

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Oido Syoujou**

**Blum & Poe, Tokyo**  
**November 15, 2022–January 7, 2023**

Tokyo, Japan, November 9, 2022—Blum & Poe is pleased to present Oido Syoujou's first solo exhibition with the gallery.

Consisting of a multitude of colored fragments with minute gaps, Oido Syoujou's (b. Osaka, Japan, 1984) abstract paintings seem to twinkle, evoking a backlit prism or a smattering of distant stars. The artist's painting process requires an acute attention to detail and a meticulous nature, yielding works that transmit a tremendous intensity and vibrant energy—as if to depict an entity of both cosmic and microscopic proportions. As the artist meditates on the natural world through his work, Oido conjures the principles of Charles and Ray Eames's *Power of Ten* (1977)—the constitution of a single atom mirrors the expanse of the universe.

Oido began making art after a life changing trip to the forest of Yakushima, a Japanese subtropical island in Kagoshima Prefecture, where he found a catalyst for his practice in the natural phenomena that surrounded him. Emulating the living matter he encountered—such as bioluminescent mushrooms—in his works on canvas, paper, cotton, and board, the artist's paintings hum with movement as they sprawl out from the center of each piece. This organic arrangement of minuscule geometric shapes with a centralized focal point gives nod to trends in nature—such as the composition of cells or stellar systems—and acknowledges the hand of the artist with almost imperceptible imperfections in its construction.

The artist's choice of color palette further alludes to that which is naturally occurring. In works where Oido utilizes bright reds and turquoise—colors that don't frequently appear in nature—he carefully weaves in other pigments to create the overall appearance of a neutral, muted tone that enfolds all varying shades within it. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe describes this phenomenon in his seminal *Theory of Colours* (1810) in the section "Intermixture, Apparent" wherein colors may appear as one hue from afar but remain distinct shades upon close investigation.

Sometimes taking a few years to complete an individual work, Oido invests an immense amount of physical and metaphysical energy into these paintings—each one serving as an outlet for the artist's pursuit of his own subliminal thought processes. The culmination of these forces generates work that is at once expansive and succinct, formally complex and energetically infused, vibrant and muted.

**About Blum & Poe**

Blum & Poe was founded by Tim Blum and Jeff Poe in Santa Monica in September of 1994 as a space to show local and international contemporary art in all media. Blum's extensive experience in the Japanese art world combined with Poe's keen knowledge of emerging artists in Los Angeles resulted in an international program of influential artists. Throughout a twenty-seven-year history, Blum & Poe has shaped the

# BLUM & POE

Los Angeles, New York, Tokyo

trajectory of contemporary art by championing artists at all stages of their careers—cultivating the lineages that run between emerging and established practices and working with artist estates to generate new discourse surrounding historical work. Currently, Blum & Poe represents fifty-one artists and nine estates from sixteen countries worldwide.

In 2003 the gallery moved to a larger space in Culver City, and in 2009 Blum & Poe purchased and renovated its current 22,000-square-foot complex on La Cienega Boulevard. In this location the gallery has since staged museum-caliber surveys, examining the historical work of such movements as the Japanese Mono-ha school (2012); the Korean Dansaekhwa monochrome painters (2014); the European postwar movement CoBrA (2015); Japanese art of 1980s and '90s (2019); a rereading of Brazilian Modernism (2019); and a revisionist take on the 1959 MoMA exhibition, *New Images of Man* (2020). To produce these exhibitions, Blum & Poe has worked with celebrated curators such as Alison M. Gingeras, Sofia Gotti, Joan Kee, and Mika Yoshitake.

In 2014, Blum & Poe opened galleries in New York and Tokyo to focus on intimately scaled projects in new contexts. These expansions tie into the gallery's wide-reaching program that includes exhibitions, lectures, performance series, screenings, and an annual art book fair at its base in Los Angeles. Blum & Poe's publishing division democratically circulates its program through original scholarship and accessible media ranging from academic monographs, audio series, magazines, to artists' books. In 2020, the gallery launched Blum & Poe Broadcasts, an online platform showcasing artists' projects in conjunction with physical installations or as standalone digital endeavors.


Across the three global locations, Blum & Poe prioritizes environmental and community stewardship in all operations. In 2015, Blum & Poe was certified as an Arts:Earth Partnership (AEP) green art gallery in Los Angeles and consequently became one of the first green certified galleries in the United States. The gallery is also a member of the Gallery Climate Coalition, which works to facilitate a more sustainable commercial art world and reduce the industry's collective carbon footprint. Blum & Poe is committed to fostering inclusive and equitable communities both in their physical and online spaces and believes that everybody should have equal access to creating and engaging with contemporary art.

## Press Inquiries


Nicoletta Beyer  
Communications and Editorial Director, New York  
nicoletta@blumandpoe.com

Christie Hayden  
Communications and Social Media Editor, Los Angeles  
christie@blumandpoe.com

## Follow Blum & Poe

 @blumandpoe

 @blumandpoe

 @blumandpoe