

Ebosi Yuasa | Sea of Mud/Clod of Mud

2025.12.20 (Sat) - 2026.3.7 (Sat)



Ebosi Yuasa, *The Boy*, 2024

## GALLERY KOYANAGI

At Gallery Koyanagi, we are pleased to present *Sea of Mud/Clod of Mud*, the first solo exhibition by Ebosi Yuasa, from Saturday, December 20, 2025, to Saturday, March 7, 2026.

Born in 1983, Ebosi Yuasa took an unconventional path to becoming an artist. After graduating from university, he joined a financial firm that collapsed just six months later. The experience prompted him to enter art school with a firm resolve to become a painter. Through the writings of French literature scholar Tatsuhiko Shibusawa (1928–1987), he encountered Surrealism and developed a longing to inhabit the same era as the artists he admired. This impulse eventually led him to reinvent himself as “Yebosi Yuasa, a third-rate painter born in the Taisho era,” and to create paintings that emulate the styles of that period.

The fictional painter Yebosi Yuasa (1924–1987), whose persona the artist adopts, belongs to the generation that lived through the war. According to this constructed biography, he was unable to serve in the military due to a severe hernia and spent the wartime years in the countryside, where he was evacuated, enduring chronic shortages of supplies. Although he never experienced combat firsthand, Yebosi lived within the very center of that historical moment and was exposed daily to the reality of war. Like many people of the time, he likely felt relief at news of victory on some days and animosity toward enemy nations on others. Yet even as he was carried along by the atmosphere of the era, he simply continued to paint. Yebosi’s works bear, quietly and unmistakably, the “emotions of the era,” inscribed beyond any individual ideology or conviction. This exhibition presents ten paintings attributed to Yebosi, all relating to the theme of war. Three of the works were previously shown in the 2025 group exhibition *Layers of Accumulated Time: Depicting the World We Live In* at the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, while the remaining seven are new works created specifically for this presentation.

*The Boy* depicts a solitary young man standing in a barren landscape. His somewhat vacant expression hints at the fate awaiting young men who wore special attack uniforms. Beyond a murky brown sea, factory-like structures emerge through the haze. Yuasa explains that “the side where the boy stands is the other world, while beyond the sea is this world.” The model for the boy is, in fact, a clay doll from the wartime period that Yuasa owns, and the plants and buildings in the background were composed by combining visual references from the same era or earlier. Looking back at Japanese art history, numerous paintings from around the 1950s sought to preserve painful memories of the war by depicting wounded or deformed bodies. In this context, *The Boy* may be understood as the “landscape with the dead” that Yebosi—who remained on the home front—was finally able to paint. The work seems to carry the deep pain and heavy silence that settled within those who lived through the postwar years.

The exhibition title is drawn from the clay doll and the murky sea depicted in *The Boy*. The two phrases “clod of mud” and “sea of mud” symbolize both the turbulent currents of an era, as witnessed by someone who did not go to war, and the memories retrieved from within that flow.

Also on view are works that depict the “echoes of war” from various perspectives, including *Pseudo Marshal*, which portrays a figure whose chest gleams with medals even as his face appears comical, and *Health Above All*, a satirical treatment of postwar Japan’s growing obsession with health.

On the opening day, Saturday, December 20, the artist will be present from 17:00 to 19:00 for a reception. A conversation with a guest speaker is also planned during the exhibition. Further details will be announced once they are confirmed.

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Additionally, from Thursday, December 25, to Thursday, April 2, the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo will present *MOT Collection 30th Anniversary Exhibit, Multiple Self-portraits*, an exhibition marking the museum's 30th anniversary. The exhibition will feature works by Ebosi Yuasa from the museum's collection, along with new paintings by Yuasa and wartime materials from the Meiji through Showa periods that he has collected. We hope you will have the opportunity to see both exhibitions.

For inquiries related to references and images, please contact the gallery.  
Please notify us when the exhibition is covered by your outlet.

