

PRESS RELEASE

Arisa Kumagai
...apparently God is forgiving

2023.10.31 (Tue) – 2024.1.13 (Sat)



Arisa Kumagai, *Say yes to me*, 2023 Photo: Hikari Okawara

GALLERY KOYANAGI

Gallery Koyanagi is pleased to announce the solo exhibition of Arisa Kumagai, "...apparently God is forgiving" from Tuesday, October 31, 2023 to Saturday, January 13, 2024.

Kumagai's work has always reflected her own background, focusing on the inextricably linked state of wealth and poverty, life and death, and love and hatred. Developing from motifs closely derived from her own family history, which she depicts with outstanding realism, Kumagai's "My yearning to be You," exhibited at Gallery Koyanagi in 2022, featured works based on the angel statue at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York.

This exhibition, Kumagai's third at Gallery Koyanagi, will feature a collection of her paintings, which mainly feature motifs derived from Catholicism, as well as a booklet of poems written by the artist. Kumagai has been unknowingly influenced by Catholicism; by seeing the Versace shirts sold at her grandfather's boutique; and by finding Velázquez's *The Christ Crucified* as an inspiration to becoming a painter. She sensed prayer, violence, and power in these motifs and eventually she superimposed them on her own family. She saw the stone statue of Francis Xavier stomping on a human head in a church in Paris, France; and was struck by the disquietude. It was very ironic that the supposedly emancipating religious act could contain violence, and it was amplified by the image of Xavier being a pious clergy. After returning from Paris, Kumagai started going to Catholic church for a deeper exploration and contemplated the relationship between 'beauty and power' and 'violence and prayer.' It seems that her choice to paint the Catholic motifs is an attempt to connect the private to the universal, as an extension of her past work.

In her last solo show, she exhibited a set of a painting and a poem as a single work. This time, she is presenting a collection of her poems in a single booklet, which viewers can pick up and take around the exhibition site. The poems that are the starting point of this exhibition are crystallization of Kumagai's personal feelings and experiences, facing the past and reality; combined with the paintings, they penetrate deeply into the viewer's mind. While insinuating various problems that people have, and advocating the foolishness of people that people would never forgive, the book concludes with the words, "Say yes to me." We hope you will be able to pick up the poetry booklet at the venue and experience a new development in Kumagai's production.

The full-page letterpress booklet of poems will be available in a limited edition of 100 at the gallery. Thirteen of the books will be available in a special edition with original drawings.

The artist will be in the gallery on the opening day of the exhibition, Tuesday, October 31, from 5 to 7 p.m.

For further information, please contact us at mail@gallerykoyanagi.com.

Gallery Koyanagi

Press images



[Caption]
Arisa Kumagai
Say yes to me
2023
oil on panel
97 x 195 cm

[Credit Line]
© Arisa Kumagai / Courtesy of Gallery Koyanagi
Photo by Hikari Okawara

Information

Artist: Arisa Kumagai

Exhibition title: ...apparently God is forgiving

Exhibition dates: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 – Saturday, January 13, 2024

[Opening reception: October 31, 17:00–19:00]

Opening hours: 12:00–19:00

Closed on Sundays, Mondays and National Holidays

*The gallery will open during the event "ART WEEK TOKYO" as follows:

November 2 – 5 (no closing days) / 10:00 – 18:00

*Winter holidays: December 24, 2023 – January 8, 2024

Address:

Gallery Koyanagi

Koyanagi Bldg. 9F, 1-7-5 Ginza, Chuo-ku,

Tokyo 104-0061, JAPAN

Access:

Tokyo Metro: Ginza, Hibiya, and Marunouchi line Ginza Station, Exit A9 /

Yurakucho line Ginza 1-Chome Station, Exit 7

Tel. +81-(0)3-3561-1896 / Fax. +81-(0)3-3563-3236

Email: mail@gallerykoyanagi.com

Website: <http://www.gallerykoyanagi.com>

Press inquiry: please contact us to mail@gallerykoyanagi.com for further information.

