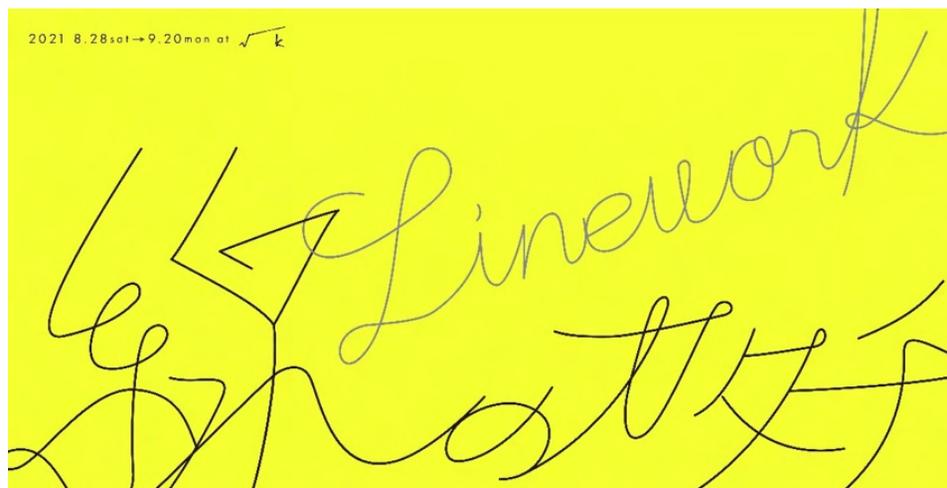


Lines as Expression

Linework: A Group Drawing Exhibition

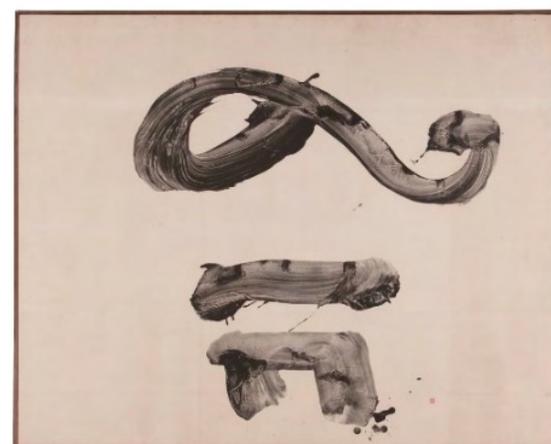


√K Contemporary (Root K Contemporary) is proud to announce its upcoming exhibition *Linework*. On view from August 28 (Sat) on through September 20 (Mon), the group show features approx. 65 works by established to emerging artists.

On the Group Exhibition, *Linework*

The crux of *Linework* stems from the fundamental role of lines in “drawings” as a liberal form of expression.

Inspired by the ideas of the avant-garde calligrapher, Nankoku Hidai, the exhibition’s premise originates from his notion of “Shin sen (spirit line)”. Nankoku, who argued that “the essence of ...calligraphy is the expression which depends on a disciplined stroke regardless of the medium”¹, viewed the lines as a full and sufficient vehicle for expression. Forging the “avant-garde calligraphy” movement, Nankoku broke away from the traditions of an orthodox artform and launched an unprecedented and continued wave of innovation.



Nankoku Hidai, 64-3 (1964)
Ink on paper

¹ Sōfū Okabe, “Hidai and His Work” (chapter translated by Audie Bock), in *Hidai Nankoku sakuhinshu*, ed. Hidai Nankoku (Yokohama: Shogaku-in Shuppan-bu [Shogakuin Publications], 1987), 230.

√K Contemporary

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With this, the exhibition invites viewers to re-examine the act of drawing through the fundamental role of the line. The deceptively simple act of line-making is a crucial device that evolves with each artist and can differ greatly upon how, where and when they're drawn. An exhibition that, in essence, strives for the continuation of Hidai's lifelong endeavor, *Linework* was planned with the hopes of breaking past conventions for the development of new, liberated modes of thought and expression. By addressing the line as an unbound expression of infinite possibility, *Linework* welcomes viewers to discover the point at which line becomes art.

Exhibition Highlights

- The Calligrapher's Line

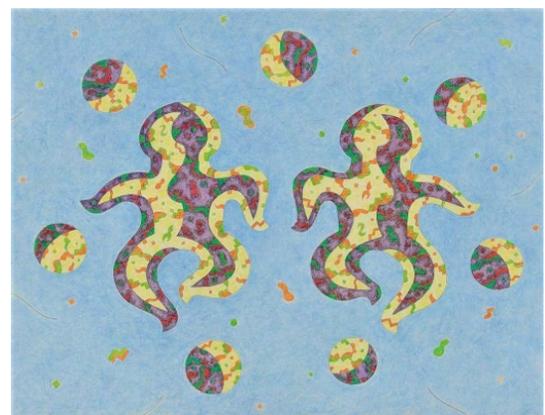
Hidai Nankoku's calligraphy transcends traditional assumptions about words. Blurring the boundaries between writing and painting, his legacy of "Shin sen (spirit line)" compelled the re-evaluation of the medium. Furthermore, in addition to Hidai's sketches, the exhibition offers works by the late, internationally acclaimed avant-garde calligrapher, Toko Shinoda.



Toko Shinoda, *For the Silver E* (1966)
Ink, silver and gold-leaf on paper

- Drawings of Postwar Japan

The end of the Second World War marked a turning point for Japanese art. Since then, numerous artists have adopted the drawing medium. From Hiroshi Fujimatsu to Toshimitsu Imai, Waichi Tsutaka, Kiyoshi Hamada, and more, *Linework* features works by the vanguards of who shaped and popularized the face of the medium.



Hiroshi Fujimatsu, *Untitled* (1990's)
Color pencil on paper



Kiyoshi Hamada,
Drawing No. 65 (2001)
Pencil on paper

Known for his numerous Yomiuri Independent exhibition distinctions

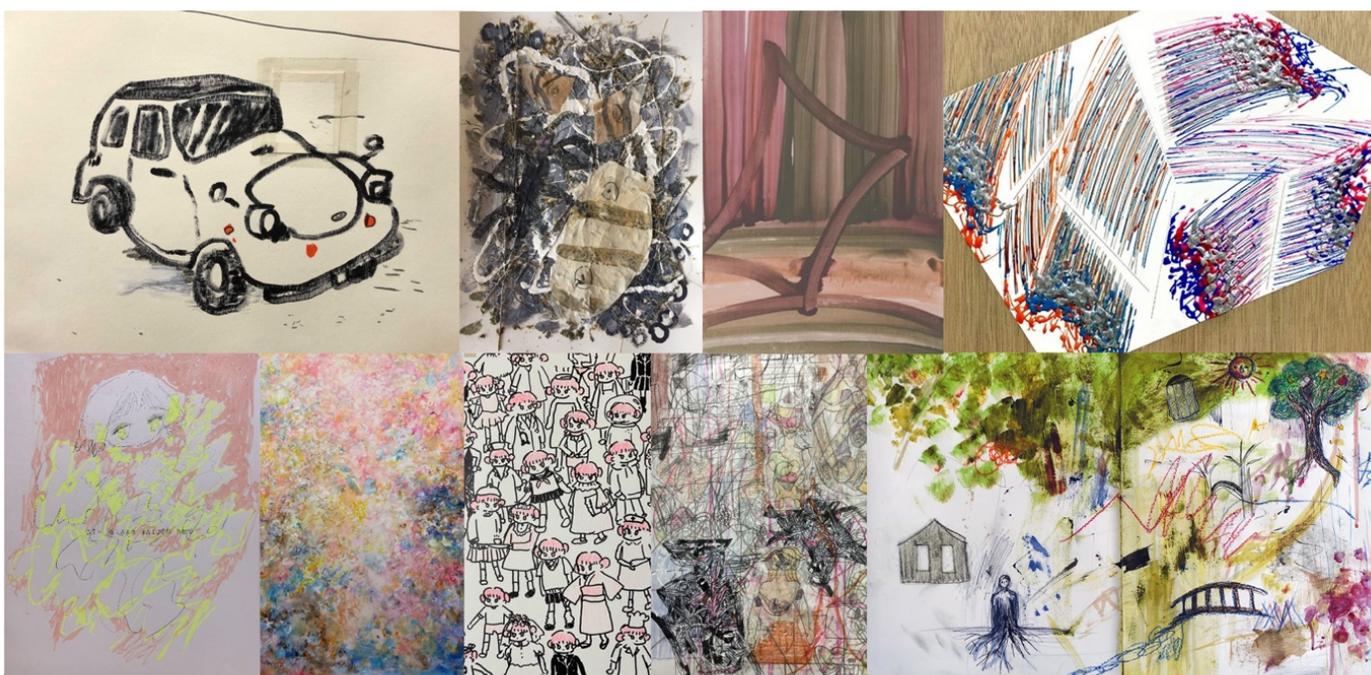
and his iconic "Hitogata (figure)" and "Tabibito (Traveler)" motifs, *Linework* will offer the rich and intricate drawings of Hiroshi Fujimatsu from the 1950's to 90's.

Another highlight is the *Drawings* of Kiyoshi Hamada, who, despite starting his career in the 70's as a printmaker, shocked audiences with his sudden production of the series in 80's. An exploration of physical change, *Drawing* utilizes a form of sedimentation with pencil and paper. Exposing the

materiality of its medium, Hamada's meticulously drawn accumulation of single pencil lines amasses into a complete, lead surface and transforms, both, the paper, and pencil into an uncanny, metallic object.

- The Lines of Mid-Career to Emerging Artists

Linework's diverse lineup offers a distinct selection of "lines" by artists associated with a range of differing genres. Among which are the new drawings of Kanji Yumisashi, whose mural for the Taro Okamoto Memorial Museum courtyard is exhibited as part of the *Watarium Art Museum's Ripple Across the Water 2021* exhibition. In addition to the works of Kosuke Ikeda, whose budding and diverse oeuvre spans from conceptual writing to painting, and the works of emerging artists, the exhibition is an opportunity for viewers to explore the endless possibilities of a line.



Exhibition Details

Exhibition Title | *Linework*

Exhibiting Artists | Asako Hoshikawa, C-Botsu, Fumiaki Akahane, Naoto Kumagai, [Nankoku Hidai](#), Kanji Yumisashi, [Kiyoshi Hamada](#), Kosuke Ikeda, [Nankoku Hidai](#), Pelonmi, Rie Ono, Sohyun Park, Tanpakushitsu, Toko Shinoda, Toshimitsu Imai, Waichi Tsutaka and more.

Dates | 8.28 (sat) - 9.20 (mon) (Closed Sundays & Mondays. Open on Public Holidays)

Venue | √K Contemporary

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Tel: +81 (0)3-6280-8808 | Email: info@root-k.jp | URL: <https://root-k.jp>

Exhibition HP | https://root-k.jp/exhibitions_en/sen_no_katachi_linework

Admittance | Free

Exhibiting Works | Approximately 150 works

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Organizer | √K Contemporary

Support | Tenrai Shoin Co. Ltd, CAVE-AYUMIGALLERY

* COVID-19 Preventative Measures.

Please note that, depending on the state of the COVID-19 situation, details are subject to change.

All visitors will be asked to co-operate with mask wearing and hand disinfection.

About √K Contemporary

Established May 2020, √K Contemporary is an offshoot sibling gallery of Kashima Arts, which has strived, since 1988, to showcase and enhance traditional Japanese art. Inspired by the notion that art springs from generations of refinement, the gallery seeks to present next generation art that withstands social and temporal boundaries.

Official Website: <https://root-k.jp/en>

TW : @rk_contemporary | FB : @rootkcontemporary | IG : @rk_contemporary

Press and Media Preview

Preview details is as listed below

August 27 (Fri) 3pm to 8pm

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

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

√K Contemporary

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For all Press & Media Inquiries

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

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