Gallery Koyanagi

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【image 1】



【image 2】



【image 3】



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[Caption 1]

Ebosi Yuasa

*The Boy*

2024

acrylic on canvas

162 x 227.3 cm

[Caption 2]

Ebosi Yuasa

*Pseudo Marshal*

2025

acrylic on canvas

53 x 45.5 cm

[Caption 3]

Ebosi Yuasa

*Health Above All*

2025

acrylic on canvas

145.5 x 145.5 cm

[Shared credit for 1-3]

© Ebosi Yuasa / Courtesy of Gallery Koyanagi

GALLERY KOYANAGI

[Exhibition Details]

Artist: Ebosi Yuasa

Exhibition: *Sea of Mud/Clod of Mud*

Dates: December 20, 2025–March 7, 2026

[Opening Reception: December 20, 17:00–19:00]

Gallery Opening Hours: 12:00–19:00

Closed: Sundays, Mondays, and holidays

\*The gallery will be closed for winter break from December 28, 2025 to January 12, 2026.

Address:

Gallery Koyanagi

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

Tokyo 104-0061, JAPAN

Access:

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\*The following exhibition will also feature works by Ebosi Yuasa:

*MOT Collection 30th Anniversary Exhibit*

*Multiple Self-portraits*

*Special Feature NAKANISHI Natsuyuki IKEUCHI Akiko: Arc and Catenary*

Dates: December 25, 2025–April 2, 2026

Hours: 10:00–18:00 (last admission 30 minutes before closing)

Closed: Mondays (or the following day when Monday is a holiday), and during the New Year holidays (December 28, 2025–January 1, 2026).

Venue: Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Collection Galleries

4-1-1 Miyoshi, Koto Ward, Tokyo (Kiba Park)

Organized by: Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo  
operated by Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture

URL : <https://www.mot-art-museum.jp/en/exhibitions/mot-collection-251225/>

# GALLERY KOYANAGI

## Ebosi Yuasa

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- 1983 Born in Chiba, Japan
- 2005 Graduated from the economics department, Toyo University.  
Started working at a commodity futures trading company, which went bankrupt half a year later. That was the turning point to decide to become an artist.
- 2008 Graduated from the painting course, Toyo Institute of Art and Design.  
Lives and works in Chiba, Japan

The artist adopts the persona of “Yebosi Yuasa, a third-rate painter born in the Taisho era,” creating paintings in the Surrealist style of that period. By slipping carefully crafted fictions into the gaps of history, he seeks to disrupt art-historical narratives and unsettle established values.

### Solo Exhibitions

- 2025 Ebosi Yuasa | Sea of Mud/Clod of Mud, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
- 2024 Yebosi Yuasa Centennial Exhibition, Yoshiaki Inoue Gallery, Osaka
- 2023 at the end, Yoshiaki Inoue Gallery, Osaka
- 2019 Spectral Intrusions, Akio Nagasawa Gallery Aoyama, Tokyo  
Meditations on Equestrian Feats, Ginza Tsutaya Books Art Wall Gallery, Tokyo  
Prapagon Horse, EUKARYOTE, Tokyo
- 2014 TWS-Emerging 2014: Newspaper Collage Project,  
Tokyo Wonder Site Shibuya, Tokyo
- 2013 GEISAI#19 Gabriel Ritter Prize “Ebosi Yuasa Solo Exhibition”,  
Hidari Zingaro, Tokyo

### Group Exhibitions

- 2025 MOT Collection 30th Anniversary Exhibit Multiple Self-portraits  
Special Feature NAKANISHI Natsuyuki IKEUCHI Akiko: Arc and Catenary,  
Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo  
Layers of Accumulated Time: depicting the world we live in, 21st Century Museum  
of Contemporary Art, Ishikawa, Japan
- 2024 The Constitution of Japan 2024, Mujin-to Production/Misa Shin Gallery, Tokyo  
Fukuzawa Re:birth: Ichiro Fukuzawa x Kota Hirakawa, Ebosi Yuasa, Etsu Egami,  
Tomioka city museum / Fukuzawa Ichiro memorial gallery, Gunma, Japan  
Gallery selection: Mark Manders, Thomas Ruff, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Ebosi Yuasa,  
Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo  
Revealed -3 private collection-, Yokohama Civic Art Gallery Azamino, Kanagawa,  
Japan  
ONE SINGLE BOOK, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo  
Does the Future Sleep Here?-Revisiting the museum’s response to contemporary  
art after 65 years, The National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo

# GALLERY KOYANAGI

- 2023 Yuta Nakamura | Ebosi Yuasa: Object Lessons, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo  
Yambaru Art Festival 2022-2023, Oogimi Village Former Shioya Elementary School, Okinawa, Japan  
Collection Exhibition 4th Term 2022: Using Materials in Various Ways to Create Artworks, Takamatsu Art Museum, Kagawa, Japan
- 2022 Alter Ego, Noblesse Collection, Seoul  
Paprika, EACH MODERN, Taipei, Taiwan  
VOCA (The Vision of Contemporary Art) 2022, The Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo  
Takamatsu Art Annual vol. 10: There Is No Boundaries Here. /?, Takamatsu City Museum of Art, Kagawa, Japan  
ACT (Artists Contemporary TOKAS) Vol. 4: Approach to Alternative Image, Tokyo Arts and Space Hongo, Tokyo  
MODE SURREAL A Crazy Love for Wearing, Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum, Tokyo
- 2021 CADAN ROPPOGI presented by Audi, Roppongi Hills Hills Café/Space, Tokyo  
Still Life, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
- 2020 Deep Forest, Yoshiaki Inoue Gallery, Osaka  
3331 ART FAIR 2020, 3331 Arts Chiyoda, Tokyo
- 2019 Collectors' Collective Vol.1, MEDEL GALLERY SHU, Tokyo  
Mr. I Exhibition: Today's Art 2020 All First Time, Tomioka city museum / Fukuzawa Ichiro memorial gallery, Gunma, Japan  
Tokyo Independent 2019, Chinretsukan Gallery (The University Art Museum, Tokyo University of the Arts), Tokyo  
The Premium Heisei Show, THE Blank GALLERY, Tokyo
- 2018 Shell Art Award 2018", The National Art Center, Tokyo  
Healthcare of Purplume University Attached Museum, Umetsu Hall, Hitachiota City Local Museum, Ibaraki  
Rokko Meets Art 2018, Mt. Rokko, Hyogo, Japan  
Multi Shutter, EUKARYOTE, Tokyo  
Barrak Independents, BARRAK, Okinawa, Japan
- 2017 Open Call for Art Project Ideas 2017, Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Hiroshima, Japan  
Ground under, Sezon Art Gallery, Tokyo  
Nakanajo Biennale 2017, Nakanajo-machi, Gunma, Japan  
The 7th New Artist Exhibition Secondary Screening Presentation, Kawaguchi Art Galley Atlia, Saitama, Japan  
The 20th Exhibition of the Taro Okamoto Award for Contemporary Art, Taro Okamoto Museum of Art, Kawasaki, Kanagawa, Japan
- 2016 Independent TAGBOAT ART FES, Hulic Hall, Tokyo
- 2015 Shibuya Eggs Sayonara City Hall, Shibuya Ward Office, Tokyo  
Joint Exhibition, Chiba City Culture Center, Chiba, Japan  
The 11th Sekai Painting Grand Prize, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Tokyo
- 2014 Chiyoda Art Festival 3331 Independents, 3331 Arts Chiyoda, Tokyo

# GALLERY KOYANAGI

- 2013 Shell Art Award 2013, The National Art Center, Tokyo  
GEISAI#19, Tokyo Metropolitan Industrial Trade Center, Tokyo  
Asian Age 3, The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo, Tokyo  
The 9th Sekai Painting Grand Prize, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Tokyo  
Tagboat at Bunkamura, Bunkamura Gallery, Tokyo  
Tagboat Award in Taipei, Art Space Kin Gyo Koo Kan, Taipei, Taiwan  
Tokyo Wonder Wall Award 2013, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo  
The 8th Tagboat Award, Ikejiri Institute of Design, Tokyo

## Awards

- 2018 The 10th Koji Kinutani Award, Japan  
2015 The 13th Chiba City Arts Rookie Award, Japan  
2013 The 28th Holbein Scholarship, Japan  
GEISAI#19, Gabriel Ritter Prize, Japan  
The 9th Sekai Painting Grand Prize, Supporting Company Prize, Japan  
The 8th Tagboat Award, Satoru Aoyama Prize, Japan

## Public Collections

- Takamatsu Art Museum, Kagawa, Japan  
21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Ishikawa, Japan  
Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo