

Akihiro Hasegawa × Rin Nakanishi
Two Solo Exhibitions
18 July – 15 August 2026 at √K Contemporary, Tokyo



√K Contemporary is pleased to present *Akihiro Hasegawa × Rin Nakanishi*, a pair of concurrent solo exhibitions bringing together two emerging artists. On view from 18 July to 15 August 2026, the exhibition unfolds across the gallery's two floors, with each artist occupying an independent space while entering into a quiet dialogue with the other.

Working in distinct materials and through different artistic languages, Hasegawa and Nakanishi each present a new body of work. Hasegawa's abstract paintings and Nakanishi's figurative sculptures approach the world from different directions, yet both ask what allows an artwork to carry presence, memory, and meaning within contemporary life.

► **About the Exhibition**

Following years of Buddhist monastic training, Akihiro Hasegawa has developed a painting practice shaped by Buddhist thought and Eastern philosophy. His work explores the shifting relationship between spiritual and physical light, creating abstract compositions that emerge from moments of perception rather than representation. Characterized by luminous surfaces and restrained gestures, the paintings invite a quiet, contemplative encounter. Alongside a new series of works, the exhibition includes a selection originally presented at FUJI TEXTILE WEEK 2025, where Hasegawa further expanded the scope of his practice.

For this exhibition, Rin Nakanishi returns to the human figure after several years of working primarily with animal motifs. Sculpted in chocolate, faces and hands become vessels for touch, warmth, and human connection. The material itself—fragile, familiar, and destined to change—holds the traces of physical presence while quietly

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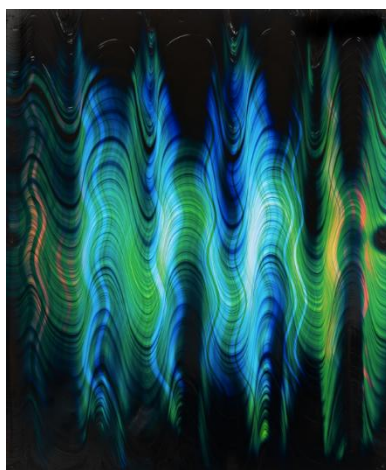
evoking the impermanence of human existence. Earlier this year, Nakanishi received the Grand Prize of the MYNAVI ART AWARD at ARTISTS' FAIR KYOTO 2026, and this exhibition marks the artist's first solo presentation at $\sqrt{K}$ Contemporary.

Rather than presenting a single shared theme, the exhibition allows two independent practices to unfold side by side. As visitors move between the gallery's two floors, unexpected resonances emerge—between abstraction and figuration, painting and sculpture, light and touch. Together, the exhibitions offer two distinct ways of considering how art shapes our experience of the world.

► 1F / Akihiro Hasegawa

For this exhibition, Akihiro Hasegawa presents a new series of abstract paintings. Continuing his exploration of both inner and perceptual experiences of light, these works reveal a more intuitive and open approach, allowing gesture and sensation to guide the painting process.

The exhibition also includes a selection of works first presented at FUJI TEXTILE WEEK 2025, offering a glimpse into the recent evolution of his practice.



(From left)

Halo XV (2026), 73 × 61 cm, oil on acrylic panel, wood panel

Waves no.6 (2026), 73 × 61 cm, oil on acrylic panel, wood panel

Sutra : Tantu #1 (2025), 145 × 112 cm, oil on acrylic panel, wood panel



Akihiro Hasegawa

Born in Mie Prefecture in 1997. A contemporary artist currently based in Tokyo.

Born into a temple of the Tendai school of Buddhism, Hasegawa was ordained in 2009 and completed the Shido Kegyo (Four Preliminary Practices) at Saikyoji Temple of the Tendai Shinsei school in 2019. He entered the Department of Design at Tokyo University of the Arts in 2016 and completed his master's degree in Design at the university's Graduate School of Fine Arts in 2024.

Viewing emotion, thought, the body, and the existence of life itself from a

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contemplative distance, Hasegawa's works reveal a singular perspective grounded in the Buddhist thought that forms his foundation, posing questions about mortality and the very nature of human existence. Drawn strongly to "light" since childhood, both visually and philosophically, he distills this formative experience into his work.

Selected as a grantee of the KUMA Foundation in 2021, Hasegawa took part in *KUMA EXHIBITION 2022* and held his first solo exhibition, *Yomogi & COMP* at VK Contemporary, Tokyo, the same year. He has since participated in numerous exhibitions, including *Meet Your Art Festival 2023 'Time to Change'*; *VOCA 2025* (The Ueno Royal Museum); *THE ART OF COLOUR*, an exhibition by the high jewelry maison Chaumet (Tokyo, 2025); and the group exhibition *Saisei to Mirai (lit. Regeneration and Future)* curated by Miwa Kutsuna (ASTER Curator Museum, Kanazawa, 2025). In 2024 he held a major solo exhibition at VK Contemporary, Tokyo, followed in the same year by the solo exhibition *Immeasurable Light (Amitabha)*, at N&A Art SITE, Tokyo, as the sixth installment of the Nanjo Selection. In 2025 he exhibited at *Fuji Textile Week 2025* in Fujiyoshida, Yamanashi (Director: Fumio Nanjo; Curator: Kensho Tambara).

