



"Chamber", 2021 ©Etsuko Watanabe, Courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates



"Qf · SHOH (掌) 90 · Holz-22", 2020 ©Toshiya Motai

Etsuko Watanabe × Toshiya Motai *Gegenüberstellung / confrontation*

Saturday, March 6 - Saturday, April 10, 2021

Venue: Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku

#206, Park Grace Shinjuku Bldg., 4-32-6 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0023

Gallery Hours: 12:00 - 18:00

Closed on Sundays, Mondays, and national holidays

***Opening reception will not be held.**

[Request prior to admission]

*We would like to ask visitors to refrain from visiting the gallery if visitors have symptoms such as a fever, headache, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, loss of taste or smell.

*We request visitors to wear masks. Visitors are also asked to sanitize hands, and non-contact temperature readings upon visiting will be taken before entering the gallery.

*Visitors contact information will be asked as part of contact-tracing measures.

*We kindly ask visitors not to visit in a large group.

*Limited numbers of visitors will be allowed at one time to avoid crowdedness.

The door and window will be left open for ventilation.

Our staff practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces as well as daily health check and staff may wear masks.

***Opening hours may be subject to change. Please check our website in advance before planning your visit.**

Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku is delighted to present *Gegenüberstellung / confrontation*, a two-person show by Etsuko Watanabe and Toshiya Motai, opening March 6, 2021.

Etsuko Watanabe studied under Gerhard Richter at Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, and remained based in Germany for some 30 years thereafter. She now pursues her art practice from a studio in Japan. Watanabe presents paintings that depict in realistic fashion scenes reminiscent of those from TV, for example, or low-definition images. These works diligently tracing via the technique of painting, with the handwork this entails, single scenes converted momentarily into "images," down to the distortions and "noise" in those images, throw into fresh relief the multiple layers of time between "image" and "painting," and the difference in visual perception between digital and analog.

Like Watanabe, painter and art theorist Toshiya Motai has spent part of his career in Germany. Traveling there in 1983 following his graduation some years earlier from Tokyo Zokei University, he studied painting and art theory under Rainer Jochims at Frankfurt's Staatliche Hochschule für Bildende Künste-Städelschule (Städelschule Academy of Fine Arts). In 1999 he also published *Kaiga e 1990–2018 Bijutsuron-shu*, a compilation of his essays on art. Motai has spent much of his career delving with increasing depth into the question of format and spirituality in painting, from both practice and theory viewpoints. In recent years these explorations have culminated in paintings of "Qf" series inspired by Matthias Grünewald's



depiction of the Crucifixion in the Isenheim Altarpiece, painted for a charity hospital for infectious disease patients, and the icons of Andrei Rublev.

Don't miss the opportunity to view the myriad "confrontations" unfolding through painting as practiced by two artists at the pinnacle of their powers.

■Artists' Statements

Chamber

When using photos to paint, I sometimes employ broken images. I find this gives a broader vision for the picture.

In Western cultures, windows are highly significant in many situations. Unfortunately, in buildings today in Japan, they are but a meager presence.

About four years ago, a high-rise was due to be built right in front of the apartment I was living in, and I found myself eagerly fantasizing about painting the vast view of windows I would enjoy as a consequence. My eyes are easily lured by the light from windows at nighttime. It was only last year though, that I actually embarked upon the work.

Digital retouching resulted in illusory spatial distortions that were more than simply the inside or outside of the windows, making room for my fantasies to find their way in.

In painting, abstract and figurative originally coexisted on the same canvas. We are now again in an age of various elements coexisting in the frame, forming a unique language. Chambers coexist and spread infinitely on the canvas, projecting different aspects.

1.25.2021 Etsuko WATANABE

As *Gegenüberstellung* / confrontation begins

I paint pictures not to paint what I know or is visible, but purely to see the world, and touch it.

Because our knowledge of this world is still so meager.

And if realism is an affirmation of reality, I'd like to affirm the thoughts of the person who called me an idealist.

