

HIROKI TSUKUDA

Liminal Space

June 5 – August 27, 2025

Galerie Gisela Capitain is pleased to announce *Liminal Space* – the second solo exhibition of new works by Japanese artist Hiroki Tsukuda (*1978 in Kagawa).

In *Liminal Space*, Tsukuda explores the elusive space between reality and fiction. His works emerge from states of transition – between places, times, and modes of perception. The motifs appear both familiar and detached, like memories of experiences that were never actually lived. Inspired by the aesthetics of so-called “liminal spaces” – deserted corridors, stripped shopping malls, surreal threshold zones – Tsukuda creates imagery that defies clear localization. They hover between presence and absence, memory and imagination. This perspective is shaped by his childhood in rural Japan, where the urban landscape was characterised by architectural remnants such as stairs leading nowhere or doors opening into emptiness, known as Hyperart Thomassons.

Tsukuda's visual language combines urban and natural elements – forests, bodies of water, architectural structures – with geometric shapes and symbolic drawings. Beneath this precise surface lie intuitive traces: spontaneous monotypes, casual iPhone photographs, painterly gestures. Over these, Tsukuda overlays graphic structures inspired by architectural drawings, mathematical diagrams, and occult symbols. This creates a tension between cultural knowledge and unconscious sensation, akin to a memory being overwritten by a rational system.

The resulting visual spaces are full of ambiguity: doors leading nowhere, grids dissolving in water; the familiar tipping into the surreal. Tsukuda views these 'gaps' as poetic fragments of urban archaeology.

His work is deeply influenced by the media worlds he grew up with: science fiction films, video games, comics, novels, and music. Yet these references are not merely illustrative – they shape the structure of his images, which resemble fragments of alternative realities. They do not follow a linear narrative, but instead function as memories where perception and projection intertwine.

In 2024, Hiroki Tsukuda participated in the 8th Yokohama Triennale. His works have been shown in solo exhibitions at Petzel Gallery, New York (2024, 2016), NANZUKA UNDERGROUND, Tokyo (2022), the Museum of Modern Art, Gunma (2019), Neuer Aachener Kunstverein (2017), and Galerie Gisela Capitain, Cologne (2017). He has also been featured in numerous group exhibitions, including KINDL – Center for Contemporary Art, Berlin (2018), Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin (2012), Le Magasin – Centre National d'art Contemporain de Grenoble (2011), and Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow (2011).

His works are part of important public collections, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Mori Art Museum, Tokyo; the Jean Pigozzi Collection, Geneva; and Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary, Vienna.