

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## AYAKO KURIHARA SOLO EXHIBITION

# I Am Here, There and Everywhere: Mind Games 2020

**Venue:** HRD Fine Art (494-1 Kamigoryo-tatemachi, Kamigyo-ku, Kyoto)  
**Date:** October 10 – November 21, 2020 (Closed on Sun-Wed)  
**Hours:** **Thu: 11:00am - 3:00pm / Fri & Sat: 11:00am - 7:00pm**  
 (Sun-Wed: Open by prior appointment only)

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HRD Fine Art has been forced to close its door to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic since February 2020. Now, although the pandemic is far from over, we will resume our exhibition program from this coming October, focusing on domestic artists.

The first exhibition after the restart will be a solo exhibition of Ayako Kurihara titled “I Am Here, There and Everywhere: Mind Games 2020.” It’s been two years since we showed Kurihara’s work last at the gallery (“The Game Must Go On” in 2018), and this will be her second solo exhibition to be held in Kyoto.

Born in 1974 in Yokohama, Kurihara graduated from the Aichi Prefectural University of the Arts in 1999. Now based in Yokohama, she has been actively participating in exhibitions, artist-in-residence programs, and art festivals in and outside Japan.

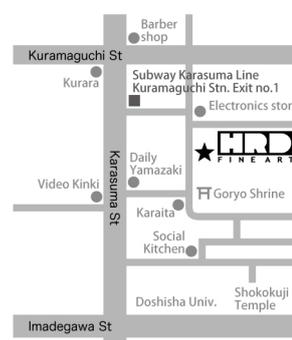
The series titled “Mind Games,” which forms the core of this exhibition, involves a popular board game called “Othello” or “Reversi.” Using gridded surface and paints in two colors, Kurihara places one color after another alternately, according to the rule of the board game and using the technique of stamping or dropping, until all the boxes are completely taken up. She has been working on this painting-performance series quite a long time now, and sometimes she invites the audience to take part in the game, performs live-painting, or creates and shows video work as well. Through these works, Kurihara visualizes many aspects of and perspectives related to “human communication.”

This exhibition aims to present new viewpoints toward society and the mode of human communications that are undergoing transformation amid the pandemic of the new coronavirus, with “remote,” “social distance,” and “partition/separation” as key phrases. The artist mainly showcases her works in a variety of media as an installation taking up the whole gallery space.

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For further information or for artwork images please contact us:

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- Website: **www.hrdfineart.com**

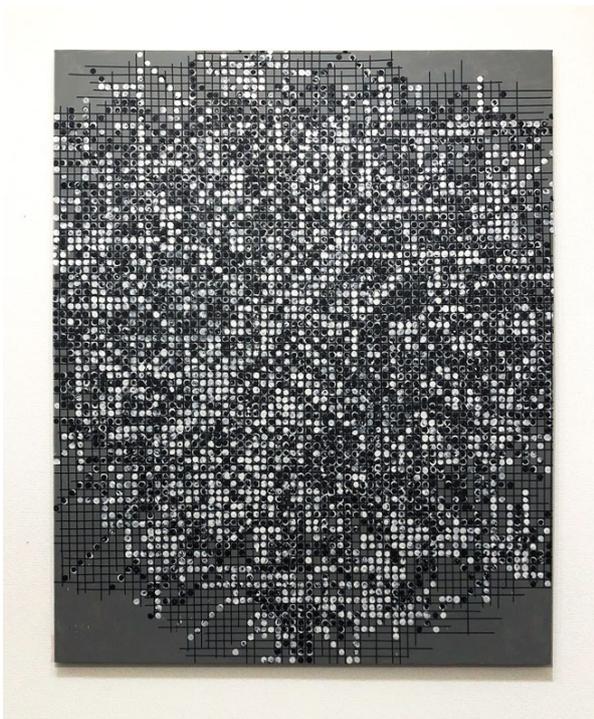


[ ARTWORKS ]



*Mind Games 'I Am Here'*

acrylic on cloth 135x1000cm 2017-2020



*#stayhome 20200522-20200622*

acrylic on canvas 162x130.3cm 2020

[ ARTIST'S STATEMENT ]

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, we are now seeing less and less opportunities for physical contact and face-to-face communication, and we can't help but think anew about the distance and distancing between us, people.

Why do we desire to contact with each other? And why do we desire to avoid contact with each other at the same time?

In this exhibition, I scatter my works all over the gallery that are marked with these opposite desires of mine: the desire to stay alone, keep myself away from the outside world; and the desire to take contact with others through digital screens - by remotely playing the game of Othello using the Internet and social networks.

I am here, there, and everywhere. So are you.

Ayako Kurihara

## [ ARTISTS' BIOGRAPHY ]

### **Ayako KURIHARA**

1974 Born in Yokohama

1999 BFA in Oil Painting, Aichi Prefectural University of Fine Arts and Music

Lives and works in Yokohama

#### **Selected Solo Exhibitions**

- 2006 "Mind Games" BankART Studio NYK, Yokohama
- 2007 "New Map" BankART Studio NYK, Yokohama  
"Untitled / Ayako Kurihara" Gallery Maki, Tokyo
- 2009 "fiction/error" Gallery Maki, Tokyo
- 2010 "Pictures" Edwin R. Molenaar Atelier, Yokohama
- 2011 "Conversation with Mr. H" Demado Contemporary Art Project, Kyoto
- 2013 "Conversation with the Vacant Hotel" Vacant Hotel, Seoul
- 2015 "Mind Games" HRD Fine Art, Kyoto

#### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

- 1997 "Battadofu - Rolling Library" Nagoya City Midori Library, Nagoya
- 2007 "CET07 - Central East Tokyo 07" Taigaku Bldg., Tokyo  
"Light Room vol.4 - Yamate No.111 Library Exhibition" Yamate No.111, Yokohama
- 2008 "Self Portrait" Gallery Sakamaki, Tokyo  
"Blue Dot Asia" Seoul Arts Center, Seoul  
"Food and Contemporary Art part 4 (Yokohama Geijutsu Noren-gai)" BankART 1929  
Yokohama / Iseya, Yokohama
- 2012 "Building a Castle of Sand (or Breaking It)" Next Door Gallery, Seoul
- 2013 "Heritage 600 = Tomorrow 600" Aram Museum, Goyang, Korea  
"the Line \_ Art, Open the Way for Reunification" Imjingak / Pyeonghoa-Nuri Park, Paju,  
Korea
- 2015 "Asuka Art Village" Asuka Historical National Government Park, Asuka-mura, Nara  
"Asuka Hikari-no-kairou" Asuka-mura, Nara
- 2016 "Koganecho Bazaar 2016" Koganecho, Yokohama  
"Masters of Asuka" Nara Prefecture Complex of Man'yo Culture, Asuka-mura, Nara
- 2017 "Koganecho AIR2017" Koganecho, Yokohama
- 2018 "Koganecho AIR2017 Conclusion Exhibition" Koganecho, Yokohama  
"The Game Must Go On: Ayako Kurihara + Yeom Sojin" HRD Fine Art, Kyoto  
"Koganecho Bazaar 2018 Special Program - pass by: passing and remaining" Koganecho,  
Yokohama
- 2020 "Unmanned Station Art Festival, Oigawa" Oigawa Railway wayside area, Shizuoka

#### **Residency, Public Performance, Open Studio, etc.**

- 2007 Open Studio "Atelier Gake + Kotori Cafe" Atelier Gake, Yokosuka

- 2007-08 Public Performance "Ayako Kurihara Project Room" BankART Studio NYK, Yokohama
- 2008 Open Studio "Atelier Gake + Kotori Cafe + Oto" Atelier Gake, Yokosuka
- 2009 Public Performance "Mind Games 2009 in Sakuraso" BankART Sakuraro, Yokohama
- 2010 Public Performance "Mind Games 2010" BankART Studio NYK, Yokohama
- 2013 Open Studio "Open Studio 2013" BankART Studio NYK, Yokohama
- 2015 Artist-in-residence "Asuka Art Village" Asuka-mura, Nara
- 2016-17 Artist-in-residence "Koganecho AIR" Koganecho, Yokohama

## [ 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). 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 a facemask at all time during their visit. Please contact us beforehand if you cannot wear a facemask due to 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](http://www.hrdfineart.com)) and social media.

Thank you for kind your understanding and cooperation!