

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MIWAKO IGA SOLO EXHIBITION **NARRATIVE & NON-NARRATIVE**

Venue: HRD Fine Art (494-1 Kamigoryo-tatemachi, Kamigyo-ku, Kyoto)
Date: April 14 – June 4, 2022
Hours: **Thu: 11:00am - 3:00pm**
Fri & Sat / May 5 (Tue) & 6 (Wed): 11:00am - 7:00pm
Closed: Sun-Wed (open by appointment)
Specially open on May 5 (Tue) & 6 (Wed)

HRD Fine Art is delighted to announce the opening of a solo exhibition of Miwako Iga, titled “Narrative & Non-Narrative,” which will be on view from April 14th through June 4th. Awarded the New Cosmos of Photography Prize as early as in 1999, Iga's photographic works have been highly acclaimed in Japan and abroad alike. Recently Iga has started producing painting and drawing as well, expanding her creative range. This show will be the artist's first ever solo exhibition in Kyoto, and it is also an affiliate program of "KG+ 2022," a satellite event of "Kyotographie International Photography Festival."

Miwako Iga was born in Tokyo in 1966. In her trademark photographic work, Iga uses small, mass-produced toys and dolls as well as props that she handmakes herself. Like a stage director, she constructs dramatic scenes rich in narrative allusions, or absurd spectacles seemingly devoid of meaning, and photographs them. Her work, which can be categorized both as a kind of staged photography and as a variant of ready-made, draws inspiration from her childhood memory of watching cheap, primitive chroma-key images on TV and in the movies. Thus, her works can look virulent, comical, or strangely realistic.

In this exhibition she presents the latest series of works that are based on famous Japanese novels and other literature works, as well as some older works from the series called "Playthings" that depict messed-up dolls and toys without apparent narrative quality. Thus, by juxtaposing the dolls that play their part and those that don't, Iga brings the viewers to a realm where reality and fictitiousness blend together in a complex manner.

Are our lives "narrative" or "non-narrative"? Miwako Iga's work causes us to ponder over this question. In her work, various thoughts on human life are intertwined with each other. With the ongoing global pandemic and, more recently, the war, we have seen unrealistic, incredulous events unfolding in front of our very eyes. And as such, one might be tempted to say her photographs curiously reflect the very current situation of the world.

[ARTIST'S STATEMENT]

I would often create photographic story-shows, like four frame-cartoons. Recently, however, I have been shifting my style to create a single ,self-contained piece of work that depicts one climactic scene from a longer story.

Human beings float on chaotic society and private life in a fine balance between two sides of extremes such as oppression and liberation, hiding and revealing, and expectation and desperation. Yet, one can still be carried away to go to extremes. Extremity entails drama. No matter how sad or happy the drama is, or how less we're satisfied, we would play our role in ecstasies. In our all-too-ordinary everyday life, extremity can be ignited anytime, anywhere. These days, as I work on my creation, I cannot help but realize the fragility of human beings, always under the control and manipulation of something else, just like my dolls.

Miwako Iga

[ARTWORKS]



The Revenge Game (Forbidden Colors)

C-print 28.5x19cm 2020



Naomi, the Heroine of Jun'ichiro Tanizaki's 'Naomi'

C-print 20x28.5cm 2015



Lemon

C-print 28.5x19cm 2022



The Temple of the Golden Pavilion

C-print 27.5x41.1cm 2022

[ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHY]

Miwako IGA

1966 Born in Tokyo, Japan

Lives and works in Tokyo

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2000 "A Storm in the Life" Saison Art Program Gallery, Tokyo

2003 "Tempest in a teapot" Yukiko Koide Presents, Tokyo

2007 "Madame Cucumber" Base Gallery, Tokyo

"Madame Cucumber" Leehyun Seoul Gallery, Seoul

2010 "Truly Sad Toys ~ The Open Secret" Base Gallery, Tokyo

2015 "THAT'S NOT ENOUGH." Base Gallery, Tokyo

2019 "Metropolitan Syndrome" Digger Gallery, Tokyo

Selected Group Exhibitions

1999-2000 "New Cosmos of Photography" P3, Tokyo / Kyoto University of Art and Design
Gallery Raku, Kyoto

2000 "Philip Morris Art Award" Ebisu Garden Hall, Tokyo

2003 "Futuring Power" Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Tokyo / Sendai
Mediatheque, Sendai / Kyoto University of Art and Design Gallery Raku, Kyoto

"women's core playgame" z platz, Fukuoka

2004 "Pretty?" Yukiko Koide Presents, Tokyo

2012 "PhotoEspaña 2012" Madrid, Spain

"Asia Serendipity" Málaga / Valladolid, Spain

2013 "Summer show" Poetic scape, Tokyo

2018 "The Family of Woman" Digger Gallery, Tokyo

"Samsa 2018: Homage to Insects" HRD Fine Art, Kyoto

2019 "The Family of Woman Part 2" Setagaya Museum of Art Citizens' Gallery, Tokyo

"Hyakunin-Isshu" Ningyocho Visions, Tokyo

2021 "Desire to Paint" Obihiro Popke Gallery Shirakaba-Dori Museum, Hokkaido

Awards

1999 The New Cosmos of Photography Prize

Publication

"Madame Cucumber" (grambooks, 2007)

Website

<https://madamecucumber.art/>

[NEW CORONAVIRUS COUNTERMEASURES]

HRD Fine Art implements the following countermeasures to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus as we restart our exhibition program at the gallery.

i. Suspension of opening receptions

Previously, we used to host opening reception parties for our exhibitions held in the gallery to facilitate communication between the artists and the audience. However, to ensure safety of the visitors, we will suspend opening receptions for the time being.

ii. Body temperature measurement, facemasks, and hand disinfection

We kindly ask all visitors to measure their body temperature prior to their visit (on the same day). In some cases we might kindly request to measure the guest’s body temperature using non-contact thermometer. Anyone with the body temperature at 37.5°C or higher, or anyone with respiratory symptoms such as coughing, will not be permitted entry to the gallery. All visitors are kindly requested to wear an unwoven mask or equivalent or a higher-level respirator at all time during their visit. Cloth masks, urethane masks, and gauze masks are not permitted, and those with such masks are requested to wear unwoven masks provided by the gallery. Please contact us beforehand if you cannot wear an unwoven mask due to any specific health condition. Visitors shall disinfect their hands before they enter the gallery using alcohol-based hand sanitizer provided by the gallery.

iii. Limited number of people allowed in the gallery at once

In order to avoid congestion, we might ask visitors to wait outside the building until other visitors already in the gallery finish viewing the exhibition and leave.

iv. Possibility of temporary closure of the gallery or shift to appointment-only system

As a result of close monitoring of the pandemic situation and in order to safeguard all people involved in a more secure manner, HRD Fine Art might temporarily close its door and suspend the exhibition program altogether, or introduce an appointment-only system without prior notice or on short notice. We will make sure to notify such changes as swiftly as possible through channels that include our website (www.hrdfineart.com) and social media.

Thank you for your kind understanding and cooperation!

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For further information or for artwork images please contact us:

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- Email: info@hrdfineart.com
- Website: www.hrdfineart.com

