

PRESS RELEASE

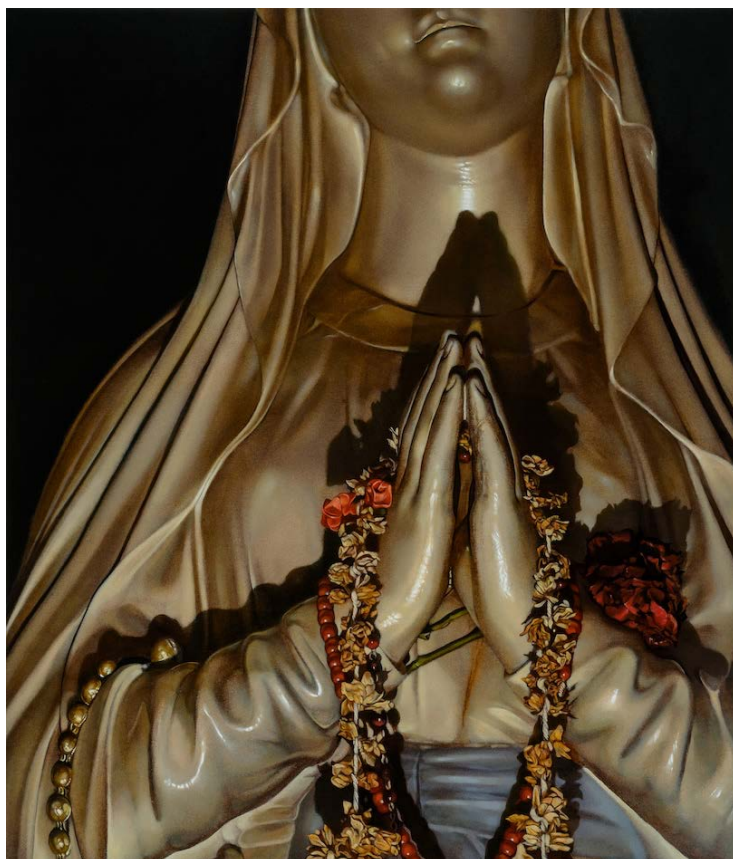
Tranquility 静謐

Hellen van Meene

熊谷 亜莉沙

中澤 安奈

小林 照



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Gallery Koyanagi is pleased to announce the group exhibition "Tranquility," on view from Saturday, September 26, through Saturday, October 24, 2026.

Centered on the theme of "Tranquility," this exhibition brings together four artists, each offering a distinct perspective on the nature of stillness. Tranquility refers to a state in which things are quiet, calm, and harmonious. However, the way it is perceived and manifested is by no means uniform. Intertwined with landscapes, memories, emotions, and the passage of time, tranquility assumes many forms, emerging from within. In this exhibition, we explore the forms of tranquility expressed in the artworks and contemplate the rich worlds that unfold from them. Featured are works by Hellen van Meene, whose distinctive staging and posing vividly capture the inner lives of young girls, where strength and fragility intersect, as well as new works by Arisa Kumagai, Anna Nakazawa, and Sho Kobayashi.

Dutch photographer Hellen van Meene (b. 1972) has been exhibiting photographic works featuring primarily young girls since the mid-1990s. Working with acquaintances as well as girls she approaches on the street, van Meene herself spontaneously alters their clothing and hair and directs their poses, creating a fictional world. Captured in delicate colors and a quality of light reminiscent of the historic paintings of her native Netherlands, the girls stand with their eyes cast down. In these quiet moments of introspection, they offer glimpses of the uncertainty and vulnerability of adolescence, along with its imperfect beauty.

Arisa Kumagai (b.1991) has confronted her own complex upbringing and circumstances, expressing the contradictions and conflicts within them through painting. Rooted in her personal experiences, her works expand to encompass fundamental themes of human existence, such as life and death, love and hatred, and wealth and poverty. Combining beauty with a sense of unease, they evoke a range of associations and emotions in the viewer. In her new work "she," Kumagai depicts a statue of the Virgin Mary that she encountered in a church in France. In portraying figures, Kumagai has repeatedly employed compositions that show only the figure below the eyes. In "she," Kumagai portrays this figure, which has received people's prayers over many years, not only as the symbolic figure of the Virgin Mary but also as an individual human being. Kumagai reflects on the layers of faith and human life accumulated over time, and on the ever-unfolding story itself.

Anna Nakazawa (b. 1988) creates stone and wood sculptures rooted in her life of faith as a Christian. Drawing on the words of the Bible and her experiences of grace, her work contemplates universal aspects of human existence in response to an unseen presence. In her signature "Garment" series, Nakazawa uses the presence of clothing to express human character and the way a person encounters God. In addition to a new work from the same series "Remove the Veils," this exhibition presents a new work featuring a curtain motif, "In the Cool of the

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Day." Evoking a breeze and a spiritual presence, the curtain symbolizes the boundary between what has been revealed by God and what remains hidden. With a quiet resonance, the work holds the promised hope that awaits after the veils are removed.

