

Press Release

HANA

Ellie Omiya, Yuko Murata,
Kentaro Kobuke, and Kyoko Murase

26 November 2022 – 30 January 2023

Nova Contemporary is pleased to present *Hana*, a group exhibition of works by Ellie Omiya, Yuko Murata, Kentaro Kobuke, and Kyoko Murase. This exhibition forms an exchange between the gallery and four Japanese counterparts, Gallery Side 2, Taka Ishii Gallery, Tomio Koyama Gallery, and Maho Kubota Gallery.

Hana pays homage to the flower's persistence throughout Japanese art history. Blooms cascade across gold-leaf screens, unravel scrolled duets of picture and text, and figure prominently in the meticulous patterning of porcelain *Aritaware*. Floral motifs even form the dedicated genre of *kachō-e* prints, framing bird and insect imagery. In Japanese culture, flowers speak their own language of *hanakotoba*: they span excess, innocence, exhilaration and grief. They have the power to evoke sincerity and sympathy, acting as messages in times of celebration and remembrance. Flowers are emotions visually manifested, connoting reflections of the shared.

In present day, the beloved flower endures as an omnipresent trope. The artists on display extend a long history of poetic appraisal, and this selection of works offers a range of botanical imagery. Flowers inhabit each of the chosen works, some sprawling, some still, some worn, and some well-tended. Each arrangement is alive with unique personality, blooming again in sentiment and symbolism. *Hana* offers renewed insight into the practices of its featured artists, and illuminates their representations of natural beauty and simple sensual pleasure.

The exhibition will showcase from November 26th 2022 – January 30th, 2023 (free of charge). Gallery hours are Tuesday – Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Nova Contemporary, Rajdamri Rd. (BTS Rajdamri Exit 2). For additional information, please call +66 90 910 6863, Email: Press@novacontemporary.com

About the artists:

Ellie Omiya (b. 1975, Osaka, Japan) graduated from the University of Tokyo, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences. First achieving popularity as a writer for her essays on daily life, she has since worked in a variety of mediums, including film, radio, television, and theatre. From 2012, she began a series of live painting performances and continues to explore the medium of painting. She has exhibited extensively throughout Japan, including solo shows at Hillside Terrace, Tokyo (2015), Tomio Koyama Gallery, Tokyo (2015, 2017, and 2019), and Towada City Museum of Modern Art, Aomori (2016).

Yuko Murata (b. 1973, Tokyo, Japan) graduated from the Tokyo Art School, Setsu Mode Seminar in 1995. Her works were featured in the 2006 Taipei Biennial *Dirty Yoga* curated by Dan Cameron at the Taipei Fine Arts Museum. She has had solo exhibitions in New York at Casey Kaplan Gallery (2009) as well as in Houston, TX, at Inman Gallery (2005, 2010, and 2015), and Alberto Peola, Turin, in 2009. Her works are in distinguished private and public collections including Daiwa Radiator Factory, Hiroshima; Takahashi Collection, Tokyo; The Obayashi Collection, Tokyo; The Sander Collection, Damstadt; Poligrapha, Barcelona, among numerous private collections in the United States and Europe.

Kentaro Kobuke (b. 1975, Hiroshima, Japan) graduated from Kuwasawa Design Institute in 1998, and from Chelsea College of Arts MFA in 2009. He received the Fellowship of Overseas Study Program for Artists by the Agency for Cultural Affairs by the Japanese Government. His recent exhibitions include "17th DOMANI: The Art of Tomorrow" The National Art Center, Tokyo (2015), "Letters" Nakata Museum, Onomichi, Hiroshima (2012), "Mokume" Daiwa Foundation, London (2012), "The Frank Suss Collection" Phillips de Pury & Company, Saatchi Gallery, London (2010).

Kyoko Murase (b. 1963, Gifu, Japan) completed her postgraduate studies at Aichi Prefectural University of Fine Arts and Music in 1989. She subsequently studied at Kunstakademie Dusseldorf between 1990 and 1996 and completed a Meisterschuler from Konrad Klapheck in 1993. Her major solo exhibitions include, "Sapphire" Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo (2010); "Fluttering far away" Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, Aichi (2010) and "Cicada and horned owl" the Vangi Sculpture Garden Museum, Shizuoka (2007). She has participated in numerous group exhibitions internationally since 1996.