The theme of my practice has been the mutual connection between format (proportions of the canvas) and spirituality, unfolding systematically in the "TA", "Odd-Numbered Panel Interplay", "Vertical", "Qf" and "Himmel Bild" series.

This exhibition will feature works from the square-formatted "Qf" series.

The series started in 2001 with models in the form of Rublev's *The Trinity*, the hands of Jesus, and the *mudra* hand symbol of the Amida Buddha. From 2009, I tackled it as "Qf-Holz 90" on 90 x 90 cm supports, and in recent years I have been experimenting with "Qf Cube" in which a normal image and uncolored mirror image are positioned on two sides of a cube. So what exactly is meant by "a place where painting emerges"? As I see it, a painting/image is generated as a thin membrane on the ambiguous place where two realms—the real world and the non-material world solely of the spirit—overlap just slightly, and acts on the real world against a backdrop of the spiritual world. What "Qf Cube" attempts to explore is this imaginary spatial quality, where countless images accumulate in layers to form a cube.

On this occasion I will be showing two new "Qf – Holz 90" works for the "Qf Cube" series, and the smaller painting "Qf piece."

1.20.2021 Toshiya MOTAI

*Qf series: A series of paintings by Toshiya MOTAI, consisting of a square (Quadrat) format full of color and brushstrokes.



■ Related Information

[Exhibition]

Toshiya Motai “SHINBISM 4”

Dates: Saturday, February 13 – Sunday, March 14, 2021

Closed on Tuesday (If a national holiday falls on a Tuesday, open on the holiday and closed on the following Wednesday)

Open Hours: 9:00 – 17:00 (no admittance after 16:30)

Venue: Ueda City Museum of Art

3-15-15 Tenjin, Ueda-shi, Nagano-ken

TEL: 0268-27-2300

Admission: ¥500 (¥400)

*Price within parentheses is group rate (20 people or more), Free admission for children under high school students, and the disabled and one accompanying attendant

<https://www.santomyuze.com/museumevent/sinbism4-2020/>

[Catalog]

In conjunction with the exhibition, a catalog of Etsuko WATANABE will be published.

Etsuko Watanabe “>>To the window >> From the window >> 1982-2021 Etsuko Watanabe -WORKS-”

Publication Date: March 6, 2021

¥1,430 (tax incl.)

Limited edition of 200

18.2 × 25.7 cm, 64 pp., Japanese and English bilingual

Published by Etsuko WATANABE

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Written by Mitsuhiro Wakayama (Curator of Tokyo Station Gallery)

Translated by Jan Fornell

Designed by Etsuko Watanabe, Yoshiko Yano

Photo by Masaru Yanagiba, Terushi Jimbo, Thorsten Ebeling, Julia Kembach

■ Artists' Profile

Etsuko WATANABE

1960 Born in Tokyo

1982 BA, Painting Course, Dept. Of Painting, Musashino Art University

1982-87 Kunstakademie Düsseldorf (Studied under Gerhard Richter)

1985 Received Meisterschueler

2013 Returned from Germany, Living in Tokyo

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2015 Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku (Tokyo, Japan)

2014 Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku (Tokyo, Japan)

2011 Kunstraum Düsseldorf (Düsseldorf, Germany)

2003 ON GALLERY (Osaka, Japan)

2001 Galerie Wolfram Bach (Düsseldorf, Germany)

2000 Galerie Schütz (Frankfurt, Germany)

1999 ON GALLERY (Osaka, Japan)

1998 Galerie Wolfram Bach (Düsseldorf, Germany)

1997 Galerie Friese (München, Germany)



- ON GALLERY (Osaka, Japan)
International Führungszentrum Feldafing (München, Germany)
Roland Galerie (Köln, Germany)
1994 Galerie Bach & Gayk (Bochum, Germany)
1993 *the Shiseido Gallery introducing Japanese Artists Living in Abroad*, Shiseido Gallery (Tokyo, Japan)
1992 Galerie Bach & Gayk (Bochum, Germany)

