



Key Hiraga, *The Elegant Life of Mr. H.*, 1971. Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 73,5 cm. © The Estate of Key Hiraga, Photo Fabrice Goussot.

# KEY HIRAGA

## *Works 1966-1971*

### 27.03-09.05.2026

GALERIE LOEVENBRUCK  
12, RUE JACQUES-CALLOT  
75006 PARIS

## **KEY HIRAGA** **WORKS 1966-1971**

27.03.2026 – 09.05.2026

Opening on Thursday 26 March, 6–9pm

Loevenbruck is pleased to present a selection of paintings and works on paper by the Japanese artist Key Hiraga (1936–2000).

Hiraga was born in Tokyo and graduated from Tokyo University in 1956. He pursued painting as a self-taught artist and in 1964 won the Grand Prix at the 3rd National Young Artists Exhibition in Japan, which enabled him to move to France. From 1965 to 1977, he lived in Paris, a city then marked by emerging movements such as Pop Art and Figuration Narrative.

Inspired by Jean Dubuffet and Art Brut, Hiraga gradually moved away from the Japanese pictorial tradition. In Paris, he began to depict the colorful life of Pigalle, developing a distinctive style of fragmented bodies, fantastical forms, and vibrant color. His paintings and works on paper combine vivid palettes with surreal, often erotic figures, populated by contorted forms and recurring motifs that suggest comic logic, psychological narratives, and the tensions of postwar modernity.

Hiraga's work has been the subject of solo exhibitions internationally. Notably, in 1966 he was invited to participate in the landmark exhibition *The New Japanese Painting and Sculpture* at the Museum of Modern Art, New York (October 19, 1966–January 2, 1967), which introduced a new generation of Japanese artists to an international audience. On this occasion, the museum acquired his painting *The Window* (1964), which remains part of its permanent collection.

More recently, his work was featured in *Key Hiraga: The Elegant Life of Mr. H* at Nonaka-Hill, Los Angeles (2025), and in earlier solo shows at Studio Gariboldi, Milan (2015), The Mayor Gallery, London (2008), the Hiratsuka Museum of Art (2000), and Bokushin Gallery, Tokyo (2000).

Hiraga's works are also represented in major public and private collections worldwide, including leading institutions in Japan such as the National Museum of Art, Osaka, and the Tokyo National Museum of Modern Art.

### **More information about the works**

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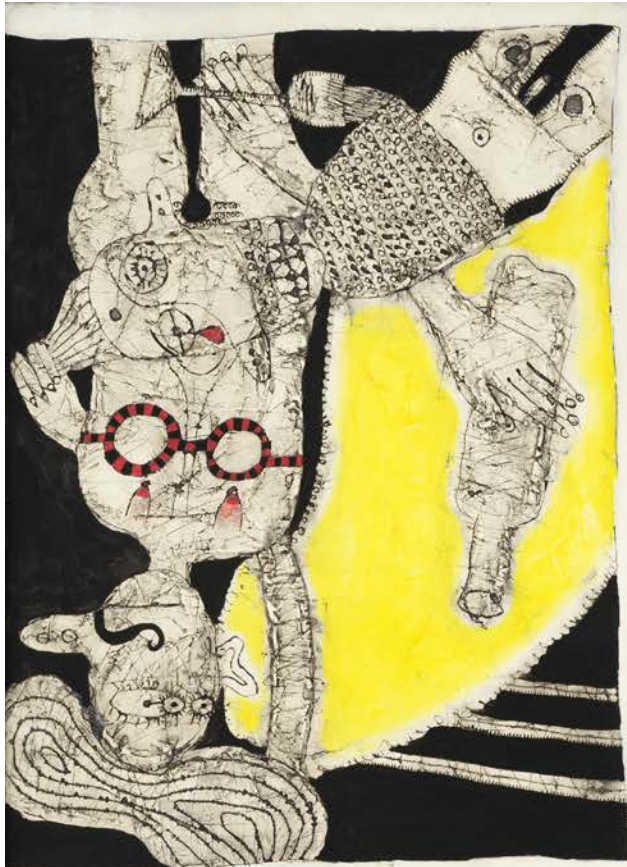
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1958  
H. K.















## Exhibited paintings

### Key Hiraga *The Elegant Life of Mr. H.*, 1966

Oil on canvas  
73 × 60 cm (28 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> × 23 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in)  
Courtesy galerie Loevenbruck, Paris  
Inv. No. : KH210501

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### Key Hiraga *Untitled*, 1967

Oil on canvas  
73 × 60 cm ( 28 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> × 23 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in)  
Courtesy galerie Loevenbruck, Paris  
Inv. No. : KH240104 / M2296

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### Key Hiraga *Les Fenêtres*, 1966–1967

Mixed media on canvas  
116,5 × 88 cm (45 <sup>11</sup>/<sub>16</sub> × 34 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in)  
Courtesy galerie Loevenbruck, Paris.  
Inv. No. : KH2106258

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### Key Hiraga *Windows*, 1967

Oil on canvas  
92,7 × 73,5 cm (36 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> × 28 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> in)  
Courtesy galerie Loevenbruck, Paris  
Inv. No. : KH240102

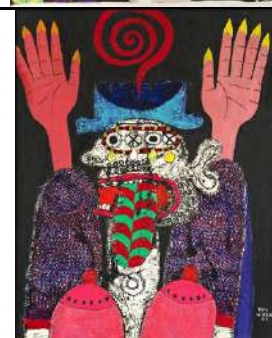
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### Key Hiraga *Untitled*, 1967

Oil on canvas  
41 × 32,5 cm ( 16 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 12 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in)  
Courtesy galerie Loevenbruck, Paris  
Inv. No. : KH240107

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## Key Hiraga *The Elegant Life of Mr. H.*, 1967

Oil on canvas  
73 × 61 cm ( 28 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> × 24 in)  
Courtesy galerie Loevenbruck, Paris  
Inv. No. : KH240103

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## Key Hiraga *Untitled*, 1967

Oil on canvas  
46 × 38 cm (18 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 14 <sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub> in)  
Courtesy galerie Loevenbruck, Paris  
Inv. No. : KH240108

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## Key Hiraga *The Elegant Life of Mr. H.*, 1971

Acrylic on canvas  
60 × 73,5 cm (23 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 29 in)  
Courtesy galerie Loevenbruck, Paris  
Inv. No. : KH180604

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## Key Hiraga *Untitled*, 1971

Acrylic on canvas  
55 × 46 cm (21 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 18 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in)  
Courtesy galerie Loevenbruck, Paris  
Inv. No. : KH171203 / M0175

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## Key Hiraga *Untitled*, 1971

Acrylic on canvas  
64,5 × 54 cm (25 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>16</sub> × 21 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> in)  
Courtesy galerie Loevenbruck, Paris  
Inv. No. : KH2106254

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## Key Hiraga *The Elegant Life of Mr. K.*, 1971

Oil on canvas  
130 × 162 cm (51 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>16</sub> × 63 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> in)  
Courtesy galerie Loevenbruck, Paris  
Inv. No. : KH240105 / M2143

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## Key Hiraga *The Elegant Life of Mr. K.*, 1971

Acrylic on canvas  
27,2 × 22,2 cm (10 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 8 <sup>11</sup>/<sub>16</sub> in)  
Courtesy galerie Loevenbruck, Paris  
Inv. No. : KH180701 / M0321

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## Key Hiraga *The Elegant Life of Mr. K.*, 1971

Acrylic on canvas  
46,5 × 38 cm (18 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 14 <sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub> in)  
Courtesy galerie Loevenbruck, Paris  
Inv. No. : KH180702

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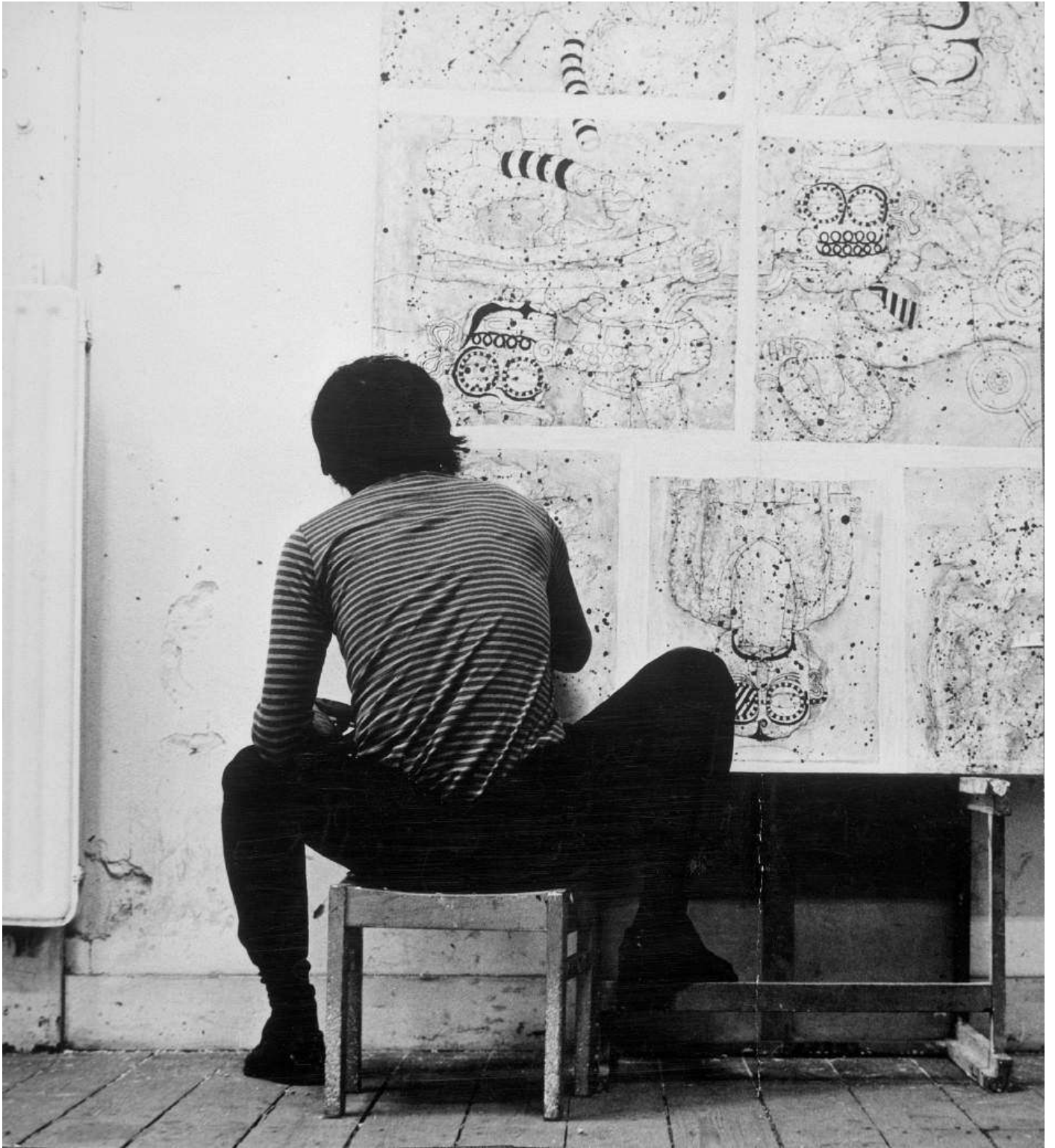


## Key Hiraga *Untitled*, 1971

Acrylic on canvas  
54 × 45 cm (21 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> × 17 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> in)  
Courtesy galerie Loevenbruck, Paris  
Inv. No. : KH171202 / M0174

