

# BLUM

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Tomoo Gokita**  
***NAKED***

**BLUM Los Angeles**  
**May 30–August 2, 2025**  
**Opening Reception: Friday, May 30, 5–7pm**

April 11, 2025, Los Angeles—BLUM is pleased to present *NAKED*, an exhibition of new paintings by Tokyo-based artist Tomoo Gokita. This is the artist's third solo exhibition with the gallery.

Known for his uncanny approach to figuration, Gokita has long explored the tension between familiarity and distortion in his psychologically charged compositions. Working in both monochrome and vibrant colors, he has built a distinctive visual language that merges portraiture, abstraction, and cultural memory. Early works often originated from found imagery—vintage magazines and old newspapers—serving as visual springboards that he would intuitively warp and reimagine through his tactile process of painting.

In recent years, however, Gokita has shifted his practice inward. No longer relying on pre-existing media, he channels his subjects from memory and subconscious invention. The resulting forms—part-human, part-fantastical—occupy a liminal space between reality and dream. His characters now take shape through layers of erasure and reinvention. This iterative approach allows each figure to exist as a collision of gestures, influences, and emotional states, invoking artists from Picasso to Guston while conjuring the spectral strangeness of sci-fi cinema and surrealist dreamscapes.

With *NAKED*, Gokita turns his attention to the trope of the female nude, reframing a historically overdetermined subject with acidic irreverence and grotesque beauty. In these paintings, Surrealist bodies bristle with defiant physicality, eschewing objectification in favor of confrontational agency. Referencing the glamor of *Playboy*, the weirdness of B-movie aesthetics, and the compositional motifs of Impressionist painting, these nudes are saturated with intense, unsettling color. At once seductive and disquieting, titles such as *PEEPING WOMAN* (2025), *THE BABY-SITTERS CLUB* (2025), and *THE BALCONY INCIDENT* (2025) hint at uncanny and humorous narratives, infusing the work with irony, unease, and a self-assured rejection of conventional beauty.

Tomoo Gokita (b. 1969, Tokyo, Japan) lives and works in Tokyo. Major recent museum solo exhibitions include *GUMBO* at ICA Milano, Milan, Italy (2024); *Get Down* at Dallas Contemporary, Dallas, TX (2021); *PEEKABOO* at Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery, Tokyo, Japan (2018), and a retrospective, *THE GREAT CIRCUS*, at Kawamura Memorial DIC Museum of Art, Sakura, Japan (2014). His work has also been featured in notable surveys such as *Next Door*, Yuz Museum, Shanghai, China (2023); *Lynchland: Genre, Auteurism and a Fish in the Percolator*, curated by Steven Wolkoff and Tom Dunn, Torrance Museum of Art, Torrance, CA (2022); *Wonderful My Art*, Kawaguchiko Museum of Art, Yamanashi, Japan (2013); *The Unseen Relationship: Form and Abstraction*, Kawamura Memorial DIC Museum of Art, Sakura, Japan (2012); *Gateway: Japan*, Torrance Art Museum, Torrance, CA (2011); *New York Minute*, Macro Future Museum, Rome, Italy (2009); and *Collected Visions*, Pera Museum, Istanbul, Turkey (2009). Gokita's work is included in institutional collections such as the Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH; High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA; the Marciano Art Foundation, Los Angeles, CA; the Miyanomori Museum of

# BLUM

Art, Sapporo, Japan; the Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME; the Rachofsky Collection, Dallas, TX; and the X Museum, Beijing, China.

## About BLUM

BLUM represents more than sixty artists and estates from twenty countries worldwide, nurturing a diverse roster of artists at all stages of their practices with a range of global perspectives. Originally opened as Blum & Poe in Santa Monica in 1994, the gallery has been a pioneer in its early commitment to Los Angeles as an international arts capital.

The gallery has been acclaimed for its groundbreaking work in championing international artists of postwar and contemporary movements, such as CoBrA, Dansaekhwa, Mono-ha, and Superflat, and for organizing museum-caliber solo presentations and historical survey exhibitions across its spaces in Los Angeles, Tokyo, and New York. Often partnering with celebrated curators and scholars such as Cecilia Alemani, Alison M. Gingeras, Sofia Gotti, Joan Kee, and Mika Yoshitake, the gallery has produced large-scale exhibitions focusing on the Japanese Mono-ha school (2012); the Korean Dansaekhwa monochrome painters (2014); the European postwar movement CoBrA (2015); Japanese art of the 1980s and 1990s (2019); a rereading of Brazilian Modernism (2019); a revisionist take on the 1959 MoMA exhibition, *New Images of Man* (2020); and a survey of portraiture through a democratic and humanist lens (2023); among others.

BLUM's wide-reaching program includes exhibitions, lectures, performance series, screenings, video series, and an annual art book fair at its base in Los Angeles. BLUM Books, the gallery's publishing division, democratically circulates its program through original scholarship and accessible media ranging from academic monographs, audio series, magazines, to artists' books.

Across the three global locations, BLUM prioritizes environmental and community stewardship in all operations. In 2015, it 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 is committed to fostering inclusive and equitable communities both in its 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@blum-gallery.com](mailto:nicoletta@blum-gallery.com)

Christie Hayden  
Communications and Social Media Editor, Los Angeles  
[christie@blum-gallery.com](mailto:christie@blum-gallery.com)