

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Yukie Ishikawa

Blum & Poe, Los Angeles
September 10–October 22, 2022
Opening Reception: Saturday, September 10, 5–7pm

Los Angeles, CA, September 7, 2022—Blum & Poe is pleased to present new paintings by Yukie Ishikawa. This is Ishikawa's second solo exhibition with the gallery, and her first solo show in the United States.

This exhibition focuses on new works from the ongoing Impermanence series. Ishikawa began making these highly intricate abstractions in 2012, as she contemplated the ever-shifting appearance of the landscape outside her studio in Hidaka City, north of Tokyo, as well as the transience of her own existence within it. Searching for a means to render the ephemerality of nature in an abstract painterly language, she began to rework earlier canvases that had once seemed complete by adding new layers of lines and grids, some with sand mixed into the paint. Now responding to the given conditions of an existing painted surface rather than a blank canvas, Ishikawa seeks to generate a new pictorial meaning in which the lower palimpsest layer interacts with the form, color, and texture of the superimposed layers.

Ishikawa's practice is distinct for its deconstruction of Modernist abstraction and the monochromatic, frontal, and vertical-horizontal grids found in Minimalist art by drawing on compositions and techniques found in historical Japanese painting. The artist uses irregular groupings of curved and diagonal lines—reminiscent of the skewed perspectives seen in ancient Japanese scroll paintings—as well as dense optical color mixing to disrupt the viewer's gaze and prevent it settling on a single point, grid, or layer. Some of the paintings are studded with dense clusters of thickly textured dots, which Ishikawa describes as a contemporary interpretation of the *tentai* method. Translating literally as “spot and substance,” *tentai* is an ink-painting technique that dates back to 9th-century China in which trees, rocks, and mountains are depicted through the application of pointillist ink dots, creating a hazy sense of vitality and rhythm.

Previously, Ishikawa was featured in the two-part survey *Parergon: Japanese Art of the 1980s and 1990s*, held at Blum & Poe, Los Angeles in 2019 and curated by Mika Yoshitake. This exhibition featured paintings made at the beginning of her career, in the context of the Japanese New Painting movement, which developed alongside American and European Neo-Expressionism. During this period, her compositions were based on photographs and advertisements found in magazines and newspapers, which she enlarged, projected, and traced onto the canvas. Deliberately composing and coloring the abstractions in order to obfuscate the identity of the original subject matter, she aimed to create “a pictorial space outside of the three-dimensional space to which those things belonged.”

Yukie Ishikawa was born in Tokyo in 1961 and graduated from the Department of Oil Painting at Musashino Art University, Tokyo in 1983. She currently lives and works near Kawagoe, Saitama Prefecture. Since the late 1980s she has held regular solo exhibitions in Japan and her paintings have been featured in prominent group exhibitions, including *The Vision of Contemporary Art*, Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo, Japan (1995 and 1999); *Remaking Modernism in Japan 1900–2000*, University Art Museum, Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music and Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan (2004); *The Power of Painting—Japanese Painting since 1980*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan (2005); *Primary Field: The State of Contemporary Art—Conversation with the 7 Fields*, Museum of Modern Art, Kamakura & Hayama,

BLUM & POE

Los Angeles, New York, Tokyo

Japan (2007); *Minimal/ Post Minimal—The Contemporary Japanese Art from 1970s*, Utsunomiya Museum of Art, Utsunomiya, Japan (2013). Her work is represented in the collections of the Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Hiroshima, Japan; Iwaki City Art Museum, Iwaki, Japan; Museum of Modern Art, Kamakura & Hayama, Japan; National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan; National Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan; Sezon Museum of Modern Art, Karuizawa, Japan; and the Utsunomiya Museum of Art, Utsunomiya, Japan.

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 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 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, Los Angeles
nicoletta@blumandpoe.com

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

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