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2019 *Looking for the 4th dimension –with works of Salvador Dalí and Contemporary Art-*, Morohashi Museum of Modern Art (Fukushima, Japan)
2015 L Gallery (Nagoya, Japan)
2009 *Stillness into Color: Inframince of Moonlight*, Kawamura Memorial DIC Museum of Art (Chiba, Japan)
2002 Kunst im Krankenhaus Benrath, Kliniken der Landeshauptstadt Düsseldorf (Düsseldorf, Germany)
2000 *die farbe hat mich*, Künstlerhaus Dortmund (Dortmund, Germany)
Stadt Land im Fluss, Kunst + Kultur Verein Alte Schule Baruth (Baruth, Germany)
1999 Kunstraum Düsseldorf (Düsseldorf, Germany)
1995 *Landschaft! Natur / Stadt*, Kunstsammlung der Ruhr-Universität Bochum (Bochum, Germany)
The Vision of Contemporary Art 1995, The Ueno Royal Museum (Tokyo, Japan)
1994 "Zu Besuch in der Lindenstr", Curation: Mathias Winzen (Düsseldorf, Germany)
1993 *junger westen*, Kunsthalle Recklinghausen (Recklinghausen, Germany)
1987 *Kunststudenten stellen aus*, Bonner Kunstverein (Bonn, Germany)
1986 *Treibhaus 4*, Kunstmuseum (Düsseldorf, Germany)

Public Collection

- Pfizer Pharma GmbH (Berlin, Germany)
SIEMENS AG / International Leadership Center Feldafing (Feldafing, Germany)
ROLAND Rechtsschutz-Versicherungs-AG (Köln, Germany)
SHISEIDO (Tokyo, Japan)
Kulturamt Landeshauptstadt Düsseldorf (Düsseldorf, Germany)

Toshiya MOTAI

- 1954 Born in Nagano, Japan
1978 Graduated from Tokyo Zokei University (Painting)
1983 Studied under Professor Raimer Jochims at Staatliche Hochschule für Bildende Künste: Städelschule: Frankfurt am Main, Germany (Returned in 1987)
2000~ Professor of Tokyo Zokei University
2019 Professor Emeritus of Tokyo Zokei University
2020 Visiting Professor at Kyoto Saga University of Arts

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2020-21 NANAWATA (Saitama, Japan)
2020 Gallery TAGA2 (Tokyo, Japan)
2019 Tokyo Zokei University Art Museum, ZOKEI gallery, CS gallery (Tokyo, Japan)
2018 Gallery Natsuka (Tokyo, Japan)
Gallery TAGA2 (Tokyo, Japan)
2017 Cross View Arts (Tokyo, Japan)
2016 Gallery TAGA (Tokyo, Japan)
Toshiya Motai Painting Paper Works, Galerie E'terna (Paris, France)
2015 BC Kobo Fujino Living Art (Kanagawa, Tokyo)