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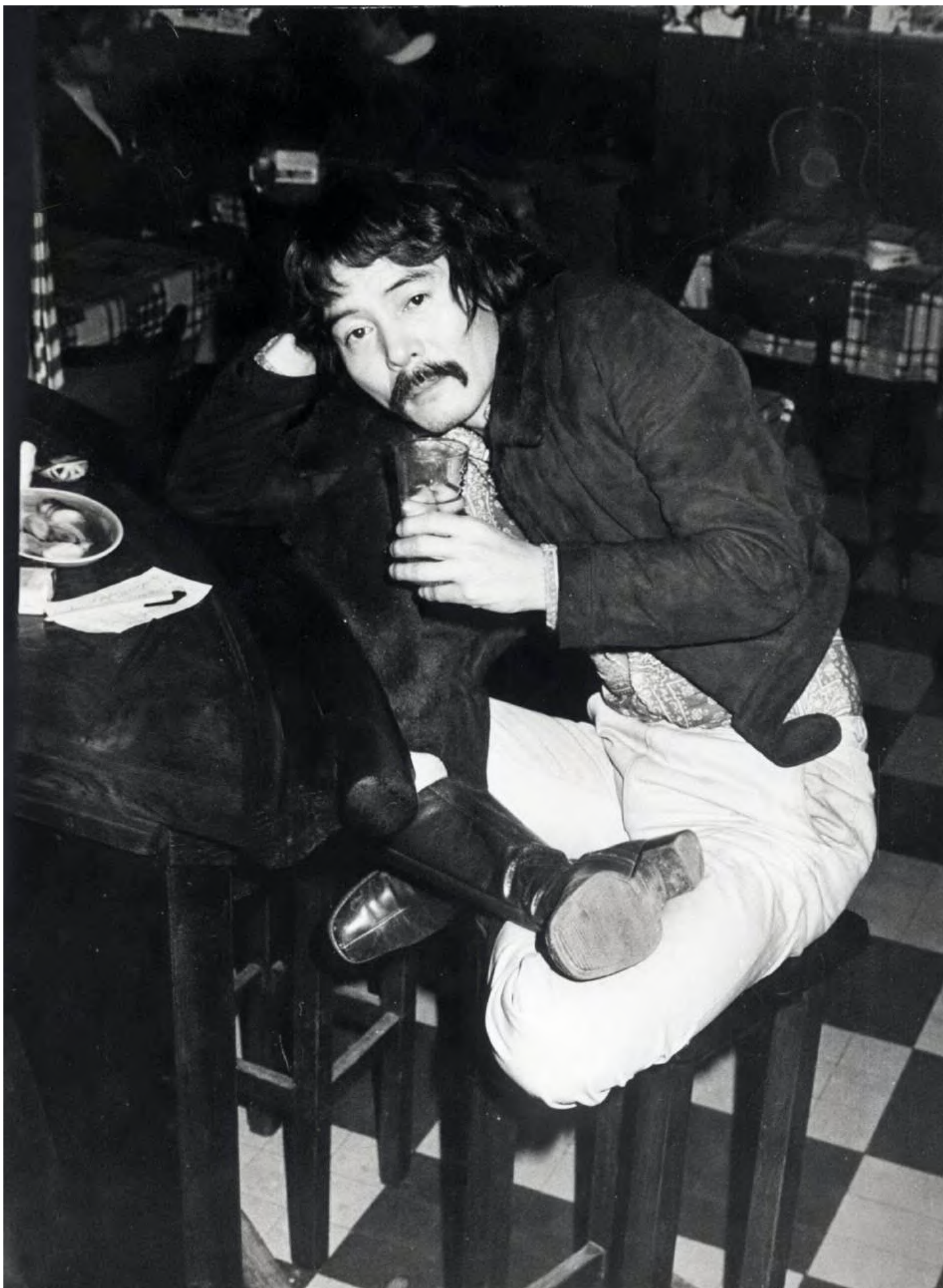




Key Hiraga in his studio, Haarlem? (Netherlands), black and white photographic print, Matthijs Erdman Archives.



Opening of the exhibition "The Elegant Life of Mister P.", Haarlem (Netherlands), Galerie-T, January 1968, Key Hiraga on the left and Rithé Funke in the center, black and white photographic print, Matthijs Erdman Archives.



Key Hiraga, 1972. Black and white photographic print. Matthijs Erdman Archives.