Drawing on the history of pictures, Sho Kobayashi explores the possibilities of visual expression through works centered on the theme of "the origins of images." In addition, as an Ontake ascetic, he is involved in the practice of mountain worship as well as in rituals and ceremonies. The "dpi" series presented here draws inspiration from "dpi" (dots per inch), a unit used to indicate the resolution of printed and digital images. Based on the concept of "1 dpi," where one dot is placed per inch (2.54 cm), he builds up the image dot by dot using a circular woodblock. Through the repetitive act of applying self-made charcoal ink, made from materials collected at the site where he works, to charcoal paper, Kobayashi attempts to liberate images from the uniformity and speed of modern automation. Within each dot, traces of the human hand quietly emerge.

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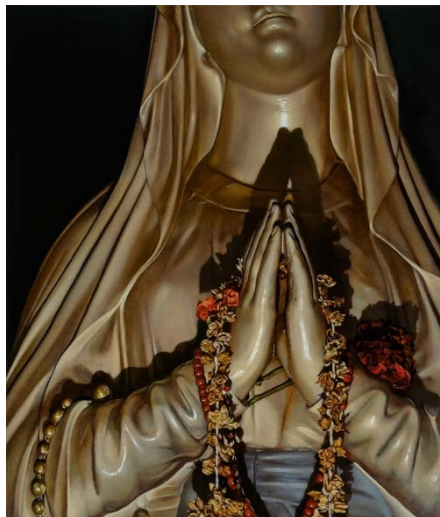
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[Caption 1]

Hellen van Meene

Untitled

1999

c-print

40 x 40 cm

[Credit 1]

© Hellen van Meene / Courtesy of Gallery Koyanagi

[Caption 2]

Arisa Kumagai

she

2026

oil on panel

70 x 60 cm

[Credit 2]

© Arisa Kumagai / Courtesy of Gallery Koyanagi

[Caption 3]

Anna Nakazawa

Remove the Veils

2026

Camphor tree

107 x 52 x 60 cm

[Credit 3]

© Anna Nakazawa

[Caption 4]

Sho Kobayashi

dpi 05

2026

Charcoal and water on charcoal paper

59.4 x 42 cm

[Credit 4]

© Sho Kobayashi

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Exhibition outline

Exhibition title : Tranquility

Artists : Hellen van Meene, Arisa Kumagai, Anna Nakazawa, Sho Kobayashi

Exhibition dates : Saturday, September 26—Saturday October 24, 2026

[Opening Reception : Saturday, September 26, 2026, 5-7pm]

Opening hours: 12-7 pm

Closed on Sundays, Mondays and National Holidays

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

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HELLEN VAN MEENE

- 1972 Born in Alkmaar, The Netherlands
1992-96 Gerrit Rietveld Academie, Photography, Amsterdam
1995 College of Art, Edinburgh, UK
Lives and works in Heiloo, The Netherlands

Solo Exhibitions

- 2024 *The Dissolve*, Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York
2022 *A Danger Illustrated*, Galerie Fontana Amsterdam
A Danger Illustrated, James Freeman Gallery, London
2019 *The Bird in Borrowed Feathers*, James Freeman Gallery, London
2016 Villa Mondrian, Winterswijk, The Netherlands
2015 *Five*, Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York
Fotomuseum Den Haag, The Netherlands (survey book)
2013 OstLicht Galerie, Vienna, Austria
The Years Shall Run Like Rabbits, Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York
2012 *Dogs and Girls*, De Nederlandsche Bank, Amsterdam
Hellen van Meene: Dogs and Girls, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
Panoramas, Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York
2011 *What Dog do you belong to*, Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York
2010 FO. KU. S Foto Kunst Stadtforum, Innsbruck, Austria
2009 *Tout va disparaître*, Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York
Pool of Tears, Fukutake House 2009, Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial 2009, Niigata, Japan
2008 Sadie Coles, London
I M ART, Seoul
2007 Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York
Fotografins Hus, Stockholm
Folkwang Museum, Essen, Germany
Focal Point Gallery, Southend-on-Sea, UK
Yours Gallery, Warsaw, Poland
The Cultural Forum for Photography, C/O Berlin
2006 Pump House Gallery, London
Stills Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
Open Eye Gallery, Liverpool, UK
Focal Point Gallery, Southend-on-Sea, UK
A Sense of You, Created by Me, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
Tokyo Girls - A Sense of You, Created by Me, Tokyo Wonder Site Shibuya, Tokyo
Huis Marseille, Amsterdam
Open Eye Gallery, Liverpool, UK
Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris
Frans Hals Museum, Haarlem, The Netherlands
2003 Gallery Rodolphe Janssen, Brussels, Belgium
Le Case d'Arte, Milan
2002 Inverleith House, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, UK