Arisa Kumagai

- 1991 Born in Osaka, Japan
 2013 B.A. in Oil Painting Course, Kyoto University of Art & Design, Kyoto, Japan
 2015 M.A. in Mixed Media Field, Kyoto University of Art & Design, Kyoto, Japan

Solo Exhibition

- 2023 "...apparently God is forgiving," Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
 2022 "My yearning to be You," Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
 2019 "Single bed," Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
 2015 "Leisure Class," Gallery Art Composition, Tokyo
 2013 "MAMA," ATAMATOTE 2-3-3, Tokyo

Selected Group Exhibition

- 2023 "MtK satellite Vol.3," Mtk satellite, Aichi
 2022 "Under Current satellite," N&A Art SITE, Tokyo
 "1st. MIMOCA EYE," Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art, Kagawa
 "Under Current," Powerlong Museum, Shanghai
 "young okazaki vol.02," MtK Contemporary Art, Kyoto
 2021 "GROUP SHOW: 5 ARTISTS," KOSAKU KANECHIKA, Tokyo
 2020 "Shell Art Award 2020 / Shell Artist Selection 2020", The National Art Center Tokyo, Tokyo
 "Photographs," Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
 2017 "Portrait," Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
 2016 "ULTRA x ANTEROOM exhibition 2016," Hotel Anteroom Kyoto, Kyoto
 "ARTOTHÈQUE SELECTION 2016," Kyoto University of Art & Design, Kyoto
 2015 STUDIO HAIDENBAN open studio," STUDIO HAIDENBAN, Kyoto
 "Konton kara Odorideru Hoshi tachi 2015 (exhibition of selected students from Kyoto University of Art & Design)," SPIRAL GARDEN, Tokyo
 Graduation Exhibition of Kyoto University of Art & Design Graduate School, Kyoto
 2014 "Politics Narcissism," ARTZONE, Kyoto
 Group show: Arisa Kumagai, Yuko Tanaka, Reiko Yamazaki, Gallery Kunimatsu, Tokyo/Kyoto
 The 23rd exhibition of Sato International Cultural Scholarship Foundation, The Sato Museum of Art, Tokyo
 Art Collages Exchanging Exhibition, Nagoya University of Arts, Aichi
 Pr PROJECTS exchanging exhibition (Masato Kobayashi laboratory of Tokyo University of the Arts x Kyoto University of Art & Design Graduate School), Pr PROJECTS room, Kyoto
 "SPURT 2014," Kyoto University of Art & Design, Kyoto
 "The Ueno Royal Museum Prize," The Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo
 2013 "The Shell Art Award 2013," The National Art Center, Tokyo
 "HOP," Kyoto University of Art & Design, Kyoto

G A L L E R Y K O Y A N A G I

“PARADE,” 3F project room, Kyoto

“*Hajimari no heya* (The room of beginning),” Koyodo Museum of Art, Nagano

Graduation Exhibition of Kyoto University of Art & Design, Kyoto

2012 “Hongik International Art Festival,” Hongik, Korea

“What is missing? Golden hands,” Gallery-i, Kyoto

Exhibition of selected excellent students from Kyoto University of Art & Design, Kyoto

“ARTZONE SELECTION,” ARTZONE, Kyoto

Awards/Grants

2022 Selected for 1st. MIMOCA EYE, Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art

2015 Excellence Award, the Graduation Exhibition of Kyoto University of Art & Design Graduate School

2014 Akira Asada Prize, SPURT 2014 of Kyoto University of Art & Design Graduate School

Selected for The Ueno Royal Museum Prize

2013 Selected for The Shell Art Award by Showa Shell Sekiyu K.K.

Received prizes; Senju Hiroshi Encouragement Prize, Uryuyama Prize, Prize of the department at the Graduation Exhibition of Kyoto University of Art & Design

Grant from Sato International Cultural Scholarship Foundation, Sato Museum of Art

Grant from the Japan Arts Foundation