

Kohtaro Abe

" Complete Natural Color "

Dates: Sat 9 September - Sat 7 October, 2017

NANZUKA

Born in 1988 in the Oita prefecture, Abe is a young artist who currently lives and works in Tokyo since completing his MFA in 2015 at Musashino Art University. Abe creates works using natural materials such as spices, flour, dried fruits, etc., that serve as ingredients for the food that we eat in our daily lives. Although Abe has continued to create works appropriating this particular method since his late teens while he was a student at preparatory school, the roots of this practice lie in his family trade of aquaculture in which he had observed fish being given feed made of natural food coloring as a means to improve their color. Besides from presenting his works in university, Abe has not held any solo shows thus far due to the various difficulties he encountered until arriving at this exhibition. He has experienced numerous failures and setbacks before completing the works introduced on this occasion, at times ruining his creations due to mold or decay, or encountering instances in which they had been devoured by mice. His production approach from the mixing of materials to create durability as a works of art, and repeatedly engaging in experimentation until arriving at an optimal means of drying and fixing the material to the support medium, is uncanny and unique, indeed comparable to the practices of a scientist. The exhibition features approximately six works on canvas.