

[Press Release]

2025/6/14

**Masaya CHIBA *Painting and iPS-derived cardiac muscle sheet***

28 June – 2 August 2025



Masaya CHIBA, *Painting and iPS-Derived Cardiac Muscle Sheet (The Afternoon Sun in the Forest)*, 2025, oil on canvas, panel, 35.3x43cm

Masaya Chiba's *Painting and Vegetable* originated from a plan of his exhibition, which was set to be open in 2021 at Guimarães in Vienna—a renovated exhibition space that was once a horse stable. Although the exhibition never came to fruition, the concept evolved into an ongoing series. When Chiba experimented in his studio with placing vegetables, which are horse feed, alongside paintings in the same space, he noticed, between the two elements arbitrarily connected together, the “unique relationship in which the vegetables seemed to support and complement the paintings.”



Masaya CHIBA, *Painting and Vegetable #14 (Square Through the Trees)*, 2025, oil on canvas, panel, vegetable, wood, 35x42.8cm

Masaya Chiba created large-scale paintings utilizing multidimensional compositions up until the mid-2010s that intricately combined images, objects, and text. From around 2016–2017, however, his works began to shift toward smaller formats with more simplified backgrounds. At the same time, Chiba continued to experiment with refreshing the viewer's experience of painting. For example, in his solo exhibition at Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery in 2021, the show was developed from the perspective of his pet turtle. In his *Sideward Exhibition* at ShugoArts in 2023, he created a space that evoked the sensation of the entire venue being rotated 90 degrees, generating a strong sense of visual and physical disorientation.



*Masaya Chiba Exhibition*, 2021, Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery Photo by Shigeo Muto





*Sideward Exhibition* , 2023, ShugoArts Photo by Shigeo Muto

These installations were not focused on technology or the novelty of visual effects. What Masaya Chiba has consistently pursued is to expand the "spirituality" of paintings—inherent in their traditional format—into space and their potentiality to affect the viewer.

*I believe the reason I am so committed to painting still lifes is because I feel like they are the fields in which we can allow ourselves to be perplexed by the world. Faced with a series of phenomena—arbitrarily named “the world” and laid out before us without explanation—people position painting as a space where they can be as astonished as they please, without having to be considerate of anyone.*  
—Masaya Chiba

The era when painting was the dominant form of expression is now long past, and one might say that painting finds itself in a time of solitude. Chiba appears to choose vegetables and objects as “companions” of sorts for painting, and by building relationships with them, he seems to be attempting to open up new exits from the closed, flat space of paintings.

Please come and experience Masaya Chiba’s ever-evolving adventurous journey in painting at ShugoArts in Roppongi.

ShugoArts, June 2025



*The 11th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, 2024-2025, Queensland Art Gallery & Gallery of Modern Art*

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**Masaya CHIBA solo exhibition *Painting and iPS-derived cardiac muscle sheet***

Dates: 28 June – 2 August 2025

Venue: ShugoArts

Hours: 11am - 6pm, Closed on Sun, Mon and Public Holidays

**Opening reception**

Date&Time: 28 June, 5pm – 7pm

Venue: ShugoArts

\*The artist will be present.

## Masaya CHIBA Biography

Born in Kanagawa, Japan, in 1980. Currently lives and works in Tokyo. Chiba's paintings are created through a process in which the artist actively engages with the objects of his choice as much as necessary; he extracts images from his surroundings and previous life events and reconstructs them on canvas while utilizing his handmade motifs. With his sophisticated skill set, Chiba can differentiate textures of various motifs in his paintings where he establishes a complex world combining pseudo-reality, pure artificiality and reality. While sincerely imprinting copious achievements of paintings of all times and places on his mind, the artist boldly disturbs the existing structure of contemporary art with his preferred medium, painting.

Selected exhibitions: The 11th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Queensland Art Gallery & Gallery of Modern Art, Queensland, 2024-2025; Sideward Exhibition, ShugoArts, Tokyo, 2023; Masaya Chiba Exhibition, Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery, Tokyo, 2021; Assembridge NAGOYA, Former Minato Dormitory of Nagoya customs, Nagoya, 2019; Painting and ..., Gallery αM, Tokyo, 2018; Perry Rhodan and my life, Art Center Ongoing, Tokyo, 2018; MAM Collection 006: Materials and Boundaries – Handiurman Saputra + Chiba Masaya, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, 2017; What to Do With Memories by Utilizing Things Such as Indirect Lighting in Light Box Style, Yatsuzaki Halo, Feeling of Wanting to Kiss, Family Story, Sagamihara Stone Burger, Forget Medusa, and Element 50m Ahead, ShugoArts, Tokyo, 2017; Discordant Harmony, Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Hiroshima, 2015 (Travelled to Seoul and Taipei); Roppongi Crossing 2013: OUT OF DOUBT, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, 2013

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