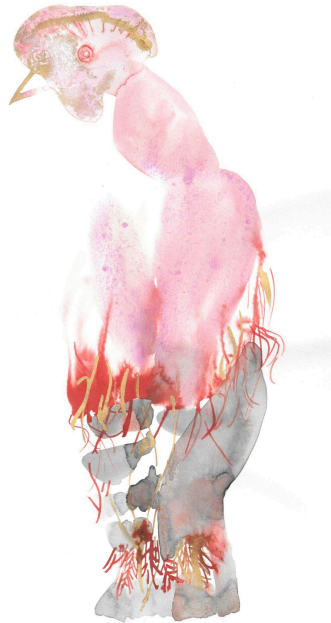


IMPULSE GALLERY

Impulse Gallery Presents Japanese Artist Keiko Kimoto's Decades-spanning Collection in Lucerne



おくれる太陽

OKURERUTAIYOU - *Delayed Sun*

29 February - 16 April 2024

Impulse Gallery is thrilled to announce the debut exhibition of Japanese artist Keiko Kimoto, opening on 29 February 2024. The exhibition, titled *Okurerutaiyou - Delayed Sun*, will feature over 57 works, encompassing 32 early pieces from 2004, offering a retrospective glimpse into the artist's formative years and the roots of her distinctive artistic expression including 25 new works commissioned exclusively for this exhibition. Kimoto's work evokes themes of collective unconsciousness, synchronicity, and archetypal phenomena, as well as references to Wabi-Sabi aesthetic concepts, creating a unique narrative.

Born in Kyoto in 1977 and currently residing in Toyooka within the Tajima Province in the Northern Hyogo Prefecture, Kimoto has been an avid painter since childhood.

After pursuing fine arts at the Berlin University of the Arts (UDK) and spending over 25 years in Berlin, her artistic formation unfolds as a poetic fusion, seamlessly weaving together ancient Japanese techniques with European contemporary art elements. Her unique blend of precision, simultaneity, and technical mastery has been displayed in solo and group exhibitions worldwide, including Tokyo, Luxembourg, and most recently France.

Central to this exhibition is the exploration of the Japanese concept of [MA], symbolizing a pause in time, an interval, or a void in space. This concept, comfortably woven into her art, represents the essential time and space needed for life to breathe, feel, and connect. The exhibition will delve deeper into [MA], revealing Kimoto's interpretation of dreams and the abstract spaces they inhabit, inviting viewers into a captivating realm where figures dissolve or emerge from non-figurative spaces.

Kimoto's distinctive technique involves quick brushes and improvisation, creating a paradoxical experience where static images exude a sense of movement. Viewers are encouraged to engage deeply with her art, contemplating and exploring their imaginative depths. In her words, Kimoto describes her creative process: "I draw a line without memory and without an idea. The color harmonizes visually with my feelings, connecting with my emotions."

The exhibition unfolds as a chronological narrative, beginning with early works from 2004. These pieces showcase Kimoto's exploration of figuration, featuring small figures, women, animals, trees, rain, woods, and dreamlike landscapes inspired by the Japanese countryside. Experimenting with materials such as Korean ceramics and bright colors, she employs on occasions a unique symmetrical aesthetic by painting with both hands simultaneously.

As Kimoto's artistic journey progresses, she ventures into diverse materials such as watercolors, coal, oil paintings, and tempera, and colors, predominantly blue and green, leading to a transformation in her works, gradually detaching from figuration and blending into abstraction. In her later works, the focus shifts to the process of painting itself, embracing spontaneity and playfulness.

Kimoto's art is a delicate expression of pure joy, inspired by childhood experiences of observing nature. Through her paintings, she seeks not to convey judgment or make a statement, but rather to celebrate the process of creating art. Once a painting is finished, it serves its purpose, and Kimoto moves on to the next creative endeavor.

"The exhibition offers a rare glimpse into Keiko Kimoto's artistic evolution over the past two decades, inviting viewers to explore the delicate intersection between dreams and reality. Her ability to harmonize precision and spontaneity creates a captivating narrative that resonates with the universal language of art," says Claudia Limacher, Founder of Impulse Gallery.

Notes to the editor:

About Keiko Kimoto

Born in Kyoto, Japan in 1977, Keiko Kimoto embarked on her artistic journey with a foundation in Graphic Design from Kanazawa College of Art, between 1997 and 1999. She further obtained both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Visual Art from Universität der Künste Berlin, studying under the guidance of Professor Lothar during 2001-2005 and 2005-2006. Keiko has been honored with several prestigious awards. In 2009, she took part of the Goldrausch Künstlerinnenprojekt art IT in Berlin, Germany, and in 2006, she was awarded the Walter Hellenthal Preis für Malerei, also in Berlin, Germany.

Keiko had numerous solo exhibitions, among these "Helles Aufscheinen" at Galerie WangHohmann in Wiesbaden, Germany, in 2021, "mukashi watashiha soba ni nareruyaroka" at HEartY Galerie in Gunma, Japan, in 2017 and "Widerständige Natur" at Galerie WangHohmann in Wiesbaden, Germany, also in 2017, as well as "Basic gravity" at La Condition Japonaise in Berlin in 2008.

Participation in group exhibitions includes "Transition Exhibition" at Brücke Museum in Berlin, Germany, and "8. Holz Bildhauer Symposium" in Eppstein, Germany, both in 2021. "Planet B" at BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt in Berlin, Germany, in 2020, and "This is the Girl" at ATENA in Sete, France, in 2019, "The Echo " at Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin, in 2012 und KeiKo? "Gabriel" at Allgirls Berlin in 2007.

Keiko's artistic contributions extend to Japan, where "Dokonimonai Atarashii Basho" at Galerie Seibu Shibuyaten B-Kan 8-Kai, rin art association TOKYO, in Tokyo in 2016, underscore her continued engagement with her home country's art scene.

About Impulse Gallery

Impulse Gallery is a contemporary art gallery in the heart of Lucerne, Switzerland. Founded in 2020 by Claudia Limacher and Tim Zhuang, the gallery represents both emerging and established (inter)national artists in its historical modern space of over 450 square meters. Impulse gallery is built on the idea of art as community, as a place for artists to share their work with enthusiasts and art collectors alike. With its curatorial expertise and a diverse range of exhibitions each year, the gallery supports the careers of its artists from all over the world including the US, the Netherlands, China, Italy, Belgium, and Switzerland, among others. Based on the core values of diversity and creativity, Impulse Gallery closely works with its artists and features a multitude of artistic disciplines. The gallery operates on an international level to share the works of its acclaimed artists with both aspiring and seasoned collectors from all walks of life.

Address: Impulse Gallery, Haldenstrasse 19, 6006 Lucerne, Switzerland

Website: www.impulsegallery.com

Instagram: @impulsegallery

Opening hours: Wednesday - Friday, 11am - 6pm; Saturday, 11am - 4pm ; Sunday - Tuesday: by appointment.

For more information about Keiko Kimoto's exhibition at Impulse Gallery, please contact:

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