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- Frans Hals Museum, Haarlem, The Netherlands
Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago
Photo Espana, Madrid
- 2001 Marc Foxx Gallery, Los Angeles
Matthew Marks Gallery, New York
- 2000 De Vleeshal, Middelburg, The Netherlands
Le Case d'Arte, Milan
Galleria Laura Pecci, Milan
Galerie Paul Andriesse, Amsterdam
Marc Foxx Gallery, Los Angeles
Sadie Coles HQ, London
Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
- 1999 Galerie Dijk 1, Alkmaar, The Netherlands
The Photographers' Gallery, London
- 1998 Galerie Paul Andriesse, Amsterdam

ARISA KUMAGAI

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

Solo Exhibitions

- 2025 *Heaven Stolen*, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
- 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

Group Exhibitions

- 2026 MOT Collection: *Past Light, Present Sight*, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo
SPECTRUM 2076 AD—Conscious Entities of the Coming World, GYRE GALLERY, Tokyo
Interwoven Chapters, Tsutaya Books Gallery, Kyoto
- 2025 *Trash, Pencils, and Art*, UNKNOWN HARAJUKU, Tokyo
- 2024 *On Hare Day*, SCÈNE, Tokyo
ONE SINGLE BOOK, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
TO KYOTO TEN - The Echoes of East Kyoto, WHAT CAFE, Tokyo
Collection #08, rin art association, Gunma, Japan
Observation, YUKIKO MIZUTANI, Tokyo
- 2023 *MtK satellite Vol.3*, MtK satellite, Aichi, Japan
- 2022 *Under Current satellite*, N&A Art SITE, Tokyo

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- 1st MIMOCA EYE, Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art, Kagawa, Japan
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*, The National Art Center, Tokyo
Photographs, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
- 2017 *Portrait*, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
- 2016 ULTRA x ANTEROOM exhibition 2016, Hotel Anteroom Kyoto
 ARTOTHÈQUE SELECTION 2016, Kyoto University of Art and 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 and Design), SPIRAL GARDEN, Tokyo
Kyoto University of Art and Design Degree Show, Kyoto University of Art and Design, Kyoto
- 2014 *Politics Narcissism*, ARTZONE, Kyoto
Group show: Arisa Kumagai, Yuko Tanaka, Reiko Yamazaki, Gallery Kunimatsu, Tokyo/Kyoto
23rd annual scholarship recipient art exhibition, The Sato Museum of Art, Tokyo
Art Collages Exchanging Exhibition, Nagoya University of the Arts, Aichi, Japan
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 and Design, Kyoto
The 32nd Ueno Royal Museum Grand Prize Exhibition, The Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo
- 2013 *Shell Art Award 2013*, The National Art Center, Tokyo
HOP2013, Kyoto University of Art and Design, Kyoto
PARADE, 3F project room, Kyoto
Hajimari no heya (The room of beginning), Koyodo Museum of Art, Nagano, Japan
Kyoto University of Art and Design Degree Show, Kyoto University of Art and Design, Kyoto
- 2012 *Hongik International Art Festival*, Hongik University, Seoul
What is missing? Golden hands, Gallery-i, Kyoto
Exhibition of selected excellent students from Kyoto University of Art and Design, Kyoto University of Art and Design, Kyoto
 ARTZONE SELECTION, ARTZONE, Kyoto

ANNA NAKAZAWA

- 1988 Born in Yokohama
- 2012 Graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Department of Sculpture, Tokyo University of the Arts
- 2014 Completed the Master's Program in Sculpture, Tokyo University of the Arts

Solo Exhibitions

- 2023 *Praise to the New Creation*, NANAWATA Café & Space, Saitama, Japan
- 2022 *From the depths of prayer*, Otsuka Fine Art, Tokyo

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2016 *To the place never seen yet*, Galerie Simon, Tokyo

Group Exhibitions

- 2026 *Romanesque and Us*, Kogei Seika, Tokyo
- 2025 *Still in the Prayer*, Kanda & Oliveira, Chiba, Japan
- 2021 *Seika no Kai Antique Festival 2021*, √K Contemporary, Tokyo
- 2018 *The 14th Oita Asian Sculpture Exhibition*, Asakura Fumio Memorial Hall, Oita, Japan
- 2017 *Kan Hikari Art Expo*, Sennyu-ji Temple and Higashi Hongan-ji Temple, Kyoto
The 53rd Kanagawa Prefecture Exhibition, Kanagawa Prefectural Hall, Japan
The 1st Kan Hikari Art Expo, Jochi-ji Temple, Kanagawa, Japan
- 2015 *The 10th Atelier Descendants or the Future Exhibition*, The University Art Museum, Tokyo
- 2013 *The 8th Atelier's Descendants or Future Exhibition*, Former Residence of Hirakushi Denchu, Tokyo

SHO KOBAYASHI

Born in Sendai. After studying in the Department of Graphic Design at Tama Art University, he pursued the path of mountain worship. He is an Ontake ascetic.

Drawing on the history of pictures, he explores the possibilities of visual expression with a focus on “the origins of images.”