



Sokyo Gallery will present Toru Ishii and Kazuma Koike's two-person exhibition "Koishi-Kei" in Kyoto. The exhibition will open on November 19, 2022.



Toru Ishii, "TOYOKEI_86596_YOUTUBER", Itomeyuzen Dyeing on Silk, Acid Dye, Pigment, Foil, H16.9 x W16.9 x D1.4inches

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Kazuma Koike, "BC220823" 2022, Ceramic, H15.3 x W7.8 x D6.8inches

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Kyoto, Nov. 8, 2022 – Sokyo Gallery is pleased to present “Koishi-Kei”, a two-person exhibition by Kazuma Koike and Toru Ishii. Koike creates black ceramic sculptures with themes of fictional ancient artifacts, while Ishii dyes images of contemporary society with the inherent graceful lines of Itome Yuzen in vivid colors. Influenced by historical masterpieces, the two artists attempt to reconsider and renew tradition and art. In this exhibition, Koike’s black ceramic sculptures and Ishii’s Yuzen paintings will be combined at Sokyo to create <Kei / Landscape>. Please take this opportunity to visit the exhibition.

Kazuma Koike is a painter and sculptor currently based in Osaka. He creates ceramic sculptures, paintings, and drawings based on the theme of fictional ancient artifacts, using idols, urns, large cats, plants, and pineapples as motifs. Interested in “the state in which different elements coexist in harmony” and “the process in which the use and meaning of things change,” Koike’s works, which mix images originating from various places and times, are imbued with a unique sense of floating. In this exhibition, Koike focuses on black ceramics. The serene, hard impression and somewhat comical look of the work stirs the viewer's imagination and allows them to fantasize about the stories behind the work. Meanwhile, the monochromatic black color of the works and the titles which consist of BC (Black Ceramic) and a sequence of numbers, suggest Koike’s intention to suppress and control the information contained in the works.

Toru Ishii continues his experimentation with traditional dye crafts under the theme of “Reinterpretation of Traditional Japanese Crafts in the Modern Age and Criticality of Contemporary Art.” In this exhibition, Ishii presents “Ukiyoe of Reiwa: Tokyo Landscape,” a series of works created with dye using the Edo Period's itome yuzen technique. Kyoto, where this exhibition is held, is the birthplace of yuzen dyeing, a technique that fascinated the people of the Edo period for more than 300 years, using vivid colors to create decorative patterns on kimono. For the artwork in this exhibition, Ishii digitally manipulates the Tokyo landscapes he photographed with a film camera to extract the light of today's Tokyo (currently in the Reiwa Era), which is then dyed using Edo period techniques. By crossing the light of today's Tokyo with the traditional Japanese culture of itome yuzen and ukiyoe, both of which were born in the Edo period, the possibilities of ukiyoe expression in the modern age are reexamined. He has also been selected as an overseas trainee for budding artists by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, and based on his two-year study in London, he has been exploring staining and dyeing in Japan and the West, and is now considering new dyeing techniques. He has humorously depicted the ever-changing Japanese society as modern ukiyoe, such as in the “Salaryman series”

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that comically and satirically depicts Japanese society from an everyday perspective, and the "Urban Nightscape series" that uses urban neon lights, the symbol of a modern city, as its subject.

In both of their works, old images and new senses coexist, and they have a uniqueness that is not likely to have been seen anywhere before. Koike's black ceramic sculptures and Ishii's yuzen paintings are combined in the exhibition "Koishi-Kei" to create scenery, called <Kei / Landscape> at Sokyo Gallery. We hope you will take this opportunity to visit the exhibition.

Koike Kazuma

Born in 1980 in Kanagawa. Currently based in Osaka. Spent childhood in Buenos Aires and high school years in Barcelona, and graduated from the Department of Sculpture, College of Art at Nihon University in 2003. Major solo exhibitions include: the Omuro Museum of Art (Mie 2021), AISHONANZUKA (Hong Kong 2019, 2016, 2013), TEZUKAYAMA GALLERY (Osaka 2020, 2017, 2014). Major group exhibition include: "*End of Eden*" at Galerie Wolfsen (Aalborg 2022), "*INTERSECTION*" at AISHONANZUKA (Hong Kong 2022), "*Cama*" at Mitsukoshi Contemporary Gallery (Tokyo 2021), "*KUROOBIANACONDA 03 SANMAIOROSHI*" at TEZUKAYAMA GALLERY (Osaka 2021).

Toru Ishii

Born in 1981 in Shizuoka, completed his doctorate in Fine Arts at Tokyo University of the Arts in 2014. Major collections include The University Art Museum, Tokyo University of the Arts, Victoria & Albert Museum, and Morikami Art Museum. From 2016, he stayed in London for two years as an overseas trainee for emerging artists by the Agency for Cultural Affairs. Solo exhibitions include "project N46" at Opera City Art Gallery, Tokyo (2022), "*Delirious Metropolis*" at Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation Japan House Gallery, London (2014), "*Metropolitan Moment*" at Sokyo, Kyoto (2018). Group exhibitions include "EDO POP" at Japan Society Gallery (2013), "IMAYO" at Honolulu Museum of Art (2016), "Light Sgraffito" at Victoria & Albert Museum in London (2017). Awards include the David Solo Prize at ISE Cultural Foundation Student (2011), Nomura Prize at the 2013 Doctoral Juried Exhibition (2013).



Toru Ishii,
"TOYOKEI_074426892_walking man",
Itomeyuzen Dyeing on Silk, Acid Dye,
Pigment, Foil,
H18.7 x W15.7 x D1.4 inches



Kazuma Koike, "BC220409" 2022,
Ceramic, H14.1 x W7.4 x D6.1 inches

Toru Ishii, Kazuma Koike
Koishi-Kei

Press Preview: Tuesday, Nov. 22, 11am – 6pm

Exhibition Period: Saturday, Nov. 19 – Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2022

At 381-2 Motomachi, Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto 605-0089 Japan

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