

**Aki KONDO** *I Wanted to See You*

10 June – 22 July, 2023



Aki KONDO, *I Love You*, 2023, acrylic on canvas, 227.3x363.6cm

*"I Wanted to See You"*

*Although I could not recognize it for a long time  
There is a feeling that I really care about  
Always, in my heart*

*My instinct makes a jittery sound  
Unable to resist, it starts running*

*That feeling is rather simple  
But very big and strong  
I realized it by making paintings*

*Even the beasts that have awakened from hibernation  
And the plants that chase the sun  
And those of us who have not been able to see the people we wanted to see  
We have been looking for warmth for a long time*

*As another season comes  
I want to tell this feeling honestly  
To you who live above the sky  
To you who will be in my life in the future  
To you who are closest to me  
And to myself as well*

*"I wanted to see you"*

*I will see the future with my own hands*

May 2023 Aki Kondo

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Aki Kondo has been painting what she wants to see since her childhood. Through painting, she has been able to encounter her imagination in the image while being moved and understanding the world simultaneously. For Kondo, painting has been a place where her heart returns. Hence, she feels uneasy when faced with a blank canvas with nothing painted on it. She wonders if she can properly depict the world she wants to see, a world that is warm and welcoming. It is a lone struggle. Kondo superimposes this process of repetition on the real world. Our hearts are suppressed by long, harsh ordeals. Still, like melting snow, the desire to meet someone deep inside our hearts someday overflows. And if we can realize and say aloud that we have been wanting to see someone, that in itself can be a great healing experience.

This exhibition consists of 18 new works, including a large 3.6-meter work. Everything that appears in her paintings, including humans, animals, plants and stuffed animals, has the desire to see someone. It can be their families, friends or the invisible or even themselves from the past or in the future.

Please enjoy new artworks by Aki Kondo whose art practice keeps evolving ever more powerfully.

May 2023 ShugoArts

## **Aki KONDO / *I Wanted to See You***

Date: Saturday, 10 June - Saturday, 22 July 2023

Venue: ShugoArts

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

Curated by Minako Ishii

### **Publication information**

Launching in this summer

Publisher: Little More

This book contains 84 works on paper by Kondo.

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### **Aki KONDO**

Born in Hokkaido, Japan, in 1987. Currently lives and works in Yamagata. As Kondo describes, “painting is exactly like living one’s life,” her body of work is full of energy which can be quantifiable. Kondo paints as if she inscribed all of her experiences and emotions that have passed through her body. Going back and forth between memory, reality and fiction, the artist generates new experiences, or in another word, paintings. Without limiting her support to canvas or panel, Kondo confidently applies her paints on three-dimensional objects or spaces surrounded by the ceiling and walls. In addition, the artist is the director, screenwriter and producer of HIKARI, a short film consisting of live action and animation with about 14,000 frames which she painted in oil based on her crayon drawings. This is one of many examples why Kondo is considered as a heaven-sent child of painting, constantly unleashing her extraordinary potential.

Selected exhibitions: Stars, Sparkling, Yamagata Museum of Art, Yamagata, 2021; The Happiness that Exists Here, ShugoArts/ Phillips Tokyo/ Contemporary Art Foundation, Tokyo, 2021; Takamatsu Art Museum Collection + Body and Movement, Takamatsu City Museum of Art, Kagawa, 2020; Flowers in the Heart, ShugoArts Online Show, Tokyo, 2020; Today Waiting for That Day and Tomorrow, ShugoArts, Tokyo, 2018; Paintings Here And Now, Fuchu Art Museum, Tokyo, 2018; HIKARI, Daiwa Foundation Japan House, London, 2016; HIKARI, ShugoArts, Tokyo, 2015; THE ECOLOGY OF AKI KONDO, JIKKA, Tokyo, 2013; PHANTOMS OF ASIA: Contemporary Awakens the Past, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, 2012. VOCA 2022 Honorable Mention Award, 2021.

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