

KÖNIG LONDON

AYAKO ROKKAKU IMAGINATION FOR FLYING ADVENTURE

13 MAY – 11 JUNE, 2022
KÖNIG LONDON

OPENING: 12 MAY | PERFORMANCE: 13 MAY

KÖNIG LONDON presents IMAGINATION FOR FLYING ADVENTURE, an exhibition of paintings by Ayako Rokkaku.

IMAGINATION FOR FLYING ADVENTURE is Rokkaku's first solo show in the U.K. Its title refers to emotional flights her paintings make possible. Rokkaku's supple images transcend the conventions of both figuration and abstraction.

Throughout the exhibition, bodies become vehicles for inspiration through careful attention to their capacity for nuanced sensation. Recurring motifs in Rokkaku's paintings include manga-inspired, cartoon-like girls who play within the liminal spaces between them and their surroundings, with eyes that brim with both coquettishness and curiosity.

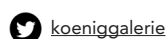
IMAGINATION FOR FLYING ADVENTURE suggest an embodied parallel between the presence of the artist and the imagined worlds she depicts. Painting directly onto canvas and other surfaces (such as cardboard) with her hands, Rokkaku depicts fantastical landscapes in which small creatures fall in and out of sight.

Rokkaku's figures are inspired by the aesthetics of manga culture, though each character maintains their own unique expressions, their large eyes mirroring those of their onlookers. Direct encounters with these figure's eyes means that they both anticipate and direct the audience's line of sight. Her paintings are at once a record of momentary inspirations, minute observations of the body, and documentations of the kinaesthetic tension between the artist's hand and her chosen surfaces.

Locating her figures within the immersive constraints of an open-ended pictorial setting, Rokkaku pulls them from the sweltering confines of abstraction and situates them in a permanent state of flux between interiority as exteriority, fictional gardens and forested utopias. In this manner, Rokkaku makes an implicit commentary on the compositional logic of canonical painting, which has traditionally preferred to entrap figures within the confines of static, mathematical dimensions. Transforming painting into an active engagement with ongoing discovery, Rokkaku demonstrates what can arise when the figures in a painting suddenly come alive, exploding the spaces they occupy with sudden bursts of anxious life.

Text by Jeffrey Grunthaler

Ayako Rokkaku (b. 1982 in Chiba, Japan) lives between Berlin, Porto, and Amsterdam. She has had solo exhibitions at international institutions including Chiba Prefectural Museum of Art, Japan (2020); Museum Jan van der Togt, Amstelveen, The Netherlands (2019); Danubiana Meulensteen Art Museum, Bratislava, Slovakia (2012); and Kunsthal, Rotterdam, The Netherlands (2011). In 2015, she showed her work at the Swatch Art Pavilion at the 56th Venice Biennale. Works by the artist are part of the collections of the Danubiana Meulensteen Art Museum, Voorlinden Museum, Gunma Museum of Art, Sehwa Museum of Art/Sehwa Art and Culture Foundation, and Museum of Contemporary Art, Karuizawa.



EXHIBITIONS

XENIA HAUSNER
Unintended Beauty
ST. AGNES I NAVE
29.04 – 12.06.2022

GUY YANAI
In the Shadow of Young Girls in Flower
ST. AGNES I CHAPEL
25.05 – 26.06.2022

CLAUDIA COMTE
An Impending Disaster (Hahaha)
KÖNIG GALERIE IM KHK
27.04 – 22.06.2021

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Opening Hours
Fri – Sat 1 – 6 PM
And by appointment