- 2014 Gallery Natsuka (Tokyo, Japan)
Himmel Bild, Gallery Natsuka (Tokyo, Japan)
Municipal Komoro Kogen Museum of Arts (Nagano, Japan)
- 2012-13 Ome City Museum of Art (Tokyo, Japan)
- 2011 Gallery Natsuka (Tokyo, Japan)
- 2010 TA •TARO, Gallery Yumenoniwa (Nagano, Japan)
- 2009 Qf-SHOH 90 •Holz/145, Gallery Natsuka (Tokyo, Japan)
- 2008 Toshiya Motai: *Window/Image KY OB AS HI*, INAX Gallery (Tokyo, Japan)
- 2007 TA • KOHJINYAMA, Gallery Natsuka (Tokyo, Japan)
MOTAI Toshiya «Prospect Cottage for Painting» -development of «TA», the Painting of horizontality-, Tatsuno Museum of Art (Nagano, Japan)
- 2006 The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama (Saitama, Japan)
- 2005 Qf - SHOH150, Gallery Natsuka (Tokyo, Japan)
<<Qf>> its source, Exhibition Space in Tokyo International Forum (Tokyo, Japan)
- 2004 *Painting - Prospect Cottage TSUMAALI*, ART FRONT GALLERY (Tokyo, Japan)
- 2003 TA •SHOH - Qf •SHOH, Gallery Natsuka (Tokyo, Japan)
- 2001 TA • MA UNOU HI, Exhibition Space in Tokyo International Forum (Tokyo, Japan)
mag/fujino, Gallery Natsuka (Tokyo, Japan)
Quadrat/full, Galerie Ando (Tokyo, Japan)
- 2000 ARTH •UR •S •SE •ATAR, Gallery TAGA (Tokyo, Japan)
Project: Prospect Cottage for Painting, Gallery MOHRI (Tokyo, Japan)
- 1999 ta •KK •ei-TA •ENTJI, Gallery Natsuka (Tokyo, Japan)
Drawing Installation: ta •KK •ei, Galerie Ando (Tokyo, Japan)
- 1998 NA •KA •OH II, Gallery TAGA (Tokyo, Japan)
MOTAI Gemälde •Papierarbeiten, Freie Kunstakademie Rhein / Ruhr (Essen, Germany)
- 1997 TAaT, Galeria Rasen (Tokyo, Japan)
TA^o/Nakaoh, Gallery Le Deco (Tokyo, Japan)
Printworks, Galerie Ando (Tokyo, Japan)
TAaT, Gallery You (Kyoto, Japan)
- 1996 Wien, Gallery TAGA (Tokyo, Japan)
Stephan II, Galerie Ando (Tokyo, Japan)
TAAT-NA •KA •OH, Gallery Natsuka (Tokyo, Japan)
- 1995 Hossawa, Gallery Natsuka (Tokyo, Japan)
Waage •TA, IBM-Kawasaki City Gallery (Kanagawa, Japan)
- 1994 *from Figure*, Gallery TAGA (Tokyo, Japan)
from Plant, apt Gallery (Tokyo, Japan)
Galerie Ando (Tokyo, Japan)
- 1993 *paper -foldscreen-*, Galerie Ando (Tokyo, Japan)
Koiga-Kubo, Gallery Natsuka (Tokyo, Japan)
- 1992 *from Figure*, apt Gallery (Tokyo, Japan)
1001 drawings f •z, Gallery TAGA (Tokyo, Japan)
Le Ballet, Gallery Fukuyama (Tokyo, Japan)
- 1991 *Hommage 1906*, apt Gallery (Tokyo, Japan)
Plane Art, Blank Space, Modernism, Gallery αM (Tokyo, Japan)
- 1990 *MOTAI Painting •Watercolor*, Striped House Museum (Tokyo, Japan)
- 1987 Kulturzentrum Bonn (Bonn, Germany)
Galerie Pullmann, Hotel Savigny (Frankfurt, Germany)
JAL Galerie (Frankfurt, Germany)
- 1985 STÜDELSCHULE (Frankfurt, Germany)



- Galerie Wiesenmayer (Weilburg, Germany)
1984 Galerie Willems (Frankfurt, Germany)
1981 Shirota Gallery (Tokyo, Japan)
1980 Shinwa Gallery (Tokyo, Japan)
1979 Shinwa Gallery (Tokyo, Japan)