► 2F / Rin Nakanishi

Nakanishi's new works mark a return to one of the earliest subjects in the artist's practice, the human figure. Having recently focused on animals such as sheep and pigeons, the artist revisits the body as a site of intimacy, memory, and encounter.

Made from chocolate, the sculptures preserve traces of touch, reflecting on the warmth, intimacy, and transience of human existence.



(From left)

Liminal Touch (2026), 100 × 73 cm, Inkjet print

Eyes Meet (2026), 73 × 53 cm, Inkjet print

Amagami (2026), 100 × 73 cm, Inkjet print

[Artist Statement]

In Japanese, there is a word: amagami, a gentle, playful bite.

A single word that carries sensation, relationship, and memory. A tactile language that quietly defines the space between oneself and another.

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Too strong, and it becomes pain. Too weak, and the meaning disappears. It is an act of extraordinary precision, possible only within that narrow band.

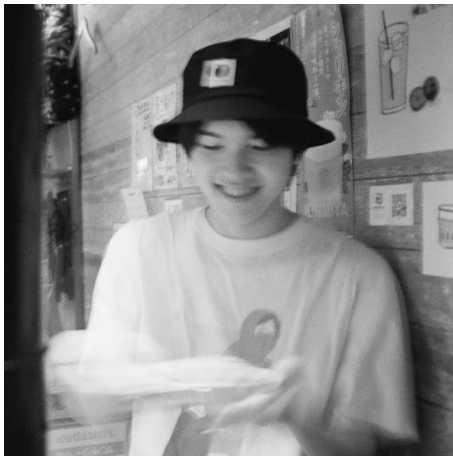
When engaging with people or with sculpture, the subtle calibration of force within this band carries meaning in itself, and exchanges that never reach the surface pass between us and the other, between us and the material. A realm of ambiguity in which words are surely being spoken, yet never fully become words.

The moment teeth meet skin, our eyes meet.

On the skin that bites and the skin that is bitten, a mark remains for only a few seconds.

At the border between intimacy and violence, words have already passed between us.

— Rin Nakanishi



Rin Nakanishi

Born in Shizuoka Prefecture in 1999. Completed master's degree in Sculpture at the Graduate School of Fine Arts, Tokyo University of the Arts, in 2025.

Drawing on a background of having grown up in a patisserie, Nakanishi creates sculptures and performance works made primarily from Western confectionery. His “eat sculpture” practice expands the experience of viewing into one of eating, engaging scent, taste, and texture, and challenges the very concept of sculpture with a new form of expression. In 2026 he received the MYNAVI ART AWARD Grand Prize at ARTISTS' FAIR KYOTO.

[Solo Exhibitions]

- 2023 eat sculpture (ART FOR THOUGHT, Tokyo)
- 2024 about dreams (kitchen haco, Tokyo)
- 2025 Recipe for Sheep child (Okano, Tokyo)
- 2026 Kakomu Keshiki (DIEGO Omotesando, Tokyo)

[Selected Group Exhibitions]

- 2023 P.O.N.D Dialogue (PARCO MUSEUM TOKYO, Tokyo)
- 2024 Ichiban Oishiku Taberu ni wa (Marco Gallery, Osaka)
- 2025 The 2nd Shimizu Ekimae Art Festival (Shimizu Ekimae Ginza shopping street and other venues, Shizuoka)
- 2025 Practical meal, Practical wear (Kameido Art Center, Tokyo)
- 2026 ARTISTS' FAIR KYOTO (Kyoto National Museum, Kyoto)

► Exhibition Information

Title | Akihiro Hasegawa × Rin Nakanishi

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July 2026

Dates | 18 July – 15 August, 2026 *Closed Sundays and Mondays

Venue | vK Contemporary

Address | 6 Minami-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo

Hours | 1-7pm

Organizer | vK Contemporary

Exhibition page | https://root-k.jp/exhibitions/akihirohasegawa_rinnakanishi/

*Please check the gallery website and social media for the latest information.

► About vK Contemporary

vK Contemporary is an art gallery that opened in Kagurazaka, Tokyo, in 2020. Unbound by genre, generation, or national borders, we present a wide range of artworks and work to preserve them for future generations. Through artworks created throughout history, from antiquity to the present day, we learn from the artistic thinking of those who came before us and curate with our own distinctive eye. We hold solo and curated exhibitions of carefully selected artists, with a focus spanning the prewar era to the contemporary.

Our exhibition space of more than 300 square meters, conceived in the image of a gallery built in outer space, creates innovative settings that give rise to new perspectives on the works on view. By sharing these experiences with visitors and allowing them to be deeply remembered, we hope to carry the record of our activities into the future and to create a new art scene. This, we believe, is the mission of vK Contemporary.

Web | <https://root-k.jp> FB: @rootkcontemporary X / IG: @rk_contemporary

[Press Inquiries]

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