

Tanya Leighton

Press Release

HIROKA YAMASHITA

2 November - 20 December 2019

Tanya Leighton is pleased to announce a project with Japanese artist Hiroka Yamashita – marking the first time her work has been exhibited in Europe.

Yamashita's paintings toe a line between figuration and abstraction, and observation and invention. The figures that dot her compositions are often sketched atop bodies of water, or fields of long grass. The interaction between humans and the natural world is a recurring theme, as Yamashita's subjects reveal the traditions and methods through which society shapes its environment. There are seafaring groups pushing a dingy past a moonlit ridge, others admire cherry blossoms from behind a bright orange fence or dance beneath falling bougainvillea. A fresh catch of netted fish floats above a sorbet coloured ground.

The inventive compositions in which these interplays unfold do not refer to actual space, but rather a layered assemblage of architecture and manicured gardens, interspersed with abstraction. Occasionally, the ostensible subject of a painting is occluded by looming brushwork – giving the sensation of peering through fog or past branches. In other paintings, the ground on which a scene unfolds is little more than a vague coastline or horizon. This tension between density and oblivion calls attention to the ultimately unpredictable relationship between ourselves and our environment.

Hiroka Yamashita was born in 1991 in Hyogo, Japan. She received her Masters in Fine Art from the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University in 2019. Yamashita has exhibited in both the United States and Japan. This exhibition is her first in Europe. Yamashita currently lives and works in Oita, Japan.

For more information and images please contact info@tanyaleighton.com or telephone +49 (0)30 21 972 220.

The gallery is open Tuesday – Saturday, 11am – 6pm and by appointment.

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