Selected Group Exhibition

- 2021 *SHINBISM 4*, Ueda City Museum of Art (Nagano, Japan)
2016 *Three hot springs of Mimasaka Art temperature* (Okayama, Japan)
2015 *6th Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial 2015* (Niigata, Japan)
Art Program Ome 2015, Ome highschool (Tokyo, Japan)
2014 The University Art Museum, Tokyo University of the Arts (Tokyo, Japan)
Fukushima Biennale 2012, Kitakata City Museum of Arts (Fukushima, Japan)
Art Program Ome 2014, Ome City Museum of Art (Tokyo, Japan)
2013 Galerie Ando (Tokyo, Japan)
Art Program Ome 2013, Sakura Factory (Tokyo, Japan)
2012 Gallery Natsuka (Tokyo, Japan)
Art Labo Hashimoto (Tokyo, Japan)
5th Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial 2012 (Niigata, Japan)
Art Program Ome 2012, Ome City Museum of Art (Tokyo, Japan)
Fukushima Biennale 2012 SORA, Fukushima Airport (Fukushima, Japan)
2011 *Art Program Ome 2011*, Ome City Museum of Art (Tokyo, Japan)
2010 *Art Program Ome 2010*, Ome City Museum of Art (Tokyo, Japan)
SO+ZO, Bunkamura The Museum, Kuwasawa Design School (Tokyo, Japan)
2009 *4nd Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial 2009* (Niigata, Japan)
Art Program Ome 2009, BOX KI-O-KU (Tokyo, Japan)
2008 *Harvest: The Works of Takeshi Hara and 160 Artists*, Ginza Towa Gallery (Tokyo, Japan), Zokei University Art Museum and Zokei Gallery (Tokyo, Japan)
Fuse/Fureru, Sesnon Art Gallery at USSC/UC (Santa Cruz, USA)
Art Program Ome 2008 (Tokyo, Japan)
Workshop Report: The Birth of Landscapes and Paintings, Ome City Museum of Art (Tokyo, Japan)
Polyphony: The Birth of Image/Paiting, Yoshikawa Eiji House & Museum (Tokyo, Japan)
Itazu Litho-Grafik and Its Artists, Chofu City Culture Hall (Tokyo, Japan)
2007 *Fuse/Fureru*, Tokyo Zokei University Art Museum (Tokyo, Japan) and Kyoto University of Art and Design, Galerie Aube (Kyoto, Japan)
Art Program Ome 2007, Yoshikawa Eiji House & Museum (Tokyo, Japan)
2006 *3nd Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial 2006* (Niigata, Japan)
Painting Beyond Painting, Gallery Natsuka (Tokyo, Japan)
2005 *Artists Related to Niimi*, Niimi Museum of Art (Okayama, Japan)
2003 *NAKAGAWA Kyu · MOTAI Toshiya*, IBM-Kawasaki City Gallery (Kanagawa, Japan)
2nd Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial 2003 (Niigata, Japan)
Daikanyama ART FAIR, Hillside Forum (Tokyo, Japan)
2002 *Aid for Turkey; The Bread of Heart Exhibition*, Izmit Modern Museum (Izmit, Turkey)
2000 *Aid for Turkey; The Bread of Heart Exhibition* (Degirmendere, Turkey)
1999 *2nd Fujino International Art Symposium '99* (Kanagawa, Japan)
SSA Annual, Royal Scottish Academy (Edinburgh, Scotland)
Artists+Itazu Litho-Grafik, Bumpodo Gallery (Tokyo, Japan)
1998 *Kanagawa Art Annual '98*, Kanagawa Prefectural Gallery (Kanagawa, Japan)
Kawamura Collection, Junshin Gallery, Tokyo Junshin Women's College (Tokyo, Japan)



1997 97 Taegu Asia Arts Exhibition, Taegu Museum (Taegu, Korea)

Selected Public Collection

Municipal Komoro Kogen Museum of Arts (Nagano, Japan)

Ueda City Museum of Art (Nagano, Japan)

Tokyo Zokei University Art Museum (Tokyo, Japan)

Oberhessisches Museum (Gießen, Germany)

Hessisches Landesmuseum Darmstadt (Germany)

Kocaeli University Art Museum (Kocaeli, Turkey)

■ For further information or images, please contact Yumiko Chiba Associates.

E-mail: info@ycassociates.co.jp Tel. +81-3-6276-6731 <http://www.ycassociates.co.jp>

Office: Park Grace Shinjuku Bldg. 205, 4-32-6, Nishi-Shinjuku Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0023 Japan.

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