

**Aki KONDO**

***The Happiness that Exists Here***

13 March – 10 April, 2021



Aki KONDO, *Hometown*, 2020, acrylic on canvas, 116.7x91cm

The happiness that exists here in this world simply is what it is.

There can be things that lack form in this world, yet still exist, and I see and feel their countless vestiges here among us. Perhaps they are like heat and colors that dwell within a person's soul.

I trace invisible paths of memory to paint them, and by painting them, I trace them once more.

All this together forms the happiness that exists here in this world.

Aki Kondo

*The Happiness that Exists Here*, a group of fifty paintings that Aki Kondo created in her hometown of Sapporo, Japan from winter 2019 to summer 2020, has become a book. We at ShugoArts are pleased to announce her solo exhibition in order to celebrate its publication.

Aki Kondo's bold and spontaneous brushstrokes, vivid colors, and humorous and imaginative images have captured the hearts of many people. On the other hand, Kondo's work is always based on her unique view of life and death, which she has developed through the experience of the Great East Japan Earthquake and other losses that happened in her life. The motifs of *The Happiness that Exists Here* are flowers given in celebration of life, flowers given in appreciation of life, a child gazing into the distance, and overlapping empty cups. Each of these motifs embodies flickering life with which others are also involved.

In any kind of situation, Aki Kondo continues to create works that strongly affirm the importance of living in the present, without leaving painting or indulging herself in expressing sadness. Although the artist once said that her feelings could not keep up with the speed of her own artistic production, the process of creating *The Happiness that Exists Here* made her realize that living and painting overlap. With the completion of this body of work, Kondo decided to move to Yamagata last summer, where her alma mater, Tohoku University of Art and Design, is located. She is now preparing a new environment for her art practice while planning her next work.



Aki KONDO, *Happiness of Being There*, 2020  
acrylic on canvas, 41x31.8cm



Aki KONDO, *Living in the Wilderness*, 2020, acrylic on canvas, 60.6x72.7cm

## **Aki Kondo's first monograph: *The Happiness that Exists Here***

The publication of this monograph was made possible by the efforts of Tomoki Matsumoto of T&M Projects, who has been paying attention to Kondo's activities for a long time, and the design was realized by Satoshi Suzuki. The readers will enjoy Kondo's first monograph as they turn the pages and come face to face with various pictures that look like actual paintings. The luster and rise of the paint, the rich flow of brushstrokes, and the overlapping colors of Kondo's paintings are all recreated on paper. In addition, a limited edition of 100 floral works in acrylics, each specially painted by Kondo herself for this book, will be released as a special edition titled *A Hundred Flowers*.

### **Aki Kondo *The Happiness that Exists Here***

220 x 280mm, 128pages

Price: 5,500JPY

Text: Aki Kondo, Ryoko Kamiyama

Translation: Christopher Stephens

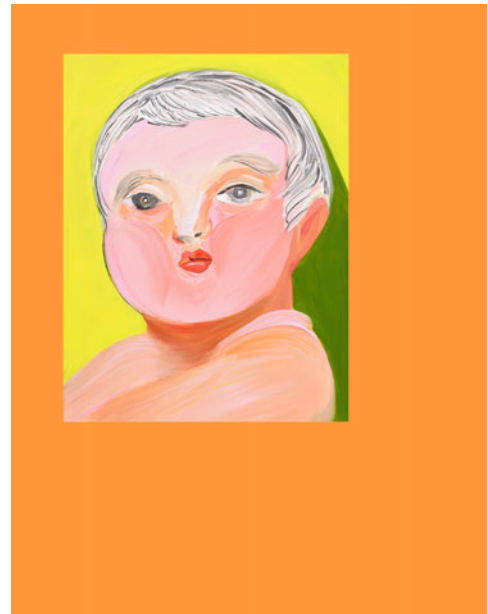
Design: Satoshi Suzuki

Publisher: T&M Projects + ShugoArts

First Edition: March 2021

ISBN : 978-4-909442-18-5

<https://www.tandmprojects.com/products/aki-kondo/>



Cover image of the monograph

In addition, *A Hundred Flowers*, a special edition of *The Happiness that Exists Here*, will be available. It is limited to 100 production, including Kondo's special acrylic artwork especially for the monograph.

### ***A Hundred Flowers*, a special edition of *The Happiness that Exists Here***

Price: 77,000JPY

Limited to 100 production, including one artwork by Aki Kondo and one copy of the book, housed in a box.

<https://www.tandmprojects.com/products/aki-kondo-sp/>



Aki KONDO, art works for *A Hundred Flowers*, 2020-2021, acrylic on paper, 21x14.8cm

All images can be viewed in the slideshow on the special page : <http://shugoarts.com/en/news-en/58738/>

## About Multiple Exhibition Locations

In cooperation with Phillips Tokyo, Contemporary Art Foundation, the multiple exhibitions are going to be realized in Roppongi. Also please check the publication event and exhibition at Daikanyama Tsutaya Books. Each overview is listed below. All exhibitions will be based on a different theme, and this will be a large-scale opportunity to see nearly seventy pieces of Aki Kondo's works in multiple locations, including her solo exhibition at our gallery. We hope that you will enjoy them all.

February 2021, ShugoArts

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### Exhibition overview

#### **Aki KONDO *The Happiness that Exists Here***

Dates /Venue

**Saturday, March 13 - Saturday, April 10, 2021**

#### **ShugoArts**

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

Opening Hours: Tue-Sat noon-6pm

Open noon-6pm on Sunday, March 20

Closed on Sun, Mon and Public Holidays

**Saturday, March 13 - Friday, April 9, 2021**

#### **PHILLIPS TOKYO**

4F, Piramide Building, 6-6-9, Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo

Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-5pm

Closed on Sat, Sun and Public Holidays

Open noon-6pm on Saturday, March 13

**Saturday, March 13 - Friday, April 9, 2021**

#### **Contemporary Art Foundation**

4F, Piramide Building, 6-6-9, Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo

Always on view while the exhibition is up.

\*The artworks can be seen from the windows in the hallway outside.

**Friday, March 12 - Friday, March 26, 2021**

#### **DAIKANYAMA TSUTAYA BOOKS**

17-5 Sarugakucho, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo

Open every day (Please see the website for opening hours.)



Aki KONDO, *Having Some Coffee with You after the Rain*, 2020  
acrylic on canvas, 31.8x41cm

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We would like to express our sincere gratitude to PHILLIPS TOKYO and Contemporary Art Foundation for their generous assistance and support to this exhibition.

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### **Inquiry**

ShugoArts info@shugoarts.com / +81 (0)3 6447 2234

DAIKANYAMA TSUTAYA BOOKS <https://store.tsite.jp/daikanyama/> / +81 (0)3-3770-2525

\*Please note that the dates and opening hours are different at each venue.





Aki KONDO, *Flowers for the Happy Day*, 2019, acrylic on canvas, 91x72.7cm

◆Other artists' news are available on : <http://shugoarts.com/en/topics/>

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