keisuke Tanaka

Exhibition URL: https://root-k.jp/exhibitions_en/kosai-hori_erize-hori_to-remember-who-am-i

Kosai Hori Exhibition of New Works

Exhibition Title | *Touching so close and having an openness*



Schedule | February 24 (Wed) - 27 March 27 (Sat), 2021. 12am-6pm (Reservations Required)

Venue | Mizuma Art Gallery

Address: 2F Kagura Bldg., 3-13 Ichigayatamachi Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0843

Tel: +81 (0)3-3268-2500 | URL: <https://mizuma-art.co.jp/en>

Exhibition URL | https://mizuma-art.co.jp/en/exhibitions/2102_hori/

【The Artist: Kosai Hori (堀浩哉)】

In 1967 he entered Tama Art University, and in the same year with the assistance of his peers he staged the performance piece “Self-Burial Ceremony”, with which his career as an artist began. He was also active in the Japanese student demonstrations of the late 1960s, from within which he became one of the founders, and subsequently leader, of a movement known as Bijutsuka Kyoto Kaigi (Artists Joint-Struggle Council) or “Bikyoto”, which sought to interrogate the institutionalized nature of art. The works of his early career tended to overlap with the activities of that movement, created as pieces questioning the foundations of art itself. With the aim of breaking through the boundaries of modernist painting, such works took a retroactive approach to the history of painting and become a process of searching for its origins. Departing from this source, Hori traced the development of painting’s formation within Eastern nations and within Japan – and in so doing his own personal pictorial space took form. Meanwhile, he also began zealously developing installation and performances pieces resonating with the many issues and phenomena emerging “on the borderlines” of the society and art of “here and now”. His works have been shown at numerous international exhibitions, including the 1977 Paris Biennale and the 1984 Venice Biennale.

(Sourced from the Mizuma Art Gallery website)

【Exhibition Details】

Exhibition Title | Kosai Hori Retrospective

Schedule | February 13 (Sat) to March 6 (Sat) 11am to 7pm (Closed on Sundays and 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>

Organizer | √K Contemporary

Co-operator | Mizuma Art Gallery

Exhibition URL | https://root-k.jp/exhibitions_en/kosai-hori-retrospective/

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

【Visitation and Entry】

Visitors will be asked to co-operate with temperature checks, hand sanitization and mask-wearing to uphold

√K Contemporary

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countermeasures against the coronavirus. To avoid overcrowding, admission might be temporarily restricted. We ask for your understanding and thank you for your co-operation.

【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.

HP | <https://root-k.jp/en> TW | @rk_contemporary FB | @rootkcontemporary IG | @rk_contemporary

【Kosai Hori Retrospective Press and Media Preview】

Please note, in light of the coronavirus pandemic, reservations will be required to prevent overcrowding.

Preview attendees are welcome to view *To Remember- Who am I?*, the installation held in Space √K (B1F of √K Contemporary)

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

【Preview Details】

Schedule | February 12 (Fri) 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】

√K Contemporary (Managed by SEI-RIN Co.,Ltd.)

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

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