

Tanya Leighton

ART
MAZE
Mag

H i r o k a Y a m a s h i t a

www.hyamashita.com



I was born and raised in a small village in Hyogo, Japan in 1991, and came to the US at 18. I started to paint at the School of Visual Arts, New York, and I am currently completing an MFA program at the Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University, NJ.

Most of my paintings are inspired by my 'satoyama' life in Japan, our relationship with deities, and a shrine in the village which is built around daily life and engaged in its festivals and customs throughout the seasons, as well as our inherited feeling of respect and a certain distance from nature which results from the long history of the blessings and disasters of nature.

Like mythologies and folktales often contain the spiritual bonds between people and their ancestral lands, these imaginary spaces I paint tend to echo and substitute the figures' sentiment I feel these are scenes captured by something which is not human, rather something in the environment around such as grass, wind, or mountains.

The imaginary spaces come from the places I've actually visited and the landscapes I have seen in my dreams; they're a rearrangement of accumulated memories and imaginations. However, I hope they encapsulate the atmospheres as somethings that remain in our sharing unconscious.

Image:

Midnight Ship
acrylic and oil on canvas
48 x 56 inches

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Kurfürstenstraße 156, 10785 Berlin

+49 (0)30 21 972 220, info@tanyaleighton.com, www.tanyaleighton.com