

Masato KOBAYASHI *About Freedom*

Friday, September 22 – Sunday, November 5, 2023



Masato KOBAYASHI, *Artist*, 2023, oil, canvas, wood, 236 x 430 x 92cm

Of course, everything we do can be explained by our actions.

But, I have to say the following right afterwards,

Everything that can be explained can be explained by actions.

And, very few things can be explained after all.

What I can say about freedom is, perhaps, how I go about making my frames.

August 2023 Masato Kobayashi

All of Masato Kobayashi's artworks have no fixed forms, but are free and flexible. His style of painting while stretching the canvas is unprecedented. The titles of his works refuse to be categorized with anonymity, such as *A Son of Painting*, *Unnamed*, and *Nameless Horse*. Can we really call these paintings? But, to backpedal for a moment, who decided that images exist within a defined square, detached from reality, when nothing in this world is complete in itself?



Masato KOBAYASHI, *Unnamed #66*, 2019, oil, canvas, wood, 190 x 300 x 50cm



Masato KOBAYASHI, *A Model of This Planet (Cowgirl Taking Off Her Gloves)*, 2023, oil, canvas, wood, 200 x 143 x 60cm

Masato Kobayashi says that everything in this world is "the scenery of paintings." And there are various "frames" in this world. Without social frameworks, the frameworks of reality, and so on, nothing would exist. Therefore, "freedom," as Kobayashi describes it, does not mean that one can ignore the framework and act as one pleases. Rather, it is a question of how human beings use their imagination to cut out the world, how much of the endlessly expanding reality a painting can take on in its body, how an artist sets the outer frame of such a painting, and how those things affect the freedom of art.



Masato KOBAYASHI, *Starry Paint, stars of outer space by pure painting*, Tensta Konsthall, Spanga, Sweden, 2004 – 2005

This exhibition consists of three large floor-standing works. The new work, *Artist*, was originally part of a work created for his solo exhibition *Starry Paint* in 2004 in Tensta Konsthall, Sweden. Standing 2 x 10 meters, the huge work was cut into pieces by Kobayashi at the end of the exhibition and brought back to Ghent, Belgium, as fragments. As many of them were transformed into small star-like works, so will this work appear in the present space as a completely new entity. *A Model of This Planet (Cowgirl Taking Off Her Gloves)*, which was created from the physical traces of a model, and *Unnamed #66*, which has traveled to various places from his studio in Tomonoura, Hiroshima, are all works that should be experienced by all of the senses. More than 25 years have passed since Masato Kobayashi created his first floor-standing painting in Ghent. Please look forward to this exhibition of new artworks by Masato Kobayashi, who has continued to embody the freedom of art and artists.

August 2023 ShugoArts

Masato KOBAYASHI *About Freedom*

Dates: Friday, September 22 – Sunday, November 5, 2023

Venue: ShugoArts

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

*We will be open on November 3, 5 for ART WEEK TOKYO.

Directed by Minako Ishii

Masato KOBAYASHI

Born in Tokyo (1957). Represented Japan at the Sao Paulo Biennale in 1996. Masato Kobayashi was invited by Jan Hoet to Europe in 1997, and since then had been based in Ghent, Belgium, where he produced works in various places. Masato Kobayashi continues to explore the nature of painting by using a completely unique technique of taking paint directly from the tube and rubbing the color into the canvas while supporting it with one hand, and at the same time stretching it over the wooden frame to create the painting. Selected solo exhibitions: Family of this Planet, ShugoArts, Tokyo, 2021; Artist and the Model, ShugoArts, Tokyo, 2019; ART TODAY 2012, Sezon Museum of Modern Art, Nagano, 2012; MASATO KOBAYASHI – The Paint of the Planet, Nariwa Museum, Okayama, 2009; Starry Paint, stars of outer space by pure painting, Tensta Konsthall, Spanga, Sweden, 2004; A Son of Painting Masato Kobayashi, S.M.A.K., Ghent, 2001; KOBAYASHI Masato, The Miyagi Museum of Art, 2000. Publications: The autobiographical novel trilogy, Paint of this Planet—Under the tree at Hitotsubashi University, ART DIVER, 2018; Paint of this Planet—Duifhuisstraat 52, ART DIVER, 2020

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