

Anju Michele *Imaginarium*

20 June – 18 July, 2020



Anju Michele, *circle*, 2020
oil on aluminum paper mounted on panel, 125x120cm

*Born and brought up in Venice, Michele scrutinizes the relentless real world and follows the creative voice that wells up in his mind to unceasingly produce paintings relying on his particular body with hearing impairment and his spirit protected by a shelter of self-consciousness. The artist's mind and body are inseparable from the world represented in his works and his expressions are truly "of life." He captures views of nature he sees in clear-cut, nonhesitant brushwork in one brief session. The artist himself contributed the following words to this work. **

Chie Sumiyoshi

* Chie Sumiyoshi "Anju Michele" (*VOCA2020*, The Ueno Royal Museum, 2020, p.26) Translated by Kikuko Ogawa

Born in 1989, Anju Michele currently lives and works in Kyoto. Thanks to his unparalleled creativity since his childhood, the artist captures the scenes in front of him and instantaneously converts the information into the act of painting. His discernment in terms of grasping various forms and his speed has been more sophisticated than ever, and it has become the foundation of his art practice. It is difficult to pursue one's true self and expression while being detached from the conceptual world. However, Anju could create his art easily under such conditions as if light and wind passed by plants and flowers by leaving their marks on them.

Imaginarium, the title of his first solo exhibition at ShugoArts, is a word created by Anju, meshing “imagination” and “-arium,” which represents a place in Latin. Anju Michele’s paintings, in which his imagination gives birth to his creation, implies the fact that we humans are innately free.

In *circle*, which was just completed this March, Anju painted circles, so softly that they look like they are floating, on a piece of aluminum paper that he has utilized lately. Those circles seem to be wide-open mouths, which could be entrances to various spatio-temporal worlds, or planets observing our world from different dimensions; they are beautiful as they exist there. In this exhibition, the artist presents close to twenty-four new artworks all at once. Please visit us to experience Anju Michele’s *Imaginarium*.

May 2020, ShugoArts



Anju Michele, *wave*, 2020
oil on aluminum paper mounted on panel, 60x60cm

Born in Venice in 1989, Michele currently lives and works in Kyoto. He has produced two-dimensional artworks focusing primarily on natural elements such as the ocean, mountains, stars, the moon, plants, animals and minerals. "By utilizing hearing impairment as his special physical characteristic and his soul sheltered by his self-consciousness" (Chie Sumiyoshi, 2020), the artist has carefully observed reality and transformed it into his own images in order to produce his paintings with no hesitancy, which have become parts of his body and mind as he diligently paints every day. Currently, he is developing his original painting expression using aluminum paper, which is used to make silver thread for producing Nishijin-ori (a traditional textile in the Nishijin district of Kyoto), as his canvas.

Selected exhibitions: *Imaginarium*, ShugoArts, Tokyo, 2020; *VOCA The Vision of Contemporary Art 2020*, The Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo, 2020; Yokohama Triennale, Yokohama Museum of Art, Kanagawa, 2014; *About Freedom*, TRAUMARIS, Tokyo, 2011; *Kagemi of love*, HIGURE 17-15cas, Tokyo, 2009; *Inganzia*, Cube gallery, Venice, 2005

Publishing *IMAGINARIUM*, a Collection of New Art Works by Anju Michele

This collection includes about eighty artworks that Michele created in Kyoto from 2017 to 2020. By mainly showcasing the series in which the artist painted on aluminum paper that is used to produce silver thread, which is used in the textile industry in Kyoto, this collection exhibits Anju's creativity to its full extent.

Author : Anju Michele

Publisher : Tre Isole Co., Ltd.

Date of publication TBA

Text : Akira Tatehata

Book design : Atsuki Kikuchi

Format : B5 deformed

IMAGINARIUM will be available at ShugoArts' gallery space in Roppongi as well as bookstores. Please take a moment to look through when you find a copy. We are going to announce its price, publication date and other details on our website as soon as they become available to us.

Anju Michele *realm of light*

Wednesday, 3 June – Tuesday, 14 July, 2020

Venue : ISETAN SALONE, Tokyo Midtown Galleria 1F, 9-7-4 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0052

Opening hours : Opening hours : 11am-7pm (until 14 June), 11am-8pm (from 15 June)

Supported by ShugoArts

This is Anju Michele's first solo exhibition at ISETAN SALONE. It will be great if you can check out the exhibition too. Please check with us before using this information in your publication.

Exhibition overview

Anju Michele *Imaginarium*

Saturday, 20 June – Saturday, 18 July, 2020

Venue: ShugoArts, complex665 2F, 6-5-24, Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0032

Opening Hours: Tue-Sat noon-6pm, closed on Sun, Mon and Public Holidays

The latest information of the exhibition will be on our website and SNS.

Website : <http://shugoarts.com/en/>

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/shugoarts/>

twitter : <https://twitter.com/ShugoArts>

Instagram : <https://www.instagram.com/shugoarts/>



Anju Michele, *floating organism*, 2020
oil on Japanese paper mounted on panel, 65x65cm



Anju Michele, *ritual*, 2020
oil on Japanese paper mounted on panel, 65x65cm

All Photo by Yasushi Ichikawa

ShugoArts complex665 2F, 6-5-24, Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0032

Enquiry Press: Nayuta Otani / +81 3 6447 2234 / nayuta@shugoarts.com