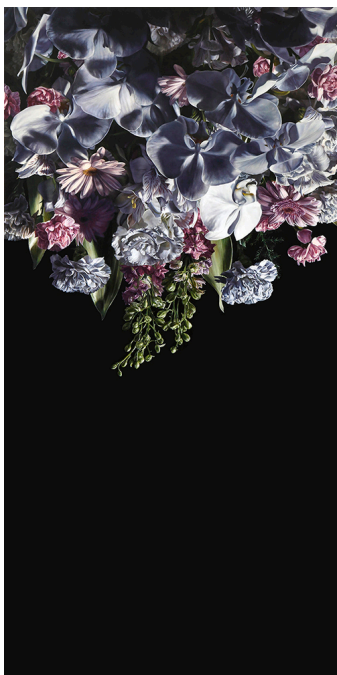


PRESS RELEASE



“Single bed”

My father died in *kodokushi* (lonely death).
 He was there all winter.
 When found in spring, he was mentioned in local newspaper.
 It took 2 more months to verify that it was my father.
 He was only a little over 50 then.

There was no funeral.
 I was the only one who personally showed up to see his relatives.
 My mother offered him a big flower arrangement.
 Recent funeral flowers are gorgeous and beautiful, despite its motive.

Since then I have been thinking about those beautiful flowers that my mother has offered.

And how one could love so helplessly, and how one hates, and about loneliness that drives one crazy, and about solitude that's hard to let go.

They say that sleeping is like a small death.
 I sleep, also today, on my own single bed.

Arisa Kumagai: Single bed

May 16 – June 22, 2019

Gallery Koyanagi is pleased to present the first solo exhibition by Arisa Kumagai, titled “Single bed” from Thursday May 16 to Saturday June 22, 2019.

Arisa Kumagai was born in 1991 in Osaka. She lives and works in Kyoto. She graduated the Kyoto University of Art and Design (KUAD) in 2013 majoring in painting, and finished the graduate course of Mixed Media Field also at KUAD in 2015. She received many prizes at graduation exhibitions, such as Hiroshi Senju Prize and Excellence Award, and The Shell Art Award by Showa Shell Sekiyu K.K. and The Ueno Royal Museum Prize while in school. In 2017, she has participated in a group exhibition titled “Portrait” at Gallery Koyanagi. A somber triptych in oil, depicting her grandfather, was well received by the audience in Japan and abroad. This solo show in 2019 includes a single bed sized oil painting *Single bed*, a major work she's created since the group show. There will be 6 more new works in the show.

Her work indeed reflects her personal experiences. However, what she tries to express is the vulnerability and “helplessness” of human being; how irrational and ironic it may seem, it is a universal truth that rich and poor, life and death, love and hate are one and indivisible. Her masterful realism may be a catharsis, giving form to what she had to see.

The works from the series *Leisure Class* shown at the “Portrait” exhibition visualized the way of thinking, formed in the course of her upbringing. For this exhibition, she paid more attention to the feeling of

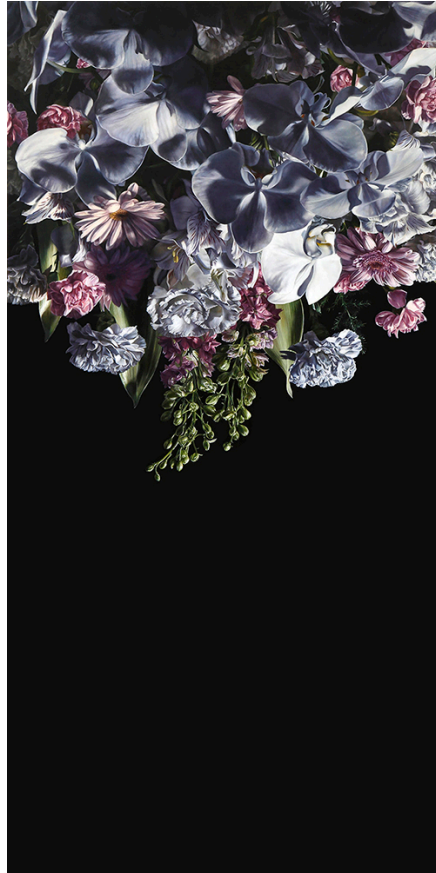
GALLERY K O Y A N A G I

others around her, to deepen the original concept. The emotional disturbance incurred by death may in some cases be reflected in the form of dedicated flower, or an object of worship. The children's shoes or a leather jacket with the deceased's memory could affect the heart of the ones who were left behind. The artwork depicting such relic, observed through an unimpassioned eye, seems to present an aspect of human nature.

Please join us at the opening reception at the gallery on Thursday, May 16, from 6-8 pm. The artist will be in attendance.

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

Press Image



Arisa Kumagai, *Single bed*, 2018, oil on panel, 195 x 97 cm
© Arisa Kumagai / Courtesy of Gallery Koyanagi

Exhibition Information

Arisa Kumagai: Single bed
May 16 – June 22, 2019

Opening Reception: Thursday, May 16, 18:00–20:00
* The artist will be in attendance.

Opening hours: 11:00-19:00
Close on Sundays, Mondays, and National Holidays.

Gallery Koyanagi
9th floor, 1-7-5 Ginza Chuo-ku Tokyo 104-0061 Japan
Tel: +81-(0)3-3561-1896 / Fax: +81-(0)3-3563-3236
Email: mail@gallerykoyanagi.com
Website: www.gallerykoyanagi.com

Press Inquiry: please contact Asako Zenna or Midori Kasamatsu by email mail@gallerykoyanagi.com for additional visuals and documents.

Reference

Installation view of "Portrait" at Gallery Koyanagi, 2017
© Arisa Kumagai / Courtesy of Gallery Koyanagi

Leisure Class

I grew up in the red light district of Osaka, and domestic violence was part of our lives. My family ran a business selling glitzy Italian clothes to mafia, and to the ladies working in the brothel located just behind our fancy shop.

Surrounded by decadent luxury, I was literally pounded in to acquire the taste of leisurely class. Defined by T. Veblen, people from this class spent until they drop on themselves to attain social dignity. I was born in 1991, so the history of socio-economic decline synchronized with mine.

I grew to believe that vanity was the only salvation. In the absence of God, I saw beauty in excessive decoration. There was swirl of desire, poor and rich. The more prosperous meant more ornamental. There was gush of beastly energy, life and death. The more vibrant meant more embellishing.

But I found in that whirl a gleam, a residue or a kind of mutant, in the form of a human body. Now my religion is to worship the surplus, something magnificent and yet something non-functional, like art. But I also know from my up bringing that there's always an end to the glory; that it all sinks into the dark, death-like void.

Biography

Arisa Kumagai

Currently lives and works in Kyoto, Japan

- 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

- 2019 "Single bed," Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
 2015 "Leisure Class," Gallery Art Composition, Tokyo
 2013 "MAMA," ATAMATOTE 2-3-3, Tokyo

Selected Group Exhibition

- 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
 "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

- 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