

Opening November 18  
Shiori Horie, *The Scab Comes Off*



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Shiori Horie | *The Scab Comes Off*

2023. 11.18 sat. – 12.16 sat.



√K Contemporary is proud to announce the opening of Shiori Horie's highly anticipated solo exhibition, *The Scab Comes Off*.

Since Horie's 2021 solo *Gotoh Memorial Cultural Award Exhibition: An Overseas Training Program Achievement Showcase, A Breath Away*, the artist has become a recipient of the prestigious VOCA Honorable Mention Award in the very same year, and held her solo exhibition, "[Associated Exhibition] HORIE Shiori: Toward the Unreachable" at The Museum of Modern Art Kamakura & Hayama KAMAKURA ANNEX as part of "MATSUMOTO Shunsuke: On the 110th Anniversary of His Birth" in 2022.

On this occasion, the long-awaited major solo exhibition will present 110 pieces of Horie's watercolor works, which debuted at the artist's solo exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art, Kamakura Annex in 2022, as well as new works from her VOCA Award-winning Partial Future series.

In recent years, the artist has faced an inaugural sense of trepidation towards Nihonga (Japanese painting, which involves the use of mineral pigments). Nevertheless, despite her lingering distress, what kept her going was her motivation to paint. Subsequently, the artist would return to drawing; a medium she started to explore during her time studying in Paris. Rendered on small pieces of white paper, these works present mysterious, anthropomorphic faces, which the artist calls "scabs". From the soft layers of vivid, overlapping watercolors to the feeling of movement captured by her brushstrokes, the subtle yet intimate character of these works seems to allude to the artist's inner conflict and her acceptance of it. Just as scabs are emblems of convalescence, these works appear as if they reveal a glimpse of the artist's healing process as Horie begins her journey again by re-accepting art as a fundamental part of herself.

Gifting form to the juncture between injury and recovery, these works embody one of the most universal experiences of life.

The exhibition will further feature new works from Horie's *Partial Future* series, which she produced following her 18-month hiatus from Nihonga, such as her 2022 VOCA Honorable Mention Award-winning work. Recognized for its overwhelming presence, the esteemed work is composed of a row of figures that pervade the entirety of the composition. Known for her mastery of the material, the artist's unique technique and expertise offer her mineral pigment works a distinct texture that differs greatly from her drawings. Delicate and ephemeral, yet substantial and dense, these portraits signify strength in the face of a fragile existence. For this occasion, the exhibition will present new works from her series, as well as the award-winning work, *Partial Future #2 - #6* (2021).

Shiori Horie's anthology, *A Breath Away\** which features the essay that inspired the title of the exhibition *The Scab Comes Off* (2020, Gunzo, Kodansha) will be available for purchase at the exhibition.

\*Please note that all essays are in Japanese only

Please take this opportunity to view the works of a leading artist who continues to persevere, grow and express these developments throughout her pioneering oeuvre.

#### ■ **Artist Statement**

"The Scab Comes Off"

For some reason, I just couldn't paint anymore.

I began to fear the things I valued most and the people associated with them.

For me, painting entails the use of mineral pigments.

I want to return to the days when I would paint a color on a piece of paper,  
and, as more colors came to mind, my hands would instinctually begin to move.

But, before I knew it, my paint bottles had begun to collect dust.

I feel like I'm drowning in my painful memories. Yet, I must pick up my brush.

As if they would wash away my ferment, I was encouraged by the lightness of these watercolors, and I would try to close my wounds by preventing them from opening any further.

As I kept going, numerous little scabs remained on my hands.

I saw a light in the hand that was stretched before me.

Even if my wounds don't heal, there must be something I can do.

For the first time in a year and a half,

I held these nostalgic paints in my hand

to return to the beginning and confront my fears by painting.

Shiori Horie

■ **Exhibition Highlights**



Above: *Partial Future #2 - #6* (2021) Mineral pigments on washi paper 194 × 60 × 3.5 cm  
(Image: "MATSUMOTO Shunsuke: On the 110th Anniversary of His Birth [Associated Exhibition] HORIE Shiori: Toward the Unreachable" at The Museum of Modern Art Kamakura & Hayama KAMAKURA ANNEX (2022) installation view)



Upper tier (from the left): *The Scab #228* (2022) 18×12.5cm, *The Scab #238* (2022) 17.9×12.5cm, *The Scab #275* (2022) 18×12.4cm, *The Scab #326* (2022) 17.9×12.4cm  
Lower tier (from the left): *The Scab #329* (2023) 17.9×12.4cm, *The Scab #447* (2023) 17.9×12.4cm, *The Scab #547* (2023) 19.4×14.8cm, *The Scab #675* (2023) 19.7×14.5cm

\* All works: watercolor on paper

## ■ **Artist | Shiori Horie (堀江 菜)**



Shiori Horie was born in France in 1992. Following graduation from Tokyo Gakugei University Senior High School in 2010, Horie entered Tama Art University specializing in Nihonga painting, and graduated in 2014. In the same year, she held her inaugural solo exhibition at Kashima Arts and exhibited her works at ART FAIR TOKYO 2015 in a solo presentation by the gallery. In 2015, Horie was awarded the Gotoh Cultural Award, Fine Arts Division, and was nominated for the 6th Kai Higashiyama Memorial Award for the Nikkei Nihonga Grand Prize. With a grant from the Gotoh Cultural Award, Horie spent a year in Paris in 2016. In 2020, the artist received the 6TH SETAGAYA ART AWARD "HISHOU" and in March 2021, held a solo exhibition at the Setagaya Museum as a part of the 6th SETAGAYA ART AWARD "HISHOU" Memorial Exhibitions. In the spring of the same year,

Horie held solo exhibitions at √K Contemporary and Kashima Arts as part of the 26th Gotoh Memorial Cultural Award Exhibition: An Overseas Training Program Achievement Showcase. In 2021, Horie received the VOCA (Vision of Contemporary Art) 2022's VOCA Honorable Mention Award and the Takashimaya Culture Foundation's 32nd Takashimaya Art Award. In 2022, the artist published her work anthology, "Shiori Horie A Breath Away" (Shogakukan), and held her solo exhibition, "[Associated Exhibition] HORIE Shiori: Toward the Unreachable" at The Museum of Modern Art Kamakura & Hayama KAMAKURA ANNEX. The following year, Horie's works were presented at the Okawa Museum of Art for a special display as part of the commemorative exhibition, "Fifty Drawings by Shunsuke Matsumoto". In addition to her many exhibitions and awards, the artist's essays have been published in numerous magazines and her works have graced the covers of esteemed books such as Yoko Hiramatsu's *Chichi no Bisco* (Shogakukan, 2021) and 5 volumes of the Japanese translation of Jules Verne, *The Collected Voyages Extraordinaires* (Inscript). The artist also produced the cover and illustrations for Yoko Tawada's *The Emissary* (Kodansha, 2014).

Website | <https://www.shiorihorie.com/>

## ■ **Exhibition Information**

Exhibition Title | Shiori Horie, *The Scab Comes Off*

Dates | November 18 (Saturday) to December 16 (Saturday), 2023

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

Organizer | √K Contemporary

Support | French Embassy / Institut français du Japon

Exhibition HP | [https://root-k.jp/exhibitions\\_en/shiorihorie\\_thescabcomesoff/](https://root-k.jp/exhibitions_en/shiorihorie_thescabcomesoff/)

■ About √K Contemporary



With an ethos guided by its experience with traditional Japanese art, √K Contemporary presents art from the early 20th century to the present. Driven by a desire to innovate, the gallery organizes exhibitions and events that aim to provoke, stimulate, and inspire new thinking. In conserving its acts, the gallery hopes to place and pave its way toward the future art scene. Designed with these ideas in mind, the 300 sqm gallery was envisioned as a “gallery from outer space”, where works are presented with new values and viewed with new eyes.

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

TW: @rk\_contemporary | FB: @rootkcontemporary | IG: @rk\